

IN LARGER FREEDOM: 75 YEARS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

On Oct. 8, 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Philippine Society of International Law and the Philippine Association of Law Schools, held a virtual web conference entitled “In Larger Freedom: 75 Years of the Philippines and the Charter of the United Nations.” The purpose of the forum was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations (“UN”) which gave the organization its vision and mission.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. delivered the opening remarks for the event, highlighting the UN Charter’s inclusivity by examining the historical context that led to the country’s admission into the UN, and its significance for the international community.

The main speakers for the event were Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo and Prof. Andre Palacios. Ambassador Manalo, the country’s Permanent Representative to the UN, emphasized the Special Committee’s work on the UN Charter and its efforts to strengthen the role of the organization. Prof. Palacios, an expert in the field of international law, discussed how the Philippines’ participation in the mission of the UN contributed to the progressive development of international law. Department of Justice Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay-Villar, Consul Zoilo Velasco, Professor Romel Bagares, and Professor Maria Luisa Isabel Rosales served as reactors.

In addition to these discussions, the web conference also included messages from Department of Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Former UN Undersecretary-General for the UN Office for Internal Oversight Services Heidi Lloce Mendoza, and Former Aide to the Special Representative to Iraq Marilyn Manuel. Also featured were musical performances by Bayang Barrios, Rice Lucido, Nityalila, and Ja Quintana, and the virtual launch of the publication, “Filipino Footprints in the UN.”

To conclude the event, Undersecretary for Administration J. Eduardo Malaya underscored the country’s contributions to the UN since the organization’s inception, and emphasized that “the UN and its Charter embody our principles, values and aspirations for peace, justice and prosperity for our neighbors and ourselves.”⁹

⁹ DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, *DFA Webinar Commemorates UN’S 75th Anniversary, Highlights PH Contributions, Department of Foreign Affairs* (Oct. 23, 2020),