

**PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN MANAMA HOSTS
THE CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)**



The ASEAN Heads of Mission in the Kingdom of Bahrain composed of (L-R) Charge D' Affaires Johari Haji Mohammad Hashim of Brunei Darussalam, Ambassador Nur Syahrir Rahardjo of Indonesia, Ambassador Agus Salim Bin Yusof of Malaysia, Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver of the Philippines, and Charge D' Affaires Kanita Sapphaisal of Thailand.

15 November 2017 – The Philippine Embassy in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain hosted the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the Gulf Hotel Convention Center, Manama on 14 November 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

After the playing of the national anthem of the host country and the ASEAN Hymn, Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain and Chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Manama, Bahrain, H.E. Alfonso A. Ver, opened the celebration to welcome the guests and to highlight the achievements of the Philippine Chairmanship of the 50th Anniversary of the ASEAN, including the signing of the *ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers*. Ambassador Ver also emphasized the gains that ASEAN as an organization has achieved during the past five decades, expressing the hope that more successes will be accomplished in the next fifty years for the benefit of all ASEAN peoples.



Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain and Chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Manama, Bahrain, H.E. Alfonso A. Ver, delivers his speech

Around 400 guests composed of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Bahrain government offices, members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, and members of ASEAN communities attended the event. The chief guests during the event were the grandsons of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, namely, H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa and H.E. Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa. H.E. Shaikh Daij bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chairman of the ASEAN-Bahrain Business Council also gave his message on the occasion, highlighting the achievements of the Council. The guests were treated to a mini fashion show featuring the national dresses of each of the five ASEAN countries represented in Bahrain.



H.E. Alfonso A. Ver and the ASEAN Heads of Missions with H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Rashid Al Khalifa and H.E. Shaikh Isa Bin Ali Al Khalifa who were deputized by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom to attend the event, and members of diplomatic corps during the cake cutting ceremony.

A 2-minute video clip promoting tourism in ASEAN was also played during the program to encourage guests to visit the ASEAN region. The ASEAN Embassies also put up their respective booths at the venue to promote tourism as well as their native products. The PHL booth featured brochures and banners on tourism, Philippine textiles including *malongs* and a *Filipiniana* dress, as well as handicrafts such as bontal bags, *sungka*, *kalesa*, small wooden Ifugao houses and wooden displays. Samples of Philippine export products such as bananas and dried mangoes were also displayed at the booth. END.



The ASEAN Heads of Missions with the ASEAN models.



Philippine Embassy Booth