NO ONE IS SAFE UNTIL EVERYONE IS SAFE
A TIMELINE OF COVID-19 VACCINE DONATIONS

December 1, 2021 to December 22, 2021

DECEMBER 1

1,632,900 doses of AstraZeneca

DECEMBER 14

1,058,400 doses of Moderna

DECEMBER 18

811,980 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech

DECEMBER 21

1,697,000 doses of AstraZeneca

DECEMBER 22

810,810 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech

over 6 million
doses pledged by France for the Philippines’ vaccination program

France supports equitable access to life-saving COVID-19 vaccines in the Philippines.

USEFUL LINKS

No one is safe until everyone is safe
(Philippine Star) 22 December 2021
bit.ly/FRCOVAX

France, a major player in vaccine solidarity
bit.ly/FRCOVAXPH
France stands alongside the Filipino people in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response. The Embassy of France to the Philippines, in coordination with the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, has been taking actions since the onset of this crisis.
Supertyphoon Odette (Rai) hit the Philippines on December 16 and 17, 2021. The magnitude of destruction appears to be more severe than that of ST Yolanda (Haiyan) in November 2013.

- 3,000 liters of water sent to Cebu by the Alliance française de Cebu, with another shipment of water by the French NGO Enfants d'Asie
- 600 boxes of 100 Aquatab tablets to Siargao
- 50 solar chargers, solar lamps, hygiene kits to Siargao
- 1.2 tons rice and water sent by ship to Bohol
- 120 kg medicines and supplies to Siargao by the Airbus Foundation
- 50 solar chargers to Bohol & solar lamps by the Philippine Air Force
- 765 kg rice, medicines, hygiene kits, and supplies to Siargao by the Philippine Air Force
PROTECTION OF OCEANS:
A GLOBAL COMMON FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND THE WORLD
February 9, 2022 to present

ONE OCEAN SUMMIT
A SUMMIT TO MOBILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SAVE THE OCEAN
FEBRUARY 9 TO 11 | Brest, France

A hundred countries stated their determination to preserve the oceans by contributing to a series of commitments:

- protection of biodiversity and ocean resources
- end of plastic pollution of the oceans
- regulation of shipping industry
- restore coastal ecosystems

USEFUL LINKS
The protection of oceans, a global common for the Philippines (Philippine Star) 20 October
bit.ly/OceanFR

Shark Fin Bay, an Innovation Laboratory for the Restoration of Coral Reef Biodiversity
bit.ly/OceanFRPH
OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE
TOWARD A 'SUPER YEAR' FOR THE OCEAN
LEADERSHIP AND ACTION
APRIL 13 TO 14 | Koror, Palau

H.E. Michèle Boccoz
Pres. Surangel Whipps Jr.
Sec. Joses Gallen
Sec. John Silk

CONSERVE PROTECT RESTORE
PALAWAN
PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, a project by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), AFD, and Sulubaai aims to restore coral reefs in Palawan.

Implemented by
French-Philippine NGO Sulubaaï

3 protected marine areas managed by local communities

€527,000

for restoration of biodiversity and fish stocks in Shark Fin Bay
MINISTERIAL FORUM FOR COOPERATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC
February 22, 2022

Now more than ever France & the EU are committed to a free & open Indo-Pacific.

- Uphold the UNCLOS & the rule of law in maritime security
- Deepen bilateral cooperation
- Foster regional cooperation with ASEAN

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin Jr. cited the EU Critical Maritime Route Wider Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO II), which aims to support countries in enhancing their Maritime Situational Awareness, as a concrete action toward this end.

2.7k people reached on social media
71
1.2k views

USEFUL LINKS
Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific bit.ly/AmbaFRIndoPacific
WE STAND WITH UKRAINE
February 24, 2022 to present

I am shocked by the op-ed on the @PhilippineStar today. Russia's invasion of #Ukraine is illegal & unprovoked. The fact is that innocent people are dying because Russia continues to ignore calls, including from @antonioguterres, the UNGA, and the ICI, to stop its offensives.

Watch in full:
bit.ly/UkraineFRPH

6.8k people reached on social media
250 likes
3.3k views

1. France's extension of humanitarian, economic, and military aid to Ukraine
2. The European Union's strong & unanimous condemnation of Russia's aggression
3. Prioritize the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative to promote global food security

USEFUL LINKS
A collective response to Russia's war on global food security (BusinessWorld) 29 June
bit.ly/OpEdFoodSecurity

Let's not yield a single square inch in the face of disinformation (Philippine Star) 30 July
REAR ADMIRAL JEAN-MATHIEU REY, JOINT FORCE COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC, VISITS MANILA
March 8-11, 2022

Highlights of the port call of the Floréal-class light surveillance frigate Vendémiaire in Manila.

The return of le Vendémiaire to the Philippines marks another step forward in strengthening maritime cooperation between the French and Philippine armed forces.

Rear Admiral Jean-Mathieu Rey, Joint Commander of the French Armed Forces in the Asia-Pacific (ALPACI), meets with Filipino military and defense officials to highlight France's commitment in favor of a free, safe, and open Indo-Pacific based on respect for international law and multilateralism.

French frigates sailing overseas have been designed to carry out:
1. surveillance of overseas areas under French sovereignty
2. maritime domain awareness & police patrol
3. maritime cooperation with allies
4. humanitarian action
Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, together with senior officers of the Philippine Navy headquarters, tour the French vessel in the presence of French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz and Rear Admiral Rey.

Le Vendémiaire participates in a humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) preparedness activity with the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard, following the EU Crimario training mission in the Philippines.
PARIS 2024 / TERRE DE JEUX 2024
April 6, 2022 to present

17.3 k people reached on social media
585
5.9 k views

Vive les sports!

A 3-KM FUN RUN AND BIKE RIDE IN CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

Together, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz and Filipino Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz launched the Terre de Jeux 2024: a 24-hour global relay in the Philippines at the historic Walled City of Intramuros.

From Japan, the baton is now passed to the Philippines!

Watch the full video here: bit.ly/TERRE24
Terre de Jeux 2024 by the Eurocampus

Eurocampus organized a stage race modeled after the Olympic torch run on the Lycée Français de Manille grounds as an opportunity to highlight sports as a driver of social change and community development, and as a factor in promoting peace and understanding.

Journée du Volontariat Français

France Volontaires advocates for inclusion and reciprocity in a day filled with sports activities at Lycée Français de Manille - LFM.

This year’s edition echoes the program of #TerredeJeux2024 to send Filipino volunteers to France for the organization of the Olympic Games.

It was an honor to launch #TerredeJeux2024 🇫🇷 in the Philippines alongside Hidilyn Diaz, the first 🇵🇭 Olympic Gold Medalist. Maraging salamat, @HidilynOly ! We look forward to seeing you compete in #Paris2024. Mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino! Vive les sports !
The consular team was fully mobilized for the smooth running of the presidential elections in April 2022. From January to March 2022, consular tours to Cebu, Dumaguete, Davao and Iloilo City were organized to collect proxies from our citizens.

Many nationals spontaneously volunteered to ensure the smooth running of the polling station at the Embassy.
The French Embassy team visited several polling precincts in Metro Manila, Cavite, and Cebu as foreign observers to witness the conduct of the 2022 national and local elections in the Philippines.
PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL COURTESY CALLS

After the May 2022 national elections, Ambassador Michèle Boccoz pays courtesy calls to President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio to convey the message of congratulations from the French government. They explored the deepening of cooperation in several areas, particularly as both countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

As we celebrate the Philippines and France’s 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, I am positive that our nations’ sustained partnership and cooperation will reach even greater heights in the years to come!
Ambassador Boccoz and the French Embassy team went on missions to provinces in the Philippines for various projects and meetings with local governments, particularly in areas with the presence of French communities, such as Siargao and Bacolod City. Other trips include the meeting with BARMM Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim in Cotabato City, a visit with Sen. Cynthia Villar and Together Ensemble Foundation in Cotabato province, and meetings with civil society groups in Leyte.
FRANCE ADVANCES WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & GENDER EQUALITY

#IDAHOBIT 2022

France supports this year’s theme, “Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights,” of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia. As we continue to push for equality and human rights for all, we advance our commitments with the United Nations and our international partners in developing laws and policies for inclusion with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sustainable agriculture project for women in BARMM

Women cooperatives in BARMN participated in a training on agriculture production and orientation on values of women in this livelihood program. The goal is to increase their knowledge and promote organic agriculture.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

France advocates promoting safe spaces for women. The French Embassy supports various projects advancing women’s rights, including its participation in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Arts and Culture with Cameleon and the Quezon City local government

The Embassy partnered with Cameleon Association, which has a rehabilitation program for girls who are victims of sexual abuse. The Embassy also led the launch of murals created by French and Filipino artists to uplift women detainees at the Quezon City Jail, together with the Quezon City local government.
Ambassador Michèle Boccoz is one of the awardees of PeopleAsia's Women of Style and Substance 2022.

"The hardworking diplomat who currently leads the 75th year celebrations of French-Philippine ties reminds us that there's more to diplomacy than what meets the eye."

French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz: The caring diplomat

Poised and elegant, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz tears up when talking about children, particularly underprivileged Filipino children.

"It's always heartbreakening when children are concerned, whose lives are so terribly affected (by their situation)."

Ambassador Boccoz, tears welling in her eyes, told us recently when the topic of the return to face-to-face classes for children came up in our conversation. She apologized for the show of emotion, saying, "Sorry, I feel very strongly about that."

Was she speaking as a mother, a diplomat, a human being, or all of the above?

"It's a mix of all that," she replied. "As a diplomat, we are trying to work together with this country, and I care for the development of this country and for the future of the country. And the youth, the kids are the future of the country. So that's why I think it's so important.

"The Philippines has a young population. If you educate a young population, then it's a wonderful asset for the country. But if their education is not there, then that's going to be a problem."

The lady ambassador was also in Bacolod recently visiting two non-government organizations (NGOs) that help abused children. One of them, Camelen, helps victims of sexual abuse heal themselves and rebuild their young lives.

Boccoz loves her country, France, very much. And she believes loving France means being true to its ideals and loving the rest of the world as well. That is why she finds being a diplomat and a humanitariain very rewarding.

Ambassador Boccoz at the turnover of solar street lights to the municipality of Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte. Also in photo are Mayor Arwea Dolar of Santa Monica, Surigao del Norte and ACTED's Fabien Courtois.

Between cocktails

"Mangandang umaga. Opo po bu minyang mag-agaps?" Ambassador Boccoz, who speaks Spanish, German, Italian, Croatian and is starting to speak Tagalog, gives us a sample of her Tagalog as she opens her beautiful home to us for an interview.

"I've always been interested also in learning languages," shares Ambassador Boccoz, who declares that for her, Philippine mangoes are the best.

She admits there is a misconception that diplomats switl and twirl only in a glamorous world.

"The glamorous image is a popular image. We used to have an advertisement in France for chocolates. It was all about chocolates being the ambassador's chocolates, so you had this beautiful tray of health diplomacy and the strategic relationships of the WHO.

"As a diplomat, I was interested beyond diplomatic work and into global health issues," she says.

Ain't no mountain high enough

Michèle Boccoz grew up in a picture-perfect place called Savoie with a view of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe and the Alps. But she knew there was another world to explore beyond the Alps after she immersed herself in a magazine that featured the world's UNESCO Heritage Sites.

"It was all about different cultures, languages, civilizations,
COURTESY CALLS TO MAYORS IN LUZON AND MINDANAO

MANILA
Mayor Honey Lacuna

MAKATI CITY
Mayor Abigail “Abby” Binay

QUEZON CITY
Mayor Joy Belmonte

PALAYAN CITY
Mayor Rianne Cuevas

DEL CARMEN, SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Mayor Proserfina Coro

SANTA MONICA, SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Mayor Arwela Dolar

GENERAL LUNA, SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Mayor Sol Matugas
PH-FR NGOs CHAMPIONING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS

May 4, 2022 to present

Caritas Manila

French Ambassador Boccoz with Fr. Anton Pascual helped feed 144 poor malnourished children beneficiaries in the urban poor community in Smokey Mountain with the Caritas Manila's Nutrition Program and distributed gift checks to poor families from the Risen Christ Parish.

Cameleon

The French Embassy supports Cameleon’s efforts, a French NGO, in their advocacy of residential care, education, and pushing for child protection laws and policies for all Filipino children.

Virlanie Foundation

French Ambassador Boccoz met with Dominique Lemay, founder of Virlanie Foundation, a French NGO which takes care of street children and out-of-school youth to be trained in agricultural skills. Their new project is a farm proactively participated by the youth with special needs in Bacolod.

Association Compassion Asian Youth

Sister Sophie Renoux, founder and executive director of the Association Compassion Asian Youth, was one of the top 5 finalists for The One Philippines 2022 Humanitarian Awards.
ARTISTS AND STARS GRACING
#PHILFRANCE75
May 27, 2022 to present

Nadine Lustre
Nadine Lustre is an award-winning Filipino actress as recognized by FAMAS and Gawad Urian. She is an advocate of mental health awareness, women empowerment, and environmental awareness.

Vladimir Grand
Vladimir Grand is a Ukrainian vlogger, host, and actor based in the Philippines. He has over 16 million followers on TikTok. He is known for his comedy skits on social media but in February, he posted a video calling for an end to the Ukraine-Russia war.

Camille Robiou du Pont
Camille Robiou du Pont is a French photographer based in the Philippines. Together with AFM, she launched the exhibit “Mayari” — a tribute to magic and mysticism, of looking deep into our identities and allowing ourselves to swim free.

Solenn Heusaff-Bolzico
Solenn Heusaff-Bolzico is a French-Filipino actress and model. She graduated from the European International School. She then proceeded to study fashion design in Paris.
Raymond Red
Director Raymond Red is one of the pioneer figures of modern Filipino alternative cinema. He is the first Filipino to have won the prestigious Palme D’Or Award at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival for his short film ANINO.

Manix Abrera
Manix Abrera is a cartoonist most known for his humorous and often satirical comics. He has created the 75th FR-PH anniversary cards for Bastille Day. Recently, he has been selected as one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of 2022.

John Arcilla
John Arcilla is a Filipino actor and environmentalist. He won Best Actor at the 78th Venice International Film Festival for his performance in On the Job: The Missing 8.
FRANCE SUPPORTS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN BARMM

June 2, 2022 to present

€530,000 women-led sustainable agricultural project

French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz visits Cotabato City to launch a €530k women-led sustainable agricultural project supported by France, implemented by ACTED Philippines and World Food Programme with UN Philippines.

Bangsamoro Government Center

France is a strong advocate of sustainable peace and long term development in BARMM. Together with Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez of the UN Philippines, French Ambassador Boccoz, Political Councillor Thomas Rollet, Cultural Councillor Marc Piton, and the ACTED team pay a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim.

International Peace Partners’ Forum

During the International Peace Partners’ Forum organized by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, OPAPRU officials highlight the milestones achieved under the comprehensive Philippine peace process of the Duterte administration, while recognizing the invaluable contribution of its international peace partners in achieving these milestones.
In recognition of ACTED going the last mile in developing a holistic approach to humanitarian and development action, the French Embassy fully supports and commits to the Zero Poverty, Zero Exclusion, and Zero Carbon initiative.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
newsmakers
TUESDAY 1 AUGUST 30, 2022
EDITOR: JOANNE RAE M. RAMIREZ
GRAPHIC ARTIST: JAYMEE L. AMORES

French connection

When he first arrived in the Philippines as a volunteer for Gawad Kalinga 11 years ago, Fabien Courteille, then taking his master’s degree in entrepreneurship, thought he’d only stay three months.

But somehow, Filipinos found their way to his heart, tugging at his heartstrings and tying them into a sturdy knot here.

“I lived with the beneficiaries of Gawad Kalinga in Bulacan. And the house was smaller than my apartment back in France and there was no water, no electricity. But still, there was a plate for me on the table. There was space for me in this house. And it has expanded my definition of family. People that I did not know, people that I have never been with before started treating me like I were their oldest son and people from the community started calling me ‘Aya,’” recalls Fabien, now the full-time director of ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development), a French non-government organization (NGO) in the Philippines.

We got to know Fabien in a meeting arranged by political counsellor Thomas Rollet in the bright and sunny home of French Ambassador to the Philippines Michelle Bococo, who actively and enthusiastically supports many outreach activities of French non-government organizations like ACTED.

“It was a very humbling experience,” Fabien recounts his GK experience. “I came here with the idea that I was going to help and I was going to use whatever I’ve learned at school to change the lives of people.” Instead, he found that his life was also going to be changed indelibly by the very same people he came to help.

In the Philippines for 10 years now.

“We have a double mandate, on one side humanitarian, and on the other side, development. It is extremely frustrating when you respond to a crisis that keeps on happening. And obviously, natural disasters such as typhoons in the Philippines war, with natural disasters.”

Fabien explains that civil society has also been the main avenue for ACTED’s activities. “We work with a lot of local organizations all over the world. And they also ensure the continuity of our presence on the ground. Because ACTED is not destined to be here forever. In ACTED, when a crisis is finished, then we should leave, we should not stay.”

***

The French connection in the Philippines was long and strong, and it was important for ACTED at work in the Philippines.

From left) The French Embassy in the Philippines’ head of communications Patricia Viray, political counsellor Thomas Rollet, Ambassador Michelle Bococo and Fabien Courteille, ACTED director, Philippines.

Photo by MAU AGUASIN

Social media link: facebook.com/npACTED

counsellor Rollet, the Philippines is among the top destinations of French humanitarian groups and volunteers.

Fabien himself has not only lived in the Philippines since 2010 doing humanitarian work, he is also married to a Filipina and will soon be a father to a “French-Filipino-Chinese” baby. They met while both of them were volunteers for Gawad Kalinga.

In the Philippines, ACTED supports the transition from early recovery and rehabilitation towards long-term development. ACTED has strong expertise in the response to natural disasters, like the distribution of emergency kits including water, food, shelter and hygiene, and with the reconstruction and rehabilitation of shelter and infrastructure, including in Internally Displaced Peoples’ (IDP) camps.

It believes every human being has the right to live in dignity.

“ACTED has a reputation, which is absolutely true, of really delivering results and delivering on time,” says the French envoy.

She cites an example, a humanitarian project that had a short timeline for completion. “And we had targets that were really precise numbers. Not only was everything finished, they did more, they managed with the funds they got. They managed to go further than we had anticipated, because of very clever ways of doing things, because of very efficient policy in buying the materials to rebuild houses, for example.”

Ambassador Bococo also admires ACTED for staying beyond the bitter end, so to speak, of every project. “It doesn’t stop at the end of the project, it carries on. And that’s really important in making a difference in people’s lives.”
ORDERS AND DECORATIONS AWARDED BY FRANCE TO FILIPINOS AND FRENCH

June 7, 2022 to present

Mme. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat
Ordre national du Mérite Agricole, 7th of June
Currently Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines, formerly Tourism Secretary (2018-2022), Agriculture Undersecretary

M. Cesar Purisima
Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur
30th of July
Formerly Finance Secretary (2010-2016), Trade & Industry Secretary (2003-2005)

M. Teodoro Locsin, Jr.
Ordre national du Mérite
8th of June

M. Ramon Ang
Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur
12th of July
President and CEO of Top Frontier Investment Holdings, Inc.

Mme. Aurore Roiland-Prudent
Ordre national du Mérite
12th of December
Founder of NGO Les Oursins - enfants des trottoirs supporting homeless children in the Philippines
FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE  TARA, ALLEZ!
June 21, 2022 to June 28, 2022

This 26th edition of the Fête de la Musique in the Philippines is a showcase of French and Philippine musical talent as French musical artists Marc Fichel, DJ Blutch, and Maxime Cozig collaborate with Filipino artists to produce original co-creations and perform in several stages in Siargao, Cebu, El Nido, and Baguio.

It is organized by the Alliance française de Manille and B-Side Productions, with support from the French Embassy and the Department of Tourism.
The bust and pedestal of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal was unveiled at the Place named after him in 1999 at the bustling 9th arrondissement (district) of Paris.

“We are proud that Paris is now the latest addition to the long roster of major cities around the world that has a sculpture in honor of the Philippine national hero. This unveiling is a major milestone for the Philippines and France as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations on 26 June. I am confident that this bust of our national hero in Place Jose Rizal will be a must visit site for Filipinos all over the world,” said Philippine Ambassador Junever Mahilum-West.

The historic unveiling has been a long-awaited project by the Filipino community in France which finally came to fruition through the invaluable support of City Hall of Paris and the City Hall of the 9th arrondissement of Paris. Ambassador Junever M. Mahilum-West reiterated her appreciation to Paris City Mayor Anne Hidalgo, her Deputy Mayor Arnaud Ngatcha who is charge of International Relations and Francophonie, and Mayor Delphine Bürkli of the 9th arrondissement of Paris.
The 75th anniversary celebration of French-Philippine diplomatic relations has officially been launched!

French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz and then Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr. led the opening ceremonies at the elegant Pintó Art Museum to officially launch the year-long festivities in an afternoon filled with music, art, and great company among institutional partners from a range of sectors.

France and the Philippines share dynamic and diverse ties that developed throughout the two countries' shared history. This year, both countries mark the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations with a stronger commitment to strengthen and expand the Franco-Philippine partnership in many areas, most notably in:

- trade & investment
- defense & maritime cooperation
- climate action
- culture & arts
- people-to-people exchanges

Useful Links

75th anniversary celebration of French-Philippine diplomatic relations
bit.ly/PHFR75Events

FR Ambassador Boccoz & Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin, Jr. share a toast
bit.ly/PHFR75Video
Czech-French writer Milan Kundera on the Trauma of Foreign Invasion

French essayist Nicolas Tenzer, Czech lecturer and senior researcher Dr. Adéla Gjurčíčová, and Filipino writer Sarge Lacuesta, with moderator AA Patawaran, addressed the question of individual experience in the face of tragedy and patterns in European history through the works of Milan Kundera at the Alliance Française de Manille.

European Values & Strategic Interests

As we mark the handover between France and the Czech Republic for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Tenzer, together with French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz and Czech Ambassador Jana Šedivá, discussed European integration and the Russian invasion in Ukraine: a defining test for the EU as a strategic stakeholder at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

USEFUL LINK

Milan Kundera: The Unbearable Lightness of European History
bit.ly/KunderaPH2022
Presiding over Europe in times of war

After France from Jan. 1 to June 30, the Czech Republic will hold the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union until Dec. 31. For the first time in the history of institutional Europe—the European Economic Community and later the EU—these are wartime presidencies. Even if the EU member states are not legally at war, the new Russian offensive against Ukraine is, indeed, a European war. It is in Ukraine, as the former Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg stated already in 2015, that the fate of Europe will be decided.

In fact, this war on European soil has been going on for more than eight years in Ukraine—and certainly even longer if we remember the Russian aggression in 2008 against Georgia, 20 percent of whose territory is still occupied. This is a war of the Russian regime against Europe: Mr. Putin has never hidden his intention to destroy Europe, to unravel the values of freedom, law, and open society that characterize Europe, to break down international law, and to restore the zones of influence whose very principle was rejected by international law in the aftermath of World War II. This legacy was at the heart of the tradition of France which, with René Cassin, brought human rights to an international level. This aggression also runs counter to the principles of freedom and emancipation embodied by the dissident, hero of the freedom movement, and then first president of the free Czechoslovakia, following more than 40 years of communist dictatorship, Václav Havel.

Milan Kundera will serve as a link between the presidencies of our two countries this year, and as an incentive for us to think about Europe, as we will do on June 29 at the Alliance Française de Manille. A French citizen of Czech origin, now 93 years old, he embodies the destiny of a Europe of dark times that we find today: persecuted, forced into exile, stripped of his nationality, and then regaining it at the end of his life, he is a voice that alerts us to the fragility of freedom and the duty to not give up in the face of the grip of criminal regimes.

This Europe has shown for too long, to paraphrase the title of one of his books, an "unbearable lightness" by not taking the Russian threat seriously. It was too exclusively focused on the economy and the peace project of the founding fathers of Europe to see the war. It did not perceive, despite its massive crimes committed over the last 22 years, the danger of the Russian regime. It is true that one half of Europe, the western half, did not want to listen to its central and eastern parts, which, also because of its closer experience of oppression, had a better understanding of the threats.

But the good news is that Europe has woken up. In the months leading up to the outbreak of this new massive war, it realized the futility of trying to deal with the Russian regime. As a consequence, it prepared a drastic reinforcement of the sanctions which, since Feb. 24, have not ceased to be reinforced. It has taken up the cause of Ukraine by granting it the status of candidate country to the EU—it was actually not a "gift," but the integration of this great European country will represent a major asset for Europe: economic, security, spiritual, intellectual. It has coordinated its action with Nato and with the US and the United Kingdom. It was able to respond quickly to the dramatic influx of 7 million Ukrainian refugees fleeing desolation and death. It has clearly taken a stand in favor of aid for the military defense of Ukraine. On the scale of the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian victims of the barbarity of the Russian regime, this is still insufficient, but the progress made in recent months has been considerable. They must continue and the countries of the Alliance must become even more involved in the defense of Ukraine: time is running out and every day that passes results in hundreds of deaths.

This Russian war has global ramifications: in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The Kremlin makes no secret of using the weapon of famine to put pressure on Europe and the world. The EU will not remain inactive in this area and will ensure that the countries threatened by this weapon, which the European leaders have designated as war, will not be blackmailed. World food security, especially in the Indo-Pacific area, must not be threatened.

Europe, a power by choice and more than ever by necessity, will remain in the front line to defend throughout the world the universal principles that are not only its own. Human rights, truth, and dignity are values shared in all parts of the world. It is also this memory of past and present struggles for freedom that we must preserve. Let us recall the words of Kundera: "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against oblivion."

Dr. Adéla Gjuričová is senior researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. Nicolas Tenzer is director of weekly French newsletter Desk Russie and president of the Center for Study and Research on Political Decision.
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES
June 30, 2022 to present

Cristina Palabay
Cristina Palabay is the Secretary General of Karapatan Alliance Philippines national alliance of human rights organizations, desks and individual advocates working for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. She has been awarded the Franco-German Human Rights Award in 2021.

Mary Aileen Bacalso
Mary Aileen Bacalso is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances. She is the former Secretary General of the Asian federation against involuntary disappearances. She has been awarded the Franco-German Human Rights Award in 2019.

Fr. Flaviano “Flavie” Villanueva
Father Flaviano “Flavie” Villanueva is a missionary from the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). In 2015, he opened Kalinga Center that provides dignified care for the homeless in Manila. In 2016, he founded the Paghilom program, a Church-based support group that works with families of victims of extra-judicial killings to allow them to find a safe space to cope with grief and connect with others who share their experiences.
PH-FF FRIENDSHIP PARK

LAUNCH

With the Together-Ensemble Foundation, the park was inaugurated at the Las Piñas Parañaque Wetland Park. This park located in a protected area within Manila represents our commitment to protect the environment and biodiversity.

MARCEL PROUST: IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME

EXHIBIT

Inspired by the descriptions of Marcel Proust's literature, Stéphane Heuet builds his drawings as visual transcriptions of the text. Spanning for 25 years, it includes over 2,500 drawings divided into 8 albums and 2 complete works.

OFFTHEWALL MANILA-PARIS CONNEXIONS

EXHIBIT

Created by Claire Thibaud-Piton, it aspires to highlight the works of French and Filipino artists who use their creativity to reflect modern-day struggles and challenges in a new and interesting way. This was done in partnership with the Rose Studio Art Gallery and AyalaLand, Inc.

BREAKTHROUGH

CIRCUS

A 60-minute circus show entitled “Breakthrough: Unfolding stories of hope and transformation”, feature the Cirquera de CAMELEON girls with French circus student/artists from ENACR (Ecole Nationale Des Arts Du Cirque De Rosny Sous Bois) and Les Grande Personnes.
Michaël Cousteau conducts the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines through a repertoire of French-Filipino music in *A French-ship Concert*, a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and the Philippines.

This special concert also marks the PPO's first live homecoming at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo since the COVID-19 pandemic closed the theaters.
Three French masterpieces from Claude Debussy, Camille Saint Saëns and Maurice Ravel highlight the finesse of French orchestral music.

South Korean cellist Kyongmin Nam Fiel performs the First concerto for Cello by Camille Saint Saëns. It also highlights the Filipino serenade Hating Gabi with Adrian Nicolas Ong playing the solo violin part.
Happy Bastille Day, everyone in France and across the world!
FRENCH COMMUNITY IN CEBU

Alliance Française de Cebu proudly celebrated French National Day on July 14 at its premises, in partnership with La Vie Parisienne.

On August 26, the first Monthly Gathering is launched for the French citizens of Cebu, in partnership with La Vie Parisienne and Consular Counselor Kévin Labbé, to deepen and strengthen the bond among the members of the French community.

The French community in Cebu is joined by French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz and the President of Alliance Française de Cebu, M. Michel Lhuillier.
COURTESY CALLS TO DEFENSE & FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARIES & UNDERSECRETARIES
August 2, 2022 to present

Department of Foreign Affairs

Department of Foreign Affairs
Secretary Enrique Manalo

Department of Foreign Affairs
Assistant Secretary Jaime Ledda

Department of Foreign Affairs
Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos Sorreta

Department of National Defense

Department of National Defense
Officer-in-Charge
Senior Undersecretary
Jose Faustino Jr.

Department of National Defense
Undersecretary for Civil, Veterans, and Reserve Affairs
Franco Nemesio Gacal
DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

An idea by Dr. Joven R. Cuanang and curated by Sandra Palomar, it showcases a collection covering a period of 75 years of painting, sculpture, design and other genres of work by Filipino and French artists, including the works of French artist Paul Gauguin.

PHILIPPINE ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM (PARP)

A simultaneous cross-cultural exchange for the first time with French artist, Louis Guillaume, coming for residency in the Philippines and Filipino artist Issay Rodriguez coming to La Rochelle, France.

FRANCOFIL FORUM

Organized with the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde’s School of Diplomacy and Governance and Alliance Française de Manille, it is a hybrid forum where ambassadors discuss the bilateral relations between France and the Philippines, as well as the job of a diplomat and their career paths.

WORDELLO NIGHT OF POETRY

A night of poetry reading, special performances, and awarding of video competition winners feat. Chichi Lizot and other poets, musicians, and visual artists in this mash-up performances of poems like Oulipo and Ambahan.
The French Embassy, in partnership with Stratbase ADR Institute, host a defense symposium titled "Revolutionizing the Philippine Defense Posture with France in the Indo-Pacific" in Manila on September 14. French participants from the Ministry of Defense and the Navy has taken their part in these exchanges. As new administrations in France and the Philippines are in place, this is an opportunity to assess the regional strategic situation, reflect on the shared vision of our two nations of the Indo-Pacific, and move forward on cooperation between our two countries.
Euronaval Defense Exhibition in Paris

French Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Thierry Burkhard and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Bartolome Vicente Bacarro hold a bilateral talk at the sidelines of the Euronaval defense exhibition in Paris. The Philippine delegation has visited the booth of French defense firm Naval Group.

3rd Joint Defense Cooperation Committee

France, headed by Captain Guillaume Arnaux of the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS), and the Philippines, led by Defense Assistant Secretary Henry Robinson Jr., hold the third iteration of their Joint Defense Cooperation Committee in Manila. The delegations reaffirm their shared support to international law in the Indo-Pacific.
#PHILFRANCE75

**UP TO THE SKY!**
*EXHIBIT*
Up to the Sky! is a street art exhibit featuring the works of French artist CEET and Filipino artist EGG FIASCO, curated by Claire Thibaud. They have collaborated to paint a mural at the Bonifacio High Street, to celebrate Franco-Philippine friendship.

**BAYAN BAYANAN: TEXTS FROM HOME**
*MUSICAL*
A classic play adapted from the playwright Bienvenido Noriega, Jr., and directed by Dr. Anton Juan. It is a musical comedy showing the plight of Filipino migrants abroad, feat. French singer Tamara Aguilos, among other talented artists.

**CINEMALAYA**
*FILM*
French film director Frédéric Auburtin takes part in #Cinemalaya18 PH Independent Film Festival: Breaking Through the Noise.

Auburtin and other international filmmakers form the jury to decide the top 2022 films among 11 full-length and 12 shorts in the competition.

**MULA SA BUWAN**
*MUSICAL*
Mula sa Buwan is an original Filipino musical adaptation of Edmond Rostand’s classic, Cyrano de Bergerac. Set in 1940s Manila, among young cadets, led by misfits, fools, and dreamers – now with a powerful message for our times.
MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS
EMMANUEL MACRON AND FERDINAND MARCOS, JR.
September 16, 2022 to November 19, 2022

Telephone interview between the Presidents
French President Emmanuel Macron and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. first talked via telephone call on September 16 to discuss energy security, food security, defense, people-to-people exchanges, the Indo-Pacific, international maritime law, and protection of oceans biodiversity.

77th UN General Assembly
Shortly after their phone call, they met for the first time at the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 21.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit
The two presidents met again at the sidelines of the 29th APEC Summit in Bangkok. They tackled maritime security, nuclear energy, global public goods, and further strengthening diplomatic relations between France and the Philippines.

USEFUL LINKS
Entretien téléphonique avec le Président des Philippines
bit.ly/ElyseePH
France values its relations with Palau, which has been an important partner in the fight against climate change, the preservation of biodiversity, and the promotion of sustainable development.

Last April, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz went to Koror, Palau to attend the Our Ocean Conference - a global gathering of stakeholders to raise action for ocean protection.

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President Surangel Whipps, Jr. | VP Uduch Senhebau Senior | Minister of Finance Kaleb Udui, Jr. | House of Delegates Speaker Sabino Anastacio

Senate President Hokkons Baules
A CONVERSATION WITH
3 STAR MICHELIN CHEF
ALAIN PASSARD
October 22-24, 2022

Chef Alain Passard, renowned French chef and owner of L'Arpège in Paris, visits the Philippines to share his culinary expertise to aspiring culinary students with Chef Jessie Sincioco and Chef Margarita Fores, the Philippines’ premiere restaurateurs.

He goes to two culinary universities: Le Cordon Bleu Ateneo de Manila University and the Lyceum of the Philippines University.
The festival brings to Manila a fresh selection of films, current releases, and some that came out in the last two years.

Filipinos and the French share a passion for moving images. The French Film Festival is also the event that brings together France and the Philippines with the screening of Filipino films that have gained recognition by the French audience.

Multi-awarded actress Isabelle Huppert and Emily in Paris actor Lucas Bravo grace the opening weekend of #FrenchFilmFest25 with their presence.

Catch all the films: bit.ly/FrenchFilmFest25
LA NUIT DES IDÉES

In the Philippines, it seeks to serve as a platform to explore how we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic with new ideas and projects to rebuild the cultural sector and help institutions and artists adapt to what we now call the “new normal”.

CCIFP GALA LAUNCH

With the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, it aims to celebrate the engagements between the two countries, wherein their achievements and milestones are highlighted through a series of activities.

MEDEF BUSINESS DELEGATION FORUM

A business delegation of the France-Philippines Business Council, led by Mouvement des Entreprises de France International (MEDEF) visits Manila. It is an opportunity to tackle areas that have potential such as construction, energy, transportation, and the maritime sector.

FRANCE ALUMNI AWARD LAUNCH

The French Embassy awards five notable Filipino alumni who have used their international education to help our country thrive and provide better opportunities and work knowledge for more aspiring local entrepreneurs and artists.
In honour of the 75th anniversary of French and Philippine diplomatic relations, the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines hosted a Gala last October 22, at Raffles & Fairmont Makati.

We would like to congratulate the winners of Le Trophée Bleu: Sustainable Business Awards, in partnership with Havas Media Ortega and The Plaf; People Winner: Artelia Philippines; Planet Winner: NEO; Partnership Winner: Airbus; and Sustainable Excellence for SMEs: E&V Tubig Pag Asa.

And the recipients of the Alumni Awards in partnership with the French Embassy to the Philippines & Micronesia: M. Julius Andrew Nunez, Dr. Raymond Nunez, Mme. Dani Laurel, M. Mark Edward Meily, and M. Jojie Lloren.
PHILIPPINE SENATORS HOLD
OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE
October 24-26, 2022

Philippine senators went on an official visit to France to meet with their French counterparts, government agencies, and the private sector to discuss ways to enhance French-Philippine bilateral relations.

Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, Senator Manuel Lapid, Senator Nancy Binay, Senator Grace Poe, and Senator Christopher Lawrence Go formed the Philippine Senate delegation.

USEFUL LINK
Philippine senators hold official visit to France
bit.ly/SenatFR
Visits to two industrial sites and economic meetings

The Philippine senators visited the shipyard of French industrial firm Naval Group in Cherbourg and the Flamanville EPR nuclear power plant, which houses two pressurized water reactors. They also held a meeting with the French Nuclear Safety Authority and Atomic Energy Commission, a research organization. During these two meetings, the NUWARD project, EDF’s small modular reactor, was presented.

Exchanges with the French Parliament

The senators met with French Senate President Gérard Larcher, Senator Daniel Gremillet, who specializes in energy, and the France-Southeast Asia Parliamentary Friendship Group chaired by Senator Mathieu Darnaud, and co-chaired by Senator Gisèle Jourda who follows the Philippines specifically.

The delegation held a meeting with Mr. Guillaume Kasbarian, chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee, one of the standing committees of the French National Assembly. Former Agriculture Minister Stéphane Travert also took part in the meeting, during which they discussed cooperations to develop agrotourism and agricultural secondary education.
COURTESY CALLS TO PHILIPPINE SENATORS

Alongside these pieces are acclaimed works by 21st Century Filipino choreographers, *Visayan Suite of Dances* choreographed by John Ababon, AL Abraham, Erl Sorilla, and Ronelson Yadao and *I Wanna Say Something* choreographed by JM Cabling.
The ceremony took place at the Lycée français de Manila in the presence of the French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz, representatives of the diplomatic corps, the Principal of the Lycée français de Manila Eliette Baud, the General Delegate of Remembrance French in the Philippines Laurent Tremblay, as well as the Principal of the German High School in Manila Boris Franck.

This flag represents one of the thousands of veterans associations created after the First World War. This approach aims to preserve the memory of the First World War among students.

USEFUL LINK

HAPPIER TOGETHER: 75 FACES OF FRENCH-PHILIPPINE CONNECTIONS

Happier Together: 75 Faces of French-Philippine Connections is a touring portrait exhibit featuring 75 personalities who embody the joy brought by French-Philippine relations. These personalities represent all sectors, from diplomatic and government, to NGOs, to entertainment and art.
Happier Together
75 Faces of French-Philippine Connections
A Touring Exhibition
Dr. Marjorie Vanbaelinghem, acting director of IRSEM, is in the Philippines to meet with the National Defense College of the Philippines - an institute that trains officers and conducts research, to discuss security challenges for the Indo-Pacific countries.

The importance of the role of research, higher military education and possible cooperation between the Institute and the Philippines were also discussed.

During this mission, Dr. Vanbaelinghem also met with the Ateneo de Manila University team, notably its School of Government, which has launched research projects on Southeast Asia (Imelda Deinla), information warfare and the blue economy.
FR-PH bilateral relations

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of French-Philippine diplomatic relations, the French Embassy hosted a reception with local and international journalists to discuss the future of the two countries’ bilateral ties and the French Indo-Pacific strategy.

Global Commons: a pillar of France’s Indo-Pacific strategy

Another media event, with Sen. Loren Legarda, Asian Development Bank representative Anne Marchal, and Agence française de développement (AFD) country director Bénédicte Gazon, was held on October 6 as a follow-up on the phone call between Presidents Emmanuel Macron and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The discussion focused on the two countries’ cooperation on global commons and protection of marine biodiversity.
MARCHÉ DE NOËL

AYALA CHRISTMAS MARKET AND FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

December 2, 2022 to December 31, 2022

The award-winning children's choir from Paris, Les Petits Chanteurs à la Croix de Bois and the giants from the French group Les Grandes Personnes, together with the Philippines very own Higantes from Rizal, performed at the grand launch!
Songs From the Heart (Chansons du cœur) brings together renowned children’s choirs Les Petits Chanteurs à la Croix de Bois (The Little Singers of Paris) and The Loboc Children's Choir in an evening of angelic music.

They regaled the audiences at Loboc Church in Bohol, The Metropolitan Theater in Manila, and Paoay Church in Ilocos Norte with well-loved Filipino and French songs.

December 2-7, 2022
Fête de la Musique
French Film Festival
Premières et Encore
Diamond in the Rough
Up to the Sky
Meilleurs voeux!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!
AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AUX PHILIPPINES ET EN MICRONÉSIE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité