

Around the Region

PHILIPPINES

New Ambassador to the Philippines



Canada's new Ambassador to the Philippines, Reg H Dorrett, presented his credentials at Malacanang on 15 November 1983, at an audience with President Ferdinand E Marcos. He was accompanied by his wife, Isabelle.

Ambassador Dorrett was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Science and Economics. Before joining the Canadian foreign service in 1970, Ambassador Dorrett worked mainly in the area of industrial development for, successively, the province of Saskatchewan, the city of Regina and the Government of Canada. In 1968, he became director of the Industrial Intelligence and Promotion Branch, Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

After joining the Canadian foreign service, Ambassador Dorrett served as a trade commissioner in Dusseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany. Subsequent postings took him to Jakarta and Tokyo. Prior to his nomination to Manila, he spent four years in headquarters where he served in various capacities, first with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and, most recently, under the reorganization of government departments, as Assistant Under-Secretary, Office of Marketing Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Department of External Affairs.

Ambassador Dorrett has been active in various business and social organizations, including the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Industrial Developers of Canada. In 1967 he received the Canada Centennial Medal for services rendered to the community.

Ambassador Dorrett's broad background of experience and interests will no doubt contribute to the further growth of good relations between Canada and the Philippines.

Colourful Canadian Book Exhibition For Children

A colourful exhibit of children's books, posters, journals and catalogues from Canada attracted hundreds of visitors at the Children's Communication Center (CCC) in Manila. The exhibition was sponsored by the Canadian Embassy.

The two-week exhibition from 19 November to 3 December 1983 at the CCC's Adarna House was the center's first activity for its 1982-83 "Children of the World" program. The program was started in 1981 to foster future understanding and appreciation of other cultures by Filipino children. Germany, China, France and Japan respectively exhibited during the program's pilot year.

The Canadian exhibit featured a wide variety of French and English literature that extended from basic learning for toddlers to the reading interest level of "young adults". Colourful posters from Canada's 1982 Children's Book Festival set the backdrop for this exhibit which borrowed the theme "Read right across Canada". Laminated posters on the maple tree, Canadian birds and animals as well as the country's six geographical regions presented a panorama of photographic and textual information on Canada.

The exhibit introduced Filipino children as well as their parents and teachers to stories and educational material from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland.

Filipino writers and a number of book publishers and distributors found the journals and catalogues invaluable in getting acquainted with Canada's literature for children. There were also film showings and story-telling sessions throughout the exhibit.

The Canadian Children's Book Exhibit was opened by Second Secretary and Vice-consul Celine Fittes; Cultural Center of the Philippine's President Lucretia Kasilag and CCC director Virgilio Bernardo.

The "Read right across Canada" exhibition is only one of the manifestations of the cooperation between the Canadian Embassy in Manila and the Children's Communication Center. A few months ago, the Embassy helped to launch another project for children "Broadcast Adarna". This project received assistance from the Mission-Administered Fund (MAF) for the printing of broadcast materials concerning children. These materials were distributed to radio and television stations all over the Philippines for dissemination to the general public.

ADM Kilpatrick holds talks with Philippines leaders

Mr. R.A. Kilpatrick, who has recently been appointed assistant deputy minister for the Asia Pacific branch, Department of External Affairs, was in Manila in November to familiarize himself with current political and economic events in the Philippines.

During his visit, Mr. Kilpatrick met President Ferdinand E. Marcos. He also carried on discussions with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Ministers Manuel Collantes and Pacifico Castro, as well as with the Assistant Deputy Minister for ASEAN affairs, Ambassador Sime D. Hidalgo.

During his brief stay in Manila, Mr. Kilpatrick had the opportunity to listen to the views of senior government officials and members of the business community on the current situation in the country.

Filipinos Study Tariff System

Two representatives of the Philippine Tariff Board recently spent three weeks in Canada observing Canadian methods in administration of government tariffs.

Mrs Estrella Buendia, Senior Tariff Analyst, and Mrs Gloria Agato, Commercial Secretary to the Philippines Tariff Board, began their work programme with three days at the Canadian Tariff Board which was followed by briefings by the Anti-Dumping Tribunal. The second week was divided between the International Trade and Finance Branch of the Department of Finance and the Tariff Programmes Branch of Revenue Canada. During their final week in Ottawa the Filipinos attended a harmonization system seminar at which efforts to make tariff systems more compatible was discussed.

The training programme was provided by the Canadian Government as a measure of Canada's ongoing efforts to extend better government-to-government understanding on tariff matters.

Canadian Wheat Board Visits Philippines

Canadian Wheatboard representatives, Dr. R Krist Janson, WH Smith, EC Isaac and T T Ono visited the Philippines 1-2 December 83. The officials met with the minister and officials of the National Food Authority and the Philippine Flour Millers Association to assess the potential for Canadian wheat sales.

Although Canada has not been a supplier of wheat to the Philippines in recent years, the discussion explored ways in which Philippine wheat imports could be greater diversified to take advantage of international credit sources.