



Philippine culture and literature take center stage as Embassy launches first Filipiñana Corner in New Zealand

Philippine culture shone brightly in New Zealand with the launch of "Te Kokonga Filipiñana," the first-ever Filipiñana Corner in the

country. Unveiled in collaboration with Hastings Library on 19 August 2026, this initiative of the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand transforms a corner of the library into a vibrant gateway to Philippine literature, history, and cultural heritage.

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Philippines and New Zealand hold inaugural Joint Economic Commission

Senior officials from the Philippines and New Zealand convened the inaugural meeting of the Philippines-New Zealand Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in Wellington, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral economic relations.

The Philippine delegation was led by Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary for International Trade Hon. Allan B. Gepty, while the New Zealand side was led by Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Trade Deputy Secretary for Americas and Asia Group Mr. Grahame Morton.

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Ambassador Azucena meets with the Filipino community in Taranaki

Ambassador Kira Azucena met with over 50 members of the Filipino community in Taranaki during a Meet and Greet event held at Devon Hotel in New Plymouth.

The event featured an interactive session where Ambassador Kira engaged with the attendees on various topics, including embassy programs and common concerns of Filipinos in the area.

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Philippine Embassy hosts networking brunch for Filipino lawyers, legal aid seminar, and free legal consultation in Wellington

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand, led by Ambassador Kira Azucena, hosted a networking brunch on 29 August 2026, bringing together lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), LGTON Law, and Filipino lawyers based in New Zealand. The event aimed to foster connections and explore collaborative efforts to support the Filipino community.

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Other news



Ambassador Kira Azucena attends ASEAN Forum 2026 in Auckland

The PAmbassador Kira Azucena participated in the ASEAN Forum 2026, themed “Accelerating Resilient Growth: From Aotearoa to ASEAN,” held today in Auckland. The forum showcased opportunities for deepening New Zealand's Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN, focusing on expanded trade and business collaboration.

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Embassy conducts mobile consular mission in Niue

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand successfully held its three-day Mobile Consular Mission in Niue from 05-08 August 2026 at Niue Chamber of Commerce, Alofi.

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Embassy conducts mobile consular mission in New Plymouth

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand successfully concluded its three-day Mobile Consular Mission in New Plymouth on 15 - 17 August 2026 at Devon Hotel.

This mission brought passport services closer to members of the Filipino community in Taranaki and nearby regions.

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FilCoro presents *Sacred Tides: Songs* through the season of hope

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand proudly congratulates FilCoro - Wellington Filipino Choir for the resounding success of their concert, Sacred Tides: Songs through the Seasons of Hope

Presented by the Bulwagan Foundation, this special event held on 08 August 2026 in Wellington beautifully demonstrated the power of music to inspire, uplift, and unite.

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Auckland Chorale Ensemble holds debut concert Pamana: Musical Journey Through Time

The Philippine Embassy in New Zealand congratulates the Auckland Choral Ensemble (ACE) on its superb debut concert Pamana: A Musical Journey Through Time!

Held on 22 August 2026 at the beautiful Presbyterian Church of St. Luke in Auckland, the event was more than just a concert—it's a heartfelt tribute to 60 years of friendship and collaboration between the Philippines and New Zealand, dating back to 6 July 1966.

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What's happening this September



Opening of *Te Kokonga Filipiñana* in Wellington

The Te Kokonga Filipiñana project is a collaborative partnership between the Philippine Embassy and the Filipino community in New Zealand to celebrate Philippine literature and culture and promote intercultural understanding through storytelling.

Recognizing the rich and diverse storytelling traditions of the Philippines, this initiative seeks to establish Filipiñana corners in libraries across New Zealand.



Patalasan sa Aotearoa: Pinoy Quiz Night

Are you a second-generation Filipino, a student, or part of the Filipino youth in New Zealand? Reconnect with your roots and test your Pinoy knowledge at Patalasan sa Aotearoa (Pinoy Quiz Night) on 18 September 2026, 6 PM, at Fiesta in the Capital Restaurant, 24 Allen St., Te Aro, Wellington. Celebrate Filipino culture, traditions, and

history in an evening of fun and trivia. See you there!

Please visit the Embassy Facebook and Instagram accounts for the latest updates on these events.

ASEAN Corner

This is your go-to spot for fascinating tidbits about ASEAN and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2026!



ASEAN and New Zealand relations

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and New Zealand share an enduring, multi-faceted relationship that began in 1975, making New Zealand ASEAN's second-oldest dialogue partner. Over the last five decades, the connection has transformed from a Cold War security alignment into a broad, modern Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), which leaders officially upgraded at their landmark 50th Anniversary Commemorative Summit in late 2025.

During the initial phase of the relationship in the 1970s and 1980s, cooperation was driven primarily by geopolitical stability and regional security concerns. New Zealand viewed ASEAN as a critical stabilizing force in Southeast Asia against the backdrop of the Cold War and eventually joined foundational platforms like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to foster transparency and strategic dialogue.

The relationship shifted gears into economic integration between the 1990s and 2010s. New Zealand signed the *Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia* in 2005, securing its role as a founding member of the East Asia Summit (EAS). The economic bond accelerated dramatically with the 2010 implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA). To ground these growing ties, New Zealand appointed its first dedicated Ambassador to ASEAN in 2014 and established a permanent diplomatic Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta in 2015, elevating the relationship to a formal Strategic Partnership.

Today, the partnership has evolved into a highly integrated, modern alliance guided by a newly implemented 2026–2030 Plan of Action. Backed by AANZFTA upgrades and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), ASEAN stands firmly as New Zealand's fourth-largest trading partner, generating over NZ$29 billion in annual two-way commerce. Modern cooperation now extends far beyond traditional trade, focusing heavily on four collaborative pillars: Peace, Prosperity, People, and Planet, which drive active joint initiatives in climate-smart agriculture, digital trade, and regional supply chain resilience.

Know more

Overseas Voting Bulletin



Ongoing Overseas Voter Registration for the 2028 National Elections

As part of the Embassy's continuous commitment to voter accessibility, Overseas Voter (OV) registration is still ongoing. Filipino citizens are encouraged to register in preparation for the 2028 National Elections or update their voter information. Applicants need to bring a valid Philippine passport or a Dual Citizenship Identification Certificate.

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Consular 101

This is your one-stop hub for important updates, helpful tips, and everything you need to know about the Embassy's consular services.



Question 1: What is an *apostille*?

Answer: An apostille is an official certificate issued by an authorized government agency that authenticates the origin of a public document. It is used to verify that a document is legitimate and can be recognized in foreign countries that are part of the Hague Apostille Convention (1961). The apostille makes the document valid for international use without needing further legalization by the embassy or consulate of the destination country.

Question 2: Why do you need an *apostille*?

Answer: If you're planning to use a document internationally, such as for immigration, business transactions, or education abroad, you'll often need an apostille. An apostille ensures that the document is

recognized by authorities in foreign countries that are members of the Hague Convention. This simplifies the document legalization process and eliminates the need for embassy legalization, which can be time-consuming and costly.

Question 3: What are the common documents that require apostille?

Answer: The following documents typically require an apostille when used internationally:

- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Certificates
- Academic Transcripts and Diplomas
- Powers of Attorney
- Affidavits and Legal Documents
- Employment contracts/payslips
- Business contracts/letters
- Real estate contracts
- Police clearance
- Court Documents

Consular services



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