

MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADR JOSE CUISIA, JR.

New Year's Message of Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. for the Filipino Communities in the United States and the Caribbean

30 December 2015

2015 has been an inspiring and fruitful year for the Philippines and the Filipino people. From the visit of Pope Francis in January to the Philippine Chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) culminating in the Economic Leaders' Meeting in November, and everything else in between, the Filipino's faith, hospitality, and resilience have shone brightly. These innate Filipino traits have served as a driving force behind the Philippines' emergence as one of the most dynamic economies in the world today.

However, as we take the time to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges that our country faced in 2015, we should also look towards the New Year with the strong resolve to sustain and build on the gains we have so far achieved.

2016 promises to be an exciting year as we expect to experience great transformations stemming from the upcoming Presidential elections, the ASEAN-US Summit in Sunnylands, California, the reality of an ASEAN Economic Community, the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the ruling of the international Arbitral Tribunal with regard to the South China Sea.

With all these interesting developments in the coming year, I remain confident that the Filipino communities in the United States and in the Caribbean will continue to play an integral role in shaping the ongoing story of nation-building, growth, and progress of the Philippines. I firmly believe that it is high time for overseas Filipinos to demonstrate their commitment and empowerment by participating in the selection of new Philippine leaders in May 2016. Therefore, I strongly encourage the Filipino communities in the U.S. and in the Caribbean to let their voices be heard and participate in the Philippine electoral process.

I wish you all a Happy New Year that is filled with the blessings of peace, harmony and prosperity. ###



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