

PH coffee featured in Specialty Coffee Expo in Boston

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At the Philippine Coffee Booth during the Specialty Coffee Expo in Boston. From left, Puentespina Farms' Charito Puentespina, Agriculture Attache' Josyline Javelosa, Davao del Sur coffee farmer Marivic Dubria, DTI-CAR Director and National Coffee Industry Coordinator Myrna Pablo, and Gilda Palima of ACDI VOCA Philippines.

WASHINGTON — The winning 12 Arabica and 12 Robusta coffee selection in the 2019 Philippine Coffee Quality Competition (PCQC) were featured and cupped during the Specialty Coffee Expo in Boston, Massachusetts at the Boston Convention Center on April 12-14, 2019.

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The Philippine booth in the Expo and the Philippine Cupping Event on April 12 in Boston generated interest in Philippine Arabica and Fine Robusta Coffee.

The participating coffee cuppers and enthusiasts were excited to learn that Philippines is producing such quality coffee.

The PCQC, an annual event on its third year in 2019, seeks to heighten the consciousness of Filipino farmers on coffee quality and increase their competitiveness in the local and global market.

In the PCQC held in Manila last March, the Coffee Quality Institute (CQI) evaluated participating coffee entries aligned with globally accepted grading and profiling protocols and standards.

This event is a collaboration between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Barista and Coffee Academy of Asia (BCAA) and the Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance's (ACDI VOCA) PhilCafe Project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In the cupping event in Boston, San Francisco-based CQI Instructor and 2019 PCQC Head Judge Trish Rothgeb introduced the winning coffee selection to have new flavors with fruit notes that are tropical, sweet, fragrant and exciting.

Ted Lingle, CQI Senior Advisor and Author of the Coffee Cuppers Handbook, said the PCQC judges did a good job in scoring the coffee.

The winning coffee lot for the Arabica category is from the farm of Marivic Dubria of Balutakay Coffee Farmers Association (BACOFA) from Davao del Sur, with notes of hibiscus, pineapple, lemon, green apple, thyme and basil.

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For the Robusta category, the top winner is from Bukidnon's Millennium Multi-purpose Cooperative farmer Lorna Libante, with notes of raisins, mixed berries, toffee, grapefruit, fig and orange.

TJ Ryan, Chief of Party of the PhilCafe Project, announced during the cupping event the first Philippine Auction showcasing some of the best, up-and-coming coffee in the nation.

Ryan invited coffee enthusiasts to participate in the auction <https://auction.pcqc.coffee/en/> in appreciation and support for the farmers all around the Philippines in their continuing quest to better production quality to take to the global stage.

DTI Cordillera Autonomous Region Director Myrna Pablo, the National Industry Cluster Coordinator on Coffee, was optimistic that the Philippines will soon be a new specialty coffee origin to look forward to.

She notes the importance of a coordinated approach among various stakeholders in developing the Philippine specialty coffee industry.

Marivic Dubria, farmer of the top winning Arabica Philippine coffee, was thrilled when visitors of the Philippine booth enjoyed her coffee.

She looks forward to helping her fellow farmers produce more quality coffee as specialty coffee can command higher prices.

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