



**Consul General Theresa Dizon-De Vega (4th from left, 1st row) with Business Council for International Understanding President Peter Tichansky (7th from left, 2nd row) and Society of Foreign Consuls of New York President Consul General Khaled Al Sharif (6th from left, 1st row) with SOFC officers, BCIU officials and members. (Image by NYPCG)**

The Philippines, represented by Consul General Theresa Dizon-De Vega, participated in a meeting with the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) at the Peninsula Hotel in New York on Jan. 23, 2018.

Other meeting participants were fellow Executive Board members of the Society of Foreign Consuls of New York (SOFC) led by its current President Consul General of Saudi Arabia Khaled Al Sharif.

Founded as a White House initiative by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, BCIU is one of the older commercial and economic organizations in the U.S.

BCIU is a nonpartisan organization that promotes the expansion of international trade and commerce through programs designed to bring together government, business leaders, and innovators together through various cooperative platforms.

BCIU has 200 member companies, including many Fortune 500 and 1,000 firms and runs several events and programs in New York and Washington, D.C.

It also hosts foreign government officials, including world leaders in speaking engagements.

On hand to discuss BCIU and its mandate were President Peter Tichansky, Senior Vice President Meghan Harberg and Senior Program Officer for Africa Heather Burns.

The BCIU members companies present included Mr. Michael Woods, CEO and COO, Rothschild Asset Management; Ms. Frances Devlin, Director for Global Policy and International Public Affairs, Corporate Affairs, PFIZER; Mr. Rangnath (Rangu) Salgame, Chairman and CEO, Princeton Growth Ventures; and Brad Thatcher, CEO, Thatcher + Co.

During the open forum all the private sector representatives noted their respective companies interests and positive experiences in the Philippines in various fields ranging from Information Technology, Communications, Computing, health, and resource generation.