



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

NEW YORK

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Hibla ng Lahing Filipino Exhibit Opens in New York



(R-L) Consul General Claro S. Cristobal, Dr. Ana Maria Theresa P. Labrador, Director, National Museum and Permanent Representative to the UN Teodoro Locsin, Jr. officially open the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino Traveling Exhibition on 23 July 2018 at the Philippine Center in New York. (Second Row) Consul Arman Talbo, concurrent Manager of the Philippine Center, and Madam Marilou Cristobal witness the cutting of the ribbon.

For more information, visit [www.newyorkpcg.org](http://www.newyorkpcg.org) and [www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY](https://www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY)



**Members of the Consular Corps, Diplomats, artists, designers and members of the Filipino-American community join Consul General Claro Cristobal and Madam Marilou Cristobal during the guided tour at the opening of the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino (The Artistry of Philippine Textiles) Traveling Exhibition, Lecture Series, Weaving and Embroidery Demonstrations and Workshops on 23 July 2018 at the Philippine Center.**

NEW YORK, 24 May 2018-- Diplomats, artists, designers and members of the Filipino-American community in New York City graced the opening of the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino (The Artistry of Philippine Textiles) Traveling Exhibition, Lecture Series, Weaving and Embroidery Demonstrations and Workshops on 23 July 2018 at the Philippine Center.

The exhibit in New York is a joint project of Senator Loren Legarda, the National Museum, Philippine Consulate General, and the Philippine Center.

Guests were treated with a first look of the Piña-Seda (pineapple and silk) cloth collections of National Museum, a foot loom or *Tanhaga*, and a collection of fibers from the Philippines. They were given opportunity to weave and embroider with the assistance of Kalibo, Aklan Piña-Seda weavers represented by Ms. Ursulita Dela Cruz and Rhodora Sulangi and Lumban, Laguna embroiderers Ms. Lilian Teresita del Valle and Ms. Joan Monedo.

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Consul General Claro Cristobal and Madame Marilou Cristobal, Permanent Representative to the UN Teodoro Locsin Jr., Dr. Ana Maria Theresa P. Labrador, Assistant Director of the National Museum, and Consul Arman R. Talbo, Manager of the Philippine Center, officially opened the Exhibit.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Cristobal congratulated the National Museum for its previous successful launch of the Traveling Exhibit in London, United Kingdom in October 2017 and its succeeding exhibits in Madrid, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal and Washington, DC, USA. He thanked the National Museum and Senator Loren Legarda for considering New York to house the exhibit and for promoting the artistry and tradition of weaving and embroidering Philippine textiles with the international community, researchers and enthusiasts, as well as with the Filipino-American community.

In her remarks, Dr. Labrador highlighted that the Exhibit is focused on a foremost cultural symbol that Filipinos abroad and at home can be proud of. The strong sense to preserve, build and support the weaving practices of ancestral and traditional textiles and the appreciation of the skills of our cultural bearers contribute to the fabric that bind the Filipinos together. She added that the Traveling Exhibit seeks to present and promote piña-seda – the famous pineapple silk cloth of the Philippines which is unique to the country.

Senator Loren Legarda, through her message read by Dr. Labrador, recalled that Hibla ng Lahing Filipino was born in 2012 with a vision to create Philippine Textile Gallery showcasing the indigenous artistry of Filipinos through traditional textiles. Senator Legarda said that the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino gallery has a bigger home with more textiles and looms at the National Museum of Anthropology and one regional museum in Vigan, with a vision of more regional galleries to come. She also mentioned that the Hibla gallery, blossomed into many initiatives, including the traveling exhibitions, to bring the challenge of nurturing the Philippine weaving traditions to a wider audience.

The Lecture Series, Weaving and Embroidery Demonstrations followed the opening the exhibit. The Philippine Consulate invited women diplomats and members of the consular corps, representatives of fashion schools in New York, textile enthusiasts, and members of the Filipino-American community to the five-day series where they get to actually embroider a piece of piña cloth under the supervision of expert weavers.

The Hibla ng Lahing Filipino Exhibit is open to the public and will run until 7 September at the Philippine Center Lobby Gallery. END



National Museum Assistant Director Dr. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador (R) introduces the weavers from Kalibo, Aklan (from 2nd from R-L) Ms. Ursalita Dela Cruz and Ms. Rhodora Siulangi and the embroiderers from Lumban, Laguna Ms. Lilian Teresita del Valle and Ms. Joan Monedo.



Consul General Claro Cristobal welcomes the guests at the Opening of the Exhibit of the Hibla ng Lahing Filipino (Left photo). Office of Senator Loren Legarda's representatives Ms. Roselyn Arances, Chief Political Officer, and Ms. Jennylyn Sison hand over textile books for the Philippine Consulate General's library.



**Consul General Claro Cristobal joins the guests at the guided tour given by the Curatorial team from the National Museum.**