

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE TO THE
PHILIPPINES OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, ARGENTINE
REPUBLIC, AND HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

[Held at the Reception Hall in Malacañan Palace, Manila | 25 May 2022]

HIS EXCELLENCY PHAN PEUV (KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA): Your Excellency, Mr. President, I have the great honor to present my letter of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of the Philippines and the letter of recall of my predecessor.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey the warmest regard and best wishes from His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia; and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to your Excellency and the people of the Philippines.

The Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Philippines have enjoyed very good bilateral relations, cooperation, and this year marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and the Philippines.

We will vow to commemorate activities reflecting the growing — strengthen of our bilateral ties. Your Excellency, I wish you all the best for your noble task in the year ahead and more cooperation, strengthen our good relation, as well as to bring our people and nation closer. May I thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Your Excellency, welcome to the Philippines. I am pleased to accept your credentials as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Philippines.

You begin your tour of duty on a most promising note as the Philippines and Cambodia commemorate 65 years of diplomatic relations. Beyond my term, I expect your high-level exchanges to continue and chart the future course [of our] growing engagement.

The Philippines look forward to a more enhanced cooperation in various areas particularly in bilateral trade and investments. I congratulate Cambodia on its successful chairmanship of ASEM last year.

Cambodia can count on the Philippines' continued support and cooperation on its ASEAN Chairmanship this year.

The Philippines remains committed to strengthening its relations with all its partners in the region.

Congratulations, Your Excellency. I wish you a productive tenure in the Philippines.

HIS EXCELLENCY AGUS WIDJOJO (REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA): Your Excellency, Mr. President, it is my honor to humbly present before you my letter of credence as the appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of the Philippines, and at the same time, I would like to submit my predecessor's official letter of recall.

I also would like to take this opportunity to convey the heartfelt appreciation and felicitations extended by my President, His Excellency Joko Widodo to Your Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

Your Excellency, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of the Philippines have long been friends and allies for over seven decades since 1949. Both countries share the same interests and values based on mutual respect. They encourage each other's aspirations, complement each other's strengths, and come to support to overcome each other's weaknesses.

Both nations are among the founders of the ASEAN. From 2021 to 2024, Indonesia and the Philippines have assumed a post as country coordination with dialogue partners, the United States of America and the European Union, respectively, to promote ASEAN's interest while embracing its relations.

They are also members of numerous strategic regional and global cooperation. Side by side, Indonesia and the Philippines create a strong front on the international arena to adhere to peace, stability, and prosperity amongst nations.

Indonesia has assumed the presidency of G20 in 2022 and will take responsibility as ASEAN Chair in 2023. This is an opportunity to convey ASEAN's interest to the global level to ensure the strength of its impact on regional level.

Your Excellency, economic cooperation between both countries have been strong, smoothly conducted with notable progress in various sectors. Both countries also successfully explore new opportunities in the areas of renewable energy and creative economy. It is also worthy to note the increasing number of Indonesian entrepreneurs doing business in the Philippines and vice versa.

The Philippines' infrastructure development program Build, Build, Build has been taken to greater heights. This is one of the opportunities for both countries to embrace and broaden their cooperation as Indonesia's private and government enterprises participated in the Philippine government's infrastructure projects.

Indonesia is ready to continue to cooperate in strengthening and expanding economic cooperation through close coordination between the two countries with bilateral and regional mechanisms in various fields.

Your Excellency, our close geographical proximity also allows us to enhance our cultural cooperation. Both countries have long withstanding cooperation in socio-cultural facets and people-to-people relations.

In March 2022, in cooperation with the Department of Justice of the Philippines, another recorded milestone where more than 2,000 Persons of Indonesian Descent or PIDs were successfully registered as Indonesian nationals or PIDs.

Your Excellency, Mr. President, I wish to seize this occasion to verbalize my commitment to you that I will closely work with the Philippine government to uphold and further existing cooperation between Indonesia and the Philippines and to continue building bridges between our two countries.

Lastly, please accept, Your Excellency, my sincere gratitude and best wishes for your continued health and success at all your endeavors.

Maraming salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, may I ask you to just remove your mask and everything? This place has been sprayed with anti-COVID so you can be sure that you are safe, so that I can — and even your mask. With the — your entourage, kindly be comfortable and just remove your mask.

H.E. WIDJOJO: This also? Okay.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I can see the handsome faces of our brother ASEAN.

Thank you for your message, Your Excellency. I am pleased to accept Your Excellency's lettres de créance as Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines from Indonesia.

Indonesia is among our closest friends and regional partners. Our shared commitment to peace in our region and the development of our peoples have made us natural allies.

I hold with utmost esteem for President Joko Widodo. Our exchanges reflect our countries' commitment to enhance our robust and friendly relations.

Over the past six years of my term, I am pleased to have witnessed the strengthening of our cooperation. Despite the challenges in the past two years, our trade relations remain robust.

The Philippines look forward to a more bilateral engagement with Indonesia as we advance our shared interest in the promotion of security in our region and work towards post-pandemic recovery.

I wish you, Excellency, a meaningful tour of duty here in the Philippines. Welcome.

HIS EXCELLENCY RICARDO LUIS BOCALANDRO (REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA): Good evening, Your Excellency. It's a — indeed a great honor and a great privilege to present to you my credentials as the next Ambassador of the Republic of Argentina.

Let me, to begin, convey to you the good wishes of the President of Argentina Dr. Alberto Fernández, and the wishes for peace and prosperity and progress for both our nations.

Sir, it is a — indeed a great privilege to me to be accredited in this lovely nation, which has been related to my country for so many years. We both share a common Hispanic root and based on

that common history, we may continue to strengthen and to deepen the friendly relations that have existed between our two nations.

Argentina is, next year, celebrating together with the Philippines, the 75th anniversary of our mutual diplomatic relations. So it is a great opportunity to present my credentials in this occasion.

There exists, Your Excellency, a large field of opportunities to continue cooperating in our bilateral relations. There are a lot of things that can be done in the fields of trade and investments, in the fields of culture, in the fields of cooperation in high technology.

We have many, many elements that we could share together for the benefit of our nations. So I would spare no efforts in order to fulfill my responsibility based upon the friendship our both nations share.

We live in a world which is shaped in greater certainties. It is in this context that both our nations, also developing democracies, have a large opportunity to continue cooperation, not only bilaterally but also in the multilateral fora.

So let me express once again, Your Excellency, the happiness I have to be presenting my credentials here and the commitment — my personal commitment and my nation's commitment — to continue improving the relations and to build more and more the friendly relations and wonderful development that has existed between our two nations.

Once again and to finish, let me reiterate the wishes of peace, prosperity and happiness for your nation, for you people, and for you, sir, which you are finishing your mandate. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, you are most welcome and I am pleased to accept your credentials as Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Philippines.

Your arrival comes at a very auspicious time, next year, when our countries will celebrate the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

I thank your country for the good treatment of Filipinos working and residing in Argentina. I trust that they will contribute positively to the Argentine society.

The Philippines looks forward to increase cooperation with Argentina within the framework of the Philippine-Argentina Agreement on Technical Cooperation. We look forward to enhancing cooperation in the regional and multilateral fronts.

Congratulations, Your Excellency. May you have a successful posting in the Philippines.

H.E. BOCALANDRO: Thank you very much.

HIS EXCELLENCY IOANNIS PEDIDOTIS (HELLENIC REPUBLIC): Your Excellency, please permit me, first of all to convey the warmest greetings of the President of the Hellenic Republic.

Your Excellency, although our formal ties date back to 1947, our peoples share a warm relationship for more than 200 years. On international issues, our views are mostly similar, especially regarding the Law of the Sea, as we are both maritime countries.

Our cooperation in the framework of international organizations is exemplary.

Your Excellency, both our governments have expressed the wish for a more advanced bilateral cooperation, which I hope I will be able to promote during my mandate in your beautiful country.

Your Excellency, I have the honor to present my letter of credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Republic of the Philippines and the letter of recall of my predecessor.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Excellency, I am pleased to accept your lettres de créance as ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the Philippines as we mark the 72nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties this year.

Let us further deepen bilateral engagement for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. I thank Greece for its continued support to the Filipino seafarers.

I also congratulate the Greek government for successfully hosting the first Defense Exhibition in Athens in July of 2021.

The Philippines looks forward to development in its defense cooperation with Greece.

I extend my appreciation to the Government of Greece for the hospitality extended to Filipinos living in Greece. I trust that they continue to contribute positively to your country.

Congratulations, Excellency. I wish you a fulfilling stay in the Philippines. Welcome.

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