

PRESS RELEASE

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY ATTENDS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SAMAHAN NG MANGGAGAWA NG LEBANON AND SEARCH FOR MR POGI 2013



PHOTOS:

FIRST ROW LEFT – Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz delivers her message; **FIRST ROW RIGHT** – SML President, Mr. Ramy Guiling (rightmost) and SML Vice President, Ms. Rose Marie Castillo (middle) present to Ambassador Ruiz a plaque of appreciation; **SECOND ROW** – the ten (10) candidates for Mr. Pogi 2013; **THIRD ROW LEFT** – the candidates perform an introductory dance number; **THIRD ROW RIGHT** – Mr. Junaid Ali (rightmost), Embassy ATN/Legal Officer and a member of the board of judges for the search, Mr. Guiling and Mrs. Carmen Sawma, another member of the panel of judges, pose with Ms. Kim Macatol, the winner of the search for Mr. Pogi 2013.

31 October 2013 – Ambassador Leah M. Basinang Ruiz led Embassy, POLO and OWWA officers and staff in gracing the first anniversary celebration of the *Samahan ng Manggagawa sa Lebanon* (SML), held at the St. Francis Church Auditorium in Hamra on 27 October 2013.

The highlight of the anniversary celebration was the *Search for Mr. Pogi 2013*, where 10 contestants vied for the title, nominated and supported by their respective community groups: the Western Visayas Association in Lebanon (WEVAL), Filipino Workers Association in Metn (FILWAM), White Angel, Waka Waka Group, Fil-Leb, Samahan ng Manggagawang Babae (SMB), Pasaway Group, Filipino Cultural Guild (FCG), Sally's Shop Top Model and Isabelino Ako.

Members of the Filipino community, including officers and members of Filipino community organizations and groups, also attended the celebration.

In her message, Ambassador Ruiz congratulated the SML on their first anniversary and commended them for their accomplishments, including their active participation in various Filcom activities. Ambassador Ruiz also encouraged the SML to continue to undertake programs and projects that will benefit its members and the Filipino workers in Lebanon.

The Search for Mr. Pogi 2013 featured dance performances by the candidates, sportswear and talent competition and the question and answer portion. The event concluded with the announcement and awarding of special awards and the top four winners namely: Kim Macatol (Mr. Pogi 2013), Anthoniette Ocampo (1st runner up), Cris Agustin (2nd runner up) and Lexcee Sasana (3rd runner up).

SML's President, Mr. Ramy Guiling, and Vice President, Ms. Rose Marie Castillo, thanked the candidates and the Filipino community associations for their participation and also their sponsors and Lebanese friends for their support. **END**