

## PRESS RELEASE

### PHILIPPINE EMBASSY ATTENDS FCG's 8<sup>th</sup> PISTANG PILIPINO AND MISS PHILIPPINES-LEBANON 2013



#### PHOTOS:

**FIRST ROW LEFT** – Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz delivers her message; **FIRST ROW RIGHT** – the twelve candidates in their Filipiniana dress; **SECOND ROW LEFT** – the twelve candidates in their evening gown; **SECOND ROW RIGHT** – Vice Consul Dennis John Briones (leftmost) awards a plaque to the winner of the Ms. Philippines-Lebanon 2013, Ms. Jecilyn Palangan (second from left); **THIRD ROW** – the candidates and the organizers pose with the winner of Ms. Philippines-Lebanon 2013.

**09 December 2013** – Ambassador Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz led Embassy, POLO and OWWA officers and staff in attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Pistang Pilipino and Ms. Philippines-Lebanon 2013 organized by the Filipino Cultural Guild (FCG), a Filipino community association in Lebanon. There were twelve Filipino candidates who competed for the title.

In her inspirational message, Ambassador Ruiz congratulated the organizers of the beauty pageant and also thanked the sponsor, OMT Western Union, for its untiring support of the FCG. She noted that, for Filipinos, December is the time not only for Christmas celebrations but also for reflection, prayer and thanksgiving. She commended the Filipino organizations, including FCG, for once again uniting to assist the victims of recent calamities in the Philippines. Ambassador Ruiz also highlighted the Embassy's efforts to forge a stronger relationship between the Philippines and Lebanon and to improve the working conditions of Filipino workers in this country.

Local Filipino singers opened the competition by taking turns in entertaining the audience. The candidates introduced themselves wearing Filipiniana attire, followed by the talent, evening gown and Q&A competitions. Raffle prizes courtesy of OMT Western Union were also given to the lucky attendees. Ms. Jecilyn Palangan was crowned Ms. Philippines-Lebanon 2013, First Runner-up and Ms. Luzon is Jessly Asseret, Second Runner-up and Ms. Visayas is Ms. Jennifer Benitez, and Ms. Mila Palingayan placed Third Runner-up and Ms. Mindanao.

Past Ms. Philippines-Lebanon title holders also graced the event. The FCG expressed its appreciation to the sponsor as well as to the Filipino community and Lebanese friends for their support. The colorful and lively event was featured in the 03 December 2013 issue of The Daily Star, the only English newspaper in Lebanon, which is circulated nationwide. **END**