



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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PhilConGen LA Concludes NHM 2021 Celebration with Virtual Panel Discussion on Filipino Migration to the United States

03 June 2021, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, through its *Sentro Rizal*, conducted a webinar entitled “*Filipino Migration to the United States and the Impact of the Integration of Filipino Immigrants into American Society*,” on 26 May 2021 to conclude its month-long commemoration of National Heritage Month (NHM).

Consul General Edgar B. Badajos, in his welcome remarks, informed the gathering that the Consulate General convened the webinar as NHM’s culminating activity with the aim of telling a story, a story of hope, of success, of the struggles and the transformation of Filipinos in America. He added that the webinar’s other goal is to assess how the heritage, traditions and values brought forth from the motherland have molded much of who the members of the Filipino diaspora are today.

To help tell this story, the Consulate General invited two respected members of the academe who have made significant contributions to the study of the topic, as well as two other Filipino-Americans who have successfully established themselves in leadership roles through entrepreneurship.

Filipino Migration to the United States and the Impact of Filipino Immigrants in American Society

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Fast Facts:

- 7,107 islands and islets
- Filipino and English are the official languages, but there are 100 regional languages and dialects; Spanish was the official language until 1973
- 300,000 sq. km. (115,831 sq. mi.) total land area
- 110.40 million total population (2020)
- 11M overseas Filipino workforce
- 83% to 85% Roman Catholic
- April 1585 claimed by Spain
- 1 May 1898 U.S. invaded Hispanic Philippines
- 12 June 1898 Independence declared
- December 1898 Spain ceded the Philippines to the U.S. by the Treaty of Paris
- US\$ 20 M was the market price of the Philippines when the U.S. bought it from Spain

Dr. Anthony Christian Ocampo, Professor with the California State Polytechnic University-Pomona and Ford Foundation Fellow, discussed the various waves of Filipino migration to the United States, which he divided into four periods namely, 1920-1930s, 1936 & 1946; 1965; and 2020. He also touched on issues of racism against Asians, Africans and other peoples of color during these periods and its connection to the current rising incidence of hate crimes targeting the AAPI community.

Dr. Nenita Pambid-Domingo, Professor with the Department of Asian Languages and Culture of the University of California Los Angeles, for her part, discussed how the contributions of Filipino migrants to American society

have helped shape the multicultural fabric or melting pot that is the United States. She also mentioned the efforts made by the first generation of Filipino immigrants, who according to Dr. Domingo, have a firm foundation of their language and culture when they migrated, in establishing Filipino language and cultural schools in the State of California.

Ms. Anna Marie Cruz shared her advocacies carried out through *Entrepinayship* and insights on the topic based on her own experiences as a Filipina-American entrepreneur.

Mrs. Linda Nietes-Little presented an introductory video of her establishment, Philippine Expressions Bookshop, and discussed how the bookshop pioneered the promotion of Filipino books in the U.S., especially in showcasing Filipino writings, literature and reference materials not only to newer generations of Filipino-Americans but also to the mainstream community.

The event was organized by the Consulate General's *Sentro Rizal*, capping a series of weekly virtual NHM commemoration activities conducted throughout May 2021, which commenced with a flag-raising ceremony on 10 May 2021. The virtual activities were produced in partnership with various Filipino-American cultural and community organizations in Los Angeles.

The webinar, which was conducted over Zoom, was hosted by Vice Consul Joan Macrise C. Corrado and attended by around 80 members of the Fil-Am community. The livestream was recorded and posted on the Consulate General's official Facebook page and YouTube Channel and could be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7twSfhP0b4>

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