



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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PHILCONGEN LA AND FACLA COMMEMORATE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH WITH CULTURAL NIGHT



Malaysia



Philippines



Thailand



Indonesia

31 May, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, together with the Filipino-American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) and the Consulates General of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, jointly organized a cultural program in celebration of Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in the evening of 28 May 2022. More than 300 guests showed up for the cultural night, including the Consuls General of Malaysia and Myanmar, Honorary Consul of Cambodia, Philippine Honorary Consul to San Diego, Deputy Consul General of Thailand, Sheriff Alex Villanueva of LA County, Chairman Curt Hagman of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, Mr. Benjamin Nate of the Office of California Attorney General Rob Bonta, and leaders and members of the various Filipino-American community organizations in Southern California.

The highlight of the program was a “cultural fashion show” where the rich heritage of the four featured countries were on full display. The audience was treated to the couture collections of Ms. Natalia Yaya Pascale from Indonesia, Ms. Yani Bakhtiar from Malaysia, Ms. Aksarapak Bondu from Thailand, and couturiers from Designers Circle Philippines-Rizal Chapter including Ms. Laura Santos, Ganda Anore, Alistair Balane, Davevin Del Rosario, Juvy Fantilanan, Allin Bassig, and Dave Ocampo. Mr. Errol Isip of L.A. Fashion Week directed the fashion show, with Ms. Ruby Rodriguez as the master of ceremonies.

In his opening remarks, the undersigned highlighted the joint efforts of AAPI communities in reaching out to the mainstream American public. He likewise noted the achievements of some Asian-Americans who have excelled in various fields of human endeavor in the American mainstream. He expressed the hope that cultural programs such as the

fashion show will engender greater inter-racial tolerance in a society that has become as racially diverse as America's in modern times.

The fashion show showcased more than 80 designs, a mix of the traditional and modern, made of or accented with indigenous and traditional textiles from the featured Southeast Asian countries. The cultural night was made even more memorable with colorful cultural performances from Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines.



AAPI Heritage Month began in 1976 as a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. In 1990, it was officially designated as the month of May by then President George H. W. Bush, paving the way for its annual celebration every May since then. END.