



## PHILCONGEN LOS ANGELES COMMEMORATES AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK, 14-22 JANUARY 2018



*Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz delivering short remarks on Autism Consciousness Week.*

Los Angeles, 22 January 2018 – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles celebrated the 2017 National Autism Consciousness Week today, at its Community Hall during the flag ceremony held before the start of consular services.

The celebration was held to support the initiatives of the Philippine government, private sector and civil society groups, like the Autism Society Philippines to increase recognition of autism disorders and supportive environments for those diagnosed with autism.

Autism is a neurological condition affecting millions of Filipinos. It can have a profound effect on individuals and families. This celebration serves as an inspiration and a reminder that some of our countrymen have invisible disabilities who need our understanding and support.

After the flag ceremony, Consul General Adelio Cruz gave a brief introduction on autism, and reminded the public to stop using the word “autistic” as a joke or an insult and to promote the acceptance, accommodation and inclusion of people with autism in society.

The members of the Filipino community present during the ceremony were informed about the great developments that the Philippine government has done for individuals with autism and their families such as the Magna Carta of Persons with Disabilities, the Equal Opportunity Employment Act, the Anti-Bullying Act and for some Local Government Units (LGUs), unique services for children with exceptionalities. END.