



Women’s Role in Diplomacy Highlighted in L.A.



(Photo 1: Consul Rea G. Oreta and Information Officer Mary Grace Leaño are seen here with their fellow participants in the 4th International Women in Diplomacy. Photo 2: Honorary Consul of Senegal, Mame Toucouler Mbaye (middle) conferred a certificate of appreciation on Kenyan Ambassador Njeri Karago, Brazilian Ambassador Marcia Loureiro and Costa Rican Consul General Mabel Segura-Fernandez.)

11 March 2020, Los Angeles – In celebration of International Women’s Day, the Philippine Consulate General joined over a hundred female leaders from various fields in a forum held on 09 March 2020 in Los Angeles, California with a theme, “*The 4th International Women-in-Diplomacy Day: Let’s be the Solution!*”



The forum was organized by the Honorary Consul of Senegal, Mame Toucouler Mbaye, who is also the Chairperson of the Los Angeles Consular Corps Spouses Association (LACSA).

The Honorary Consul, in her welcome remarks, commended the contributions of women in addressing pressing social concerns. “We, women, carry all the inclusive attitude...in bringing solution,” she said. *(1st Photo left)*



The program’s keynote speaker, Reyna Isabel Aburto, who is also the second counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency, shared her insights on how women can inspire their fellow women to make a difference in the society. Relief Society is the largest women’s organization in the world with over seven million members in 188 countries. *(2nd Photo left)*

The first panel entitled, “Diplomats-Building Bridges Around the World,” featured members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Los Angeles, including Kenyan Ambassador Njeri Karago,

Brazilian Ambassador Marcia Loureiro and Costa Rican Consul General Mabel Segura-Fernandez.

The discussion highlighted the experiences and roles of women diplomats in the implementation of foreign policy of their respective countries and the importance of women's perspective in the conduct of foreign relations.

Two other panel discussions followed, which focused on women leaders in government and non-governmental organizations such as East Africa Partnership, Direct Relief and Engage Africa. Burbank City Mayor Sharon Springer also shared her experience in dealing with the common challenges women face in politics and local governance. *(Photos below)*



The Philippine Consulate General was represented by its Political Officer, Consul Rea G. Oreta and Information Officer, Mary Grace “Joss” Leaño.

LACSA is an informal organization of spouses of the members of foreign missions based in Los Angeles. END.