



Ambassadorial Insights Lecture
Spring 2007

Philippines— U.S. Relations

His Excellency

Willy C. Gaa

Filipino ambassador to the U.S.

Tuesday, 8 May

3:00 P.M.

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Willy C. Gaa was appointed as the ambassador to the U.S. in November 2006 having served previously to China (2003–06), Australia with nonresident status to Nauru, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu (2002–03), and to Libya with nonresident status to Tunisia, Malta, and Niger (1992–97).

Gaa's Foreign Service career, which began in 1974, includes consul general of the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles and in New York, respectively, as well as deputy consul general in Los Angeles (1987–90), consul in New York (1981–85), and vice consul, subsequently consul, in San Francisco (1975–70).

His service also included stints at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, including principal assistant in the Office of Administration (1975), as secretary with the Board of Foreign Service Administration and Board of Foreign Service Examiners (1985), as acting chief coordinator in the Office of the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs (1985–86), as director of the Office of Middle East and African Affairs (1986), as executive director of the Office of Consular Services (1986–87), and as assistant secretary of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs (1999–2002).

His previous legal work experience was as a tax and compliance attorney at Petrophil Corporation (1974–75) and as a trial attorney at the Office of the Solicitor General (1971–74).

He received a BS in political science from Manuel L. Quezon University, a BA in law from the University of the Philippines, and an MA in law focusing on international legal studies from New York University.

Gaa and his wife, Erlinda Concepcion, are the parents of two sons.