



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
LOS ANGELES



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PHILCONGEN LA SUPPORTS UCLA-CSEAS “FLAVORS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO” EXHIBIT AND “BATANES FOOD STORIES” LECTURE

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles attended the joint event of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) - Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) featuring the launch of the “*Flavors of the Archipelago*” exhibit and the lecture on “*Batanes Food Stories*” held on 29 October 2025 at the UCLA Fowler Museum.

The event was attended by members of the academe, research professionals, university students, and members of the Filipino and Filipino-American community. The exhibit, *Flavors of the Archipelago: A Photographic Exploration of Philippine Foodways*, featured authentic and indigenous dishes of the *Ivatan* of Batanes and showcased the processes behind their preparation.

The display also captured traditional *Ivatan* rituals, as well as scenes from daily life and work in the northernmost islands of the Philippines. The exhibit likewise highlighted iconic Filipino delicacies such as the *lechon*, *kinunot* (Bicol), and *ibus*, illustrating how Filipino foodways connect land, sea, and communities across the archipelago.



(Left) Deputy Consul General Maria Alnee A. Gamble viewing the exhibit; (Right) DCG Gamble with the organizers, including Dean Abel Valenzuela, Division of Social Sciences (2nd from left) and Prof. Stephen Acabado, Director of UCLA-CSEAS (rightmost)

Following the exhibit launch, Dr. Francisco “Kiko” A. Datar, retired Professor of Anthropology from the University of the Philippines, delivered a lecture entitled, *Batanes*

Food Stories: How Survival Meals Became Prestige Dishes. His talk delved into the evolution of *Ivatan* culinary traditions and their role in fostering resilience and community identity.

In her remarks prior to the lecture, Deputy Consul General Maria Alnee A. Gamble expressed appreciation to UCLA-CSEAA for its continued collaboration in promoting Philippine studies and cultural heritage and to Dr. Datar for sharing his expertise on *Ivatan* food culture.

The event was supported by the Consulate General through a Philippine Studies Grant facilitated by the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, the Fowler Museum at UCLA, the UCLA Rothman Family Institute for Food Studies, and the UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies.



(Left) DCG Gamble delivering her remarks prior to the lecture; (Right) Professor Francisco "Kiko" A. Datar providing the lecture.