

Washington town hall promotes immersion program for young Fil-Am leaders

Written by Philippine Embassy DC
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The Filipino Young Leaders Program town hall speakers. From left, FYLPRO 2016 delegate Jhett Tolentino, Tony and Grammy Award-winning producer; FYLPRO 2012 delegate Gregory Cendaña, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; and FYLPRO 2014 delegate Jason Tengco, Executive Director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations are the featured speakers at the FYLPRO Town Hall held at the Philippine Embassy on June 13, 2017.

WASHINGTON — A town hall meeting was held on June 13, 2017 at the Romulo Hall of the Philippine Embassy, as part of the effort to promote and raise public awareness of the 2017 FYLPRO (Filipino Young Leaders Program) Immersion program.

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“The annual immersion program in the Philippines provides a well-rounded and transformative experience to the selected delegates by exposing them to conditions in the Philippines, particularly in the fields of business, government, arts and culture, and social entrepreneurship,” said Minister Patrick A. Chuasoto, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the Embassy, in his welcome remarks.

“The immersion program also gives the delegates the opportunity to re-connect with their Filipino roots, and build mutually beneficial relationships with Philippine entities,” he added.

The town hall meeting featured FYLPRO 2012 delegate Gregory Cendaña, Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; FYLPRO 2014 delegate Jason Tengco, Executive Director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA); and FYLPRO 2016 delegate Jhett Tolentino, Tony and Grammy Award-winning producer.

The three speakers shared their FYLPRO stories, underscoring the value that the program has contributed to their personal and professional development.

Mr. Tolentino’s presentation focused on the highlights of the last immersion program and his legacy project that aims to create opportunities for Filipinos in the performing arts.

Mr. Cendaña, whose FYLPRO experience in 2012 marks the first time he traveled to the Philippines, said that the immersion program provided an impetus for him and his family to return and witness the developments in their country of heritage.

Mr. Tengco, meanwhile, described the immersion program as an “inspiring opportunity to re-connect with the homeland.”

During the Q&A, the speakers fielded questions on Filipino-American empowerment, political engagement, and FYLPRO legacy projects.

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FYLPRO identifies 10 outstanding Fil-Am leaders in the United States for a week-long, all-expense paid trip to the Philippines to meet leaders in various fields and strengthen the ties between the U.S. and the Philippines.

It is a joint project of the Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the United States, Ayala Foundation, and the FYLPRO non-profit organization.

The official schedule of the 2017 Immersion Program is Oct. 8-14, 2017.

This is the sixth FYLPRO Immersion Program since its inception in 2012.

Requirements:

- 1. Leaders no younger than 25 years old and no older than 40 years old by Oct. 8, 2017, the first day of the 2017 Immersion Program.**
- 2. Ready and capable of traveling to the Philippines, arriving in Manila by Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017 and departing no earlier than Oct. 14, 2017. If selected, the program will shoulder airfare and accommodations.**
- 3. Demonstrated leadership skills within their school, community, workplace or other area of involvement.**
- 4. Have potential or demonstrated involvement in the Filipino community, or in issues and/or activities that align with the interest of the Filipino-American community or the Philippines.**

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To learn more, please visit <http://www.fylpro.org/apply/>.

The deadline for the submission of applications is on July 7, 2017.



FYLPRO speakers with CDA Chuasoto and VC Artates, FYLPRO alums Jhett Tolentino, Gregory Cendaña and Jason Tengco with Philippine Embassy Chargé d’Affaires ad interim Minister Patrick Chuasoto (2nd from left) and Vice Consul Darell Artates (far right) at the FYLPRO town hall.