



Press Release
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“Women in Diplomacy” Panel Discussion - Perspective of a Filipina Diplomat

31 March 2025 – Deputy Consul General (DCG) Maria Alnee A. Gamble served as a panelist at the “Women in Diplomacy” discussion jointly organized by the University of Southern California (USC) Center on Public Diplomacy and the Los Angeles World Affairs Council (LAWAC) held on 31 March 2025 at the Wallis Annenberg Hall in USC.



Photo on the left: LAWAC President Richard Downey, DCG Gamble, Consul General of Belgium Ms. Sophie Hottat, Former Consul General of France and now interim director of USC’s Center on Public Diplomacy, Ms. Julie Duhaut-Bedos, and Director of USC’s Office of International Affairs, Mr. Glenn Isaki.

Photo on the right: The three panelists listening to one of the attendees during the Q & A.

The panel discussion featured DCG Gamble, Consul General Sophie Hottat of Belgium and Ms. Julie Duhaut-Bedos, former Consul General of France in Los Angeles and currently interim director of USC’s Center on Public Diplomacy. The event was attended by graduate students of USC’s Center on Public Diplomacy, LAWAC members, and representatives from the U.S. State Department.

The discussion focused on the experiences of the featured women diplomats given that the diplomatic field has historically been more male-dominated. When asked for advice to women wishing to join the diplomatic service, all of the panelists emphasized that gender is not a barrier to foreign service and they expressed hope that the women attendees may be inspired to consider a diplomatic career.

DCG Gamble referred to the long-established policy in the Philippines to expand the role of women in the workforce, including the government service, for the improved Women in Diplomacy index outcome for the Philippines. She also emphasized the value of mentorship for women, whether as recipients of mentoring or as mentors, and encouraged the students in the audience to consider a career in the foreign service.

DCG Gamble's participation at the event capped PCG LA's celebration of the Philippines' National Women's Month. Likewise, March is also celebrated as Women's History Month in the United States of America. **END.**