



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SHANGHAI

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF CONSUL GENERAL WILFREDO R. CUYUGAN

The officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Shanghai and their families join me in greeting all our *kababayans* in Shanghai and in the provinces of Anhui, Jiangsu, Hubei, and Zhejiang a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have now come to the point when we take stock of our achievements in the outgoing year and the bountiful blessings showered on us for our hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. This Season invites us to be thankful for all these, while also beckoning us to reflect on its timeless message of unity and hope.

This year, we saw how our unity, as one big Filipino family in China, bore fruit. From *Fiesta Pinoy 2018* celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Philippine Independence in June to the Ballet Philippines performance in August---both raving successes---the Filipino Community was there to provide unconditional and constant support. Meetings with visiting Philippine Government officials were organized and well-attended because of the active cooperation of our *kababayans*. In assisting hapless and distressed overseas Filipinos, the Community was ready to extend its helping hand. We were able to accomplish plenty of wonderful things, because we were united in our mission and shared the same objectives. Simply put, Filipino *bayanihan* was very much alive and well in Shanghai and beyond, and, with its flame burning, widely evident in our endeavors, thus, pushing us ahead towards our common goals.

As 2018 draws to a close, we are hopeful that next year would hold out better things for us, even as we anticipate greater, even unprecedented, challenges coming our way. We are hopeful that relations between the Philippines and China would continue to strengthen, hopeful that the bonds of friendship between the Consulate and the Filipino Community would continue to deepen, and hopeful that, with renewed vigor, we would be able to effectively build on our previous achievements to better serve our *kababayans*. Away from home, we continuously look forward to a brighter future for our family in the Philippines not only through our hard work, but also because of hope---a sense of optimism that someday, under better circumstances, we need not be physically away from our loved ones.

In this Season of joy and giving, let us set our hearts on the message of unity and hope. For it is by instilling in us the real essence of the Season that we come to create shared experiences and find courage in dedicating ourselves to our fellow Filipinos and to more worthy causes.

May we all have a truly BLESSED MERRY CHRISTMAS and a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!