



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

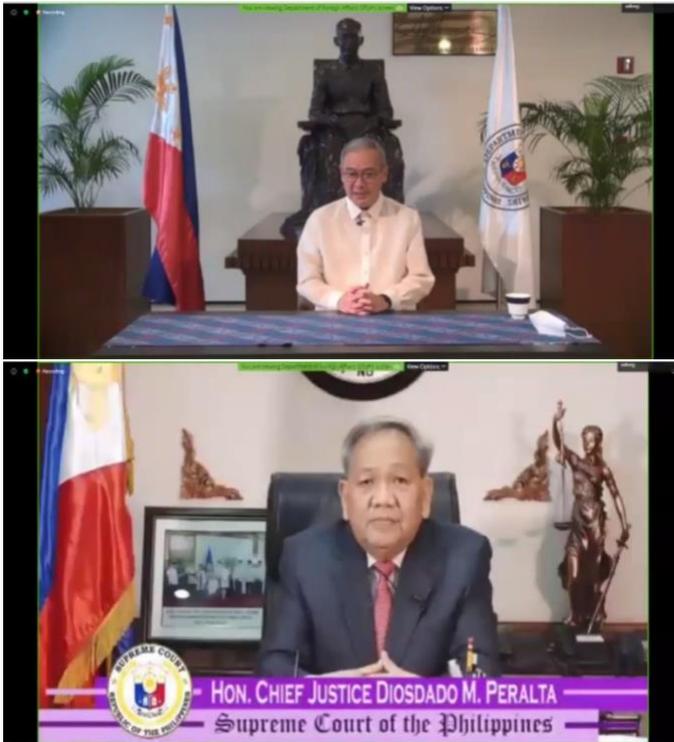
**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release  
AASC-069-2020

## PHILCONGEN LA JOIN RETOOLING ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW



*Above Screenshot Photos: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin, Jr and Chief Justice Diosdado M. Peralta delivering their messages during the opening session of the “The Hague Conference on Private International Law” webinar series.*

Rainier J. Casis, Vice Consul Joan Macrise C. Corrado and its Information Officer, Mary Grace D. Leaño.

The three-day virtual webinar held on 16-18 September 2020 discussed the implementation of the four HCCH conventions to which the Philippines is a party to, namely the Adoption Convention, Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, Apostille Convention and the Service Convention, which will enter into force on 01 October 2020.

The Philippines became a Contracting Party to the HCCH Statute on 14 July 2010 with the Department of Foreign Affairs acting as the national organ. *“The Philippines is a true*

18 September 2020, Los Angeles – Consular officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles took advantage of a webinar series on various international conventions under The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Office of Treaties and Legal Affairs in collaboration with the Supreme Court of the Philippines’ Office of the Court Administrator and Philippine Judicial Academy, and the HCCH Permanent Bureau.

A roster of esteemed speakers included representatives from the DFA Office of Consular Affairs, Office of the Supreme Court Administrator, Supreme Court Rules of Court Committee, Court of Appeals, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Philippine Society of International Law and HCCH.

Participants from the Consulate General included Consul Rea G. Oreta, Consul

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW  
**HCCH**  
 CONVENTIONS WEBINAR SERIES  
 SEPTEMBER 16 TO 18, 2020

**SEPT 18**

02:00 – 4:00 P.M.

HCCH SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER  
 DR. NING ZHAO  
*Choice of Court Convention and Recognition and Enforcement of Judgment Convention*

HON. MARIA FILOMENA D. SINGH  
*Philippine Perspective on Choice of Court Convention and Recognition and Enforcement of Judgment Convention*

CHANCELLOR ADOLFO S. AZCUNA  
*Closing Remarks*

*champion when it comes to HCCH...a champion, a model and catalyst,”* said HCCH’s Secretary General Christophe Bernasconi in his opening remarks.

HCCH’s role is to develop multilateral treaties addressing international private law issues through legal systems and procedures. Increased movement across borders, inter-racial marriages and diaspora communities have resulted in the rise of many cross-border issues such as questions on the jurisdiction of courts, the applicability of law, legalization of documents and cross-border cooperation.

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**SEPT 16**

08:00 – 09:20 A.M.

CHIEF JUSTICE  
 DIOSDADO M. PERALTA

SECRETARY  
 TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
 IGOR G. BAILEN

SECRETARY GENERAL  
 CHRISTOPHE BERNASCONI

09:20 – 11:30 A.M.

UNDERSECRETARY  
 J. EDUARDO MALAYA  
*Overview of the HCCH and its Practical Effects*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 BERNADETTE ABEJO  
*Intercountry Adoption Convention*

CHIEF STATE COUNSEL  
 GEORGE O. ORTHA II  
*Civil Aspects of Child Abduction Convention*

02:00 – 04:00 P.M.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
 NEIL FRANK R. FERRER  
*Apostille Convention*

COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
 JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ  
*Legal Issues on the Apostille Convention*

The growing number of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans live in the world of private international law though they may not realize it. Private international law governs the establishment of their families, businesses, employment and properties both in the Philippines and the United States. It regulates and guides their movement and private transactions. In fact, the Apostille Convention, Service Convention and Adoption Convention are the three most relevant conventions that directly impact the conduct of consular services, including assistance to nationals, by the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles.

In his presentation, DFA’s Undersecretary J. Eduardo Malaya cited emerging issues on cohabitation, family agreements on children, judgments, surrogacy, protection orders and protection of tourists, which bring to fore the importance of future PHL accession to the HCCH conventions on Child Support, Evidence, Choice of Court and Recognition of Foreign Judgements.

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**SEPT 17**

09:00 – 10:30 A.M.

COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
 JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ  
*Service Convention*

ISP NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
 ATTY. DOMINGO CAYOSA  
*Service Convention*

02:00 – 4:00 P.M.

HCCH FIRST SECRETARY  
 PHILIPPE LORTIE  
*Child Support Convention*

HCCH ISUPPORT COORDINATOR  
 JEAN-MARC PELLET  
*Child Support Convention*

PROF. ELIZABETH AGUILING-FRANGALANGAN  
*Child Support Convention and Philippine Domestic Laws*

HCCH LEGAL OFFICER  
 ELIZABETH ZORRILLA  
*Evidence Convention*

ATTY. TRANQUIL GERVACIO S. SALVADOR III  
*Philippine Perspective on Evidence Convention*

The Consulate General’s participation in the HCCH webinars is part of its efforts to ensure the continuing education and core expertise development of its consular officers to enable it to respond to emerging cross-border concerns and serve its public better.

HCCH was first convened in 1893 and predates the founding of the United Nations. It currently has 85 members, consisting of 84 states and the European Union. HCCH has 41 active conventions. END.