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PH EMBASSY IN BAHRAIN JOINS BRIEFING ON THE COMBINED MARITIME FORCES (CMF) FOR THE AMBASSADORS OF CMF-MEMBER COUNTRIES



The Ambassadors of CMF Member countries, together with their Senior National Representatives, join Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan (front row, 6th from right) in a photo opportunity before the briefing. H.E. Alfonso A. Ver, Philippine Ambassador, (front row, 4th from left) led the Philippine delegation that attended the CMF briefing.

The Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E Alfonso A. Ver attended a briefing for the Ambassadors of countries that are members of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) at the headquarters of the US Naval facility in Manama, Bahrain hosted by Vice Admiral Kevin Donegan, Commander US Navy Central Command/Fifth Fleet and concurrent CMF Commander.

The CMF was created after 9/11 with 12 initial members to help counter the threat of terrorism. Through the years the CMF's membership has grown to its present 31 members and has expanded its mandate to include counter piracy and maritime security. From its base (shared with the US Navy's Fifth Fleet) in Bahrain, it operates across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Somali Basin, Northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf covering 3.2 million square miles of ocean bordered by 21 countries.



H.E. Alfonso A. Ver (center) and Vice Admiral Donegan (2nd from left) are joined by Consul Maria Paz Cortes, PHL SNR Capt. Socimo De Guzman, Jr., and Counsellor Daisuke Yamamoto from the Japanese Embassy.

Ambassador Ver took the opportunity to discuss with Admiral Donegan other areas of concern and possible cooperation between the Philippines and the CMF. The other guests included the Ambassadors and Defense Attaches of CMF-member countries who are resident in Bahrain (Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, KSA, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, UK, US and Yemen) and non-resident Ambassadors from Australia, Canada, Singapore, Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway). Ambassador Ver was accompanied by Deputy Head of Mission, Atty. Maria Paz. G. Cortes and the Philippine Senior Naval Representative to the CMF, Captain Socimo de Guzman, Jr. (END)