



ASEAN 50th Golden Celebration and Gala Ball in L.A.

17 August 2017, Los Angeles, CA – The year 2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Relations. In time with these, the Philippines is currently the ASEAN Chair for 2017, hosting all the meetings and summits under the theme “*Partnering for Change, Engaging the World.*”

Golden Celebration and Gala Ball

To celebrate these historic milestones, the ASEAN People’s Association (ASEAN PAC) of Los Angeles and the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles are pleased to announce the holding of the **ASEAN 50th Golden Celebration and Gala Ball** on Saturday, 09 September 2017 at the SLS Hotel in Beverly Hills. The event is being organized in partnership with the Network of Myanmar-American Association (NetMAA) and the Consulates of ASEAN member states.

The Guest of Honor for the Gala Ball is His Royal Highness Tengku Amir Ibni Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Al-Haj, the Crown Prince of Selangor, Malaysia.

In speaking to the media during the Gala Ball’s launching & press conference, ASEAN PAC founder and President Dato’ Nellsen Young remarked, “we believe the this Gala Ball for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN will further boost ASEAN’s visibility,” adding that “the event is the only ASEAN-community led celebration of its kind in the entire United States.”

Other dignitaries invited the Gala Ball include Ambassadors and Consuls General of ASEAN member states based off Washington D.C., L.A. and San Francisco; senior members of the United States federal government, U.S. and California congressional members, high-level officials of ASEAN countries, as well as local officials of L.A. and Beverly Hills.

The Gala Ball starts at 6:00 p.m. with the VIP cocktail reception followed by a seated dinner, program and entertainment.

All proceeds from the Gala Ball will go directly to the ASEAN PAC of L.A. Interested sponsors may visit www.aseanpac.org for more details. Gala Ball tickets can be purchased by online at <http://aseanpac.org/asean-50th-gala-ball/>

2017 ASEAN Vanguard Award

During the Gala Ball, ASEAN PAC will also present the 2017 ASEAN Vanguard Award to four individuals with exemplary professional accomplishments and who shown commitment and dedication to fostering close business and personal ties among the ASEAN people.

The four honorees are Ambassador Nina Hachigian, Former U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN; Dato’ Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism & Culture of Malaysia; Dr. Connie Mariano, former White House Physician; and Miss Sonita Lontoh, a Silicon Valley Executive, and was speaker at the White House Global Entrepreneurship Summit.



ASEAN PAC of Los Angeles

ASEAN PAC of Los Angeles is an Association composed of proud and dedicated Southeast Asians based in L.A. It aims to deepen awareness and understanding of ASEAN, as well promote friendship and people-to-to people relations with the American people, including the diverse, multi-ethnic communities in the city.

The Association maintains close coordination with the ASEAN member states through their respective Embassies and Consulate Generals for its projects and programs. In June 2016, ASEAN PAC successfully organized the first ever ASEAN Festival at the South Coast Mall in Costa Mesa, CA. The one-day Festival featured the tourism destinations, handicrafts, fashion, art, as well as music and dance performances of the various ASEAN countries, which were all enthusiastically received.

ASEAN PAC also works with the ASEAN Secretariat headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia, particularly the Office of the Deputy Secretary General for Community & Corporate Affairs (DSG-CCA), and the Sub-committee on Culture of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI).

ASEAN PAC of L.A. also partnered with the following in order to make the Gala Ball a reality: the Malaysia America Foundation, SINGPOLI Group, MDSUN Skin Care, 8asian Media, Pechanga Resort Casino, Stella Sudjasmin, and the Philippine Department of Tourism-L.A.

Aside from the Philippine Consulate General in L.A., ASEAN PAC wishes to convey its special thanks to the Consulates General of Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and the Royal Thai Consulate General in L.A., as well as the Consulates General of Vietnam and Singapore in San Francisco.

ASEAN@50

Fifty years ago, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand met in Bangkok, Thailand and signed the Bangkok Declaration, a document encapsulating their collective desire to promote regional peace and stability and accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development in Southeast Asia. At present, the organization has expanded to include ten Southeast Asian countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Currently, the number of people with an ASEAN ethnicity across the United States number more than 7 million, with Los Angeles being home to the highest concentration of ASEAN nationals or Americans of Southeast Asian descent. END.