

PH envoy briefs high school student leaders on art of diplomacy

Written by Philippine Embassy DC
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Philippine ambassador to the U.S. Jose Manuel G. Romualdez addresses student leaders at the International Diplomacy Conference held at Georgetown University on June 28, 2018.

WASHINGTON — “Diplomacy is the best way to do good for your country and for the world,” Philippine ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez said to the more than 80 junior and senior student leaders from across the United States at the International Diplomacy Conference held at Georgetown University on June 28, 2018.

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Romualdez, in his main message to the students, shared how diplomacy is a very rewarding and fulfilling career, highlighting the importance of communication in understanding, strengthening and improving diplomatic relationships between countries.

The ambassador further underlined a diplomat's responsibility to influence and resolve issues, as well as to re-construct relations with other countries.

He also shared with the students some of the challenges he encounters as the top Philippine envoy to the U.S.

At a highly interactive Q&A session, the ambassador fielded various questions on international issues, including climate change, disaster resiliency, and violent extremism.

He also addressed questions on the Philippines' efforts to curb illegal drug trafficking, the Philippines' ties with the U.S. and China, and the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Diplomacy is being able to communicate, and what is important is being able to explain a particular situation," Romualdez said.

Romualdez also stressed the importance of having "a continuing dialogue, exchange of ideas, economic activity and trade," in speaking about the Philippines' relationship with both China and the United States.

The International Diplomacy Conference is organized as part of the broader National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC) that gathers outstanding high school students from across the United States and around the world to explore the qualities of effective leadership and gain an insider's perspective of some of today's most sought-after professions.

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Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez fields various questions from student leaders at the International Diplomacy Conference.