

Foreign Service Institute
Major Accomplishments
January – December 2017

Carlos P. Romulo School of Diplomacy

The Carlos P. Romulo School of Diplomacy (CPRSD) of the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), committed to the improvement and personal growth of the Foreign Service Corps, endeavors to upgrade and enhance the competence of its participants, to be on par with international standards in the fields of diplomacy, global affairs, foreign policy, language, personnel management efficiency and professional technical skills. The Institute's CPRSD aims to build strong linkages with other foreign service and e-learning training institutions, as well as with other local and international academic institutions. Its training programs are widely grouped into seven (7) major areas of study, namely, the Core Programs, Technical and Professional Programs, Foreign Language Programs, Special Programs, Scholarship Programs, International Affairs and E-learning Programs, and the Training Evaluation Program. The training programs are designed to develop skills needed at each level of the career foreign service officers and staff officers, at the same time providing the necessary foundation for them to progressively move forward.

As part of CPRSD's continuous upgrading and expansion of its various training programs, it envisions to establish linkages with other international training institutions, thus, fostering further diplomatic cooperation among its counterparts. On 23 February and 25 May 2017, CPRSD conducted a Briefing for Thai Government Officials. The briefing covered Philippine Foreign Policy towards ASEAN, as discussed by Mr. Ariel R. Peñaranda, the Executive Director of the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, and Mr. Zaldy B. Patron, Executive Director of the Office of ASEAN Affairs. The participants were junior-level diplomats undergoing basic training in diplomacy from the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Another Program was the hosting of CPRSD of the 12th Annual Meeting of Deans and directors of Diplomatic Training Institutions of ASEAN Plus Three. Attending this meeting were representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, and Korea. The Annual Meeting was conducted at the Marriott Hotel Manila in Pasay City in cooperation with the ASEAN National Organizing Council. The Annual Meeting discussed trends in diplomatic training, sustainable human resource practices in diplomacy, new course and assessment methodologies, and best practices. One of the outcomes of the Annual Meeting was the determination of the necessity of a Common Course Curriculum to be implemented by all the diplomatic training institutions of ASEAN Plus Three.

CPRSD, in conjunction with the Office of the Director-General of FSI, the Office of ASEAN Affairs in the DFA, and the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, is currently working on crafting this Common Course Curriculum.

Furthermore, on 31 July 2017, the CPRSD also began conducting the Crisis Management and Assistance to Nationals e-Learning Course, which was created in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration. The CMAN e-Learning Course enables Department personnel at Post abroad and in RCOs to keep abreast of trends and best practices in crisis management and assistance to nationals, without having to return to the Home Office to undergo training.

The CPRSD was also tapped to conduct the capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of the personnel who would be involved in organizing and implementing ASEAN meetings through a Memorandum of Agreement between FSI and the ASEAN-NOC.

Notably, FSI, in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs, conducted the Basic Apprenticeship Program on Consular, ATN, Economic and Political Practice in Foreign Service Posts for the FSO Cadetship Course – Batch XXIV on 13-21 September 2017 in four (4) Foreign Service posts, namely, Philippine Embassies (PE) in Hanoi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The program provided an opportunity for the FSO cadets to deepen their understanding of 1) the political, economic and socio-cultural relations of the Philippines with the selected host countries; 2) the structure and operations of Philippine Embassy; 3) the roles and responsibilities of a Consular Officer and an ATN Officer, Economic Officer and Political Officer; and 4) apply the necessary technical and knowledge skills to efficiently handle consular, ATN, economic and political work at post under the supervision of Consular/ATN/Economic/Political Officer.

Gender Sensitivity Training sessions are also included in FSI's course modules. The training aims to sensitize personnel of the DFA and develop their professional and personal competencies in identifying and addressing issues involving gender that arise in the course of their work. It also aims to equip them with basic knowledge in dealing with recurring issues such as sexual harassment. A Basic Sign Language Training Programs was organized for the department personnel. The aim of the program is specifically designed for personnel who are working closely with deaf and hard-of-hearing employees and those who are assigned on the frontline services. It focuses on basic vocabulary grammar, fingerspelling, introduction, numbers, greeting and deaf culture.

In summary, CPRSD for FY 2017, was able to prepare, organize and implement seventy-three (73) training programs accomplished, achieving one hundred percent (100%) of the target number of training programs under the National Expenditure Program (NEP) of the government. In addition to the 73 accomplished training programs, the CPRSD also responded to requests from other government agencies, including the DFA, to organize and implement for

them some demand-driven courses. Under this category FSI has accomplished an additional fifty-seven (57) programs, which brings to a total of one hundred thirty (130) training programs.

The Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies (CIRSS)

In 2017, CIRSS continued to provide the research needs of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other stakeholders on matters related to foreign policy. It also organized conferences, lectures, round table discussions and other events to support its research program.

CIRSS provided inputs to the different offices of the DFA on Asia Pacific regional security, ASEAN and its relations with its dialogue partners, Philippine bilateral relations, maritime and territorial security, global and regional trade issues, nonproliferation and disarmament, cybersecurity, and other areas. *CIRSS Commentaries* and *FSI Insights* – CIRSS papers on political, security and socio-economic issues – were made available to the public online. In 2017, CIRSS published twenty-seven (27) *Commentaries* and two (2) *Insights*. Other print publications, such as *The Philippine Rise: Fast Facts* and the news magazine *Horizons* were produced to aid the DFA's public diplomacy efforts.

The Center contributed significantly to the successful Philippine chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2017, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. The *Mangrove Forum* on "The Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017" kicked off the year-long series of events organized by the Philippines as Chair. This was followed by the *Mangrove Forum* on "The Role of People as Partners for Change in ASEAN." CIRSS also played an important part in the publication of the *ASEAN Security Outlook 2017*.

Throughout the year, the Center organized several *Mabini Dialogue* lectures on various topics. These events featured statesmen, prominent scholars, academics and practitioners as resource persons, with government offices, universities and think tanks as participants. All in all, CIRSS conducted four (4) *Mangrove Forums* and twenty-six (26) *Mabini Dialogues* for 2017.

A highlight of these forums was "The High Level Forum on ASEAN@50," co-organized with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was the event's keynote speaker, while former ASEAN leaders President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, and past ASEAN Secretaries-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and Amb. Ong Keng Yong were the guest speakers.

CIRSS sustained its partnership with other government, non-government, and academic institutions and think tanks in carrying out its programs: the *General Luna Colloquium Series* with the National Defense College of the Philippines and the Office of Strategic Studies and Strategic Management of the AFP; the *Seminar Workshop on Marine Environment Protection and the Role for ASEAN* with the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR, the US Department of State and The Asia Foundation; the 4th Network of ASEAN-China Think Tanks Coordinators' Meeting and Seminar co-organized with NACT China; the *Fourth PACLAS International Conference* with the Philippine Academic Consortium for Latin American Studies; the APLN Southeast Asia Regional Meeting 2017 with the Asia Pacific Leadership Network; and other lectures/forums in collaboration with foreign missions in Manila.

CIRSS received recognition once again as one of the top think tanks (68th) in the region in the *2017 Global Go To Index Report* of the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tank and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute. CIRSS was also recognized as one of the Best Organizations in the Group Category during the Department of Foreign Affairs' Anniversary on 23 June 2017. The award was given in recognition of CIRSS' initiation and conduct of the *Mabini Dialogue Series* and the *Mangrove Forum on International Relations*, which have served as venues for information dissemination and intellectual conversations on different issues concerning Philippine foreign affairs.