The story of Philippine diplomatic missions on Wikipedia, and how you can write them too!
I started writing Wikipedia articles about Philippine diplomatic missions in 2013.
The Embassy of the Philippines in Warsaw is the diplomatic mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of Poland. It is located on ul. Stanisława Lenart 11 in Włocławek, near the Włocławek Palace. Although the current embassy dates back to 2009, the Philippines maintained a previous resident embassy in Poland in the early 1990s.

History

Although diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Poland were established on September 22, 1973,[1] diplomatic relations were originally conducted via the Philippine Embassy in the Hague, which originally maintained jurisdiction over Poland until 1982, when jurisdiction was later transferred to the Philippine Embassy in Berlin.[2] In 1991, with the democratization of Poland, jurisdiction was subsequently transferred to the Philippines' newly-opened resident embassy in Warsaw.[3]

Financial difficulties forced the closure of the Philippine Embassy in 1983, with jurisdiction transferred to the Philippine Embassy in Budapest.[3] The wisdom of closing the embassy at a time when the Philippine foreign service was being downsized was questioned, however, given the subsequent rise of Polish influence in Europe since then, as well as its eventual accession to the European Union in 2004: a point that columnist Amando Doronila raised in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in 2002.[4] While there was no resident embassy in Poland, the Philippines conducted diplomatic relations in the country through an honorary consulate based in Warsaw. A second honorary consulate was opened in Wroclaw in 2005, with jurisdiction over Poland's southern voivodeships.[5]

In July 2009, the Philippine Embassy in Warsaw was re-opened at its current location,[6] around the same time new resident embassies in Ireland, Finland, and Portugal were also opened.[7] Alejandro del Rosario, who at the time was the Philippine Ambassador to Hungary, was appointed as the mission's first ambassador.[3] The opening of the mission however was not without controversy: in 2010, Senator Franklin Drilon questioned the need for embassies in countries with small Filipino communities, including Poland, and called for a review of the Philippines' diplomatic presence worldwide.[7] This led to the closure of ten posts in 2012, including the closure of the Philippine Embassy in Stockholm on October 31, 2012,[8] which had jurisdiction over Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.[9] Jurisdiction over the three countries was later transferred to the Philippine Embassy in Warsaw.

Staff

The Philippine Embassy in Warsaw is currently headed by Ambassador Patricia Ann V. Paez, who was appointed to the position by President Benigno Aquino III on May 4, 2012.[10] The Warsaw mission is also one of the Philippines' smaller diplomatic missions, with a total of eight staff members.[11]
For context, we only had one-off articles on Philippine diplomatic missions, and they weren’t that good to be honest.
Several missions have made it to the English Wikipedia’s Did you know section.

- Consulates general: Barcelona, Chicago, Honolulu

A fact from Embassy of the Philippines, Baghdad appeared on Wikipedia’s Main Page in the Did you know column on 1 January 2023 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows:

- Did you know... that at the height of the war between Iraq and the Islamic State, diplomats of the Philippine embassy in Baghdad agreed to die together rather than be taken hostage?

A record of the entry may be seen at Wikipedia:Recent additions/2023/January. The nomination discussion and review may be seen at Template:Did you know nominations/Embassy of the Philippines, Baghdad.

A fact from Embassy of the Philippines, Berlin appeared on Wikipedia’s Main Page in the Did you know column on 19 June 2021 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows:

- Did you know... that the Philippine embassy in Berlin (picture) was once purportedly located above a supermarket, with frankfurters visible from the windows?

A record of the entry may be seen at Wikipedia:Recent additions/2021/June. The nomination discussion and review may be seen at Template:Did you know nominations/Embassy of the Philippines, Berlin.

A fact from Embassy of the Philippines, Buenos Aires appeared on Wikipedia’s Main Page in the Did you know column on 15 July 2020 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows:

- Did you know... that the chancery of the Philippine embassy in Buenos Aires was previously a house, a hotel, and a retirement home?

A record of the entry may be seen at Wikipedia:Recent additions/2020/July. The nomination discussion and review may be seen at Template:Did you know nominations/Embassy of the Philippines, Buenos Aires.

A fact from Consulate General of the Philippines, Chicago appeared on Wikipedia’s Main Page in the Did you know column on 29 December 2022 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows:

- Did you know... that the Chicago Police Department regularly cited vehicles of the Philippine consulate general in Chicago for parking in a no-parking zone, causing a diplomatic incident?

A record of the entry may be seen at Wikipedia:Recent additions/2022/December. The nomination discussion and review may be seen at Template:Did you know nominations/Consulate General of the Philippines, Chicago.

A fact from Embassy of the Philippines, Cairo appeared on Wikipedia’s Main Page in the Did you know column on 20 January 2021 (check views). The text of the entry was as follows:

- Did you know... that the exact date of establishment of the Philippine embassy in Cairo is unclear, despite the Philippines having first named an ambassador to Egypt in 1960?

A record of the entry may be seen at Wikipedia:Recent additions/2021/January. The nomination discussion and review may be seen at Template:Did you know nominations/Embassy of the Philippines, Cairo.
Since starting articles in English I’ve branched out to other Wikipedias as well, starting with the Spanish Wikipedia earlier this year.
Articles on Philippine diplomatic missions follow a standard template.
The Embassy of the Philippines in Tel Aviv is the diplomatic mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the State of Israel. Opened in 1962, it is located on 18 Bni Dan Street (Hebrew: 18 בנו Daniel) in the Yehuda HaMaccabi neighborhood of central Tel Aviv, across from Yarkon Park.

History [edit]
The Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv was opened in 1962, five years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Israel. Its opening coincided with the that of the Israel Embassy in Manila that same year.[7]

In 2012, the Embassy’s website was hacked by a hacker who identified himself as “Rcp” amid increased tension between Israeli troops and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.[8]

Proposed relocation to Jerusalem [edit]
In December 2017, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs claimed that the Philippines was one of at least ten countries reportedly looking to relocate its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, following the decision of the United States to do so earlier in the month.[9] The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) denied that such a move was being discussed, citing its support for a two-state solution as part of the wider Israeli–Palestinian peace process.[10]

DFA Undersecretary Ernesto Abella again denied in August 2018 that the Philippine government was considering moving the embassy to Jerusalem when he mentioned that it was not a part of President Rodrigo Duterte’s agenda for his then-upcoming state visit to Israel.[11]

Staff and activities [edit]
The Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv is headed by Ambassador Pedro R. Layo Jr., who was appointed by President Ferdinand Marcos on July 18, 2022.[12] Prior to becoming Ambassador, Layo, a politician, founded the polling firm Layo Research Strategies, regarded for the quality of its opinion polls,[13] and previously sat on the board of the Basas Conversion and Development Authority.[14] His appointment was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments on September 28, 2022,[15] and he presented his credentials to Israeli President Isaac Herzog on January 11, 2023.[16]

The Embassy’s activities center around providing to the welfare of Filipinos in Israel, many of whom are Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Following the death of a Filipino worker from a bomb explosion in Haifa in 2001, the Embassy organized text brigades to quickly disseminate information to Filipinos throughout the country.[17] While in 2005, Ambassador Antonio Modena protested the treatment of Filipinos entering or exiting Israel, many of whom were subjected to excess security screening or were segregated from other departing or arriving foreigners.[18]

In addition to catering to the welfare of Filipinos in Israel, the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv also provides assistance to nationals of member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which do not have a diplomatic presence in Israel, such as with the case of 12 Malaysians detained by Israeli authorities following the Gaza flotilla raid in 2010.[19]

Infobox (depending on your language, this is usually [[Template:Infobox diplomatic mission]] or something similar)

- The mission's name should be in the wiki’s language and the official languages of the sending and receiving countries
- If there’s a shield or other special logo used by the mission, it should be in the infobox

Lead paragraph(s)

History

Staff and activities

Who's the ambassador

Some interesting things the mission does
If the mission has a lot of information available on its chancery (i.e. it’s in a well-known building, or if the construction of the chancery is particularly notable or well-documented), it makes sense to have a separate section for it. This also adds character and depth to the article, more than just a brief mention of its history, the ambassador and the mission’s activities.

Chancery

The chancery of the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo is currently located on a 3,179-square-meter (34,220 sq ft) site in Roppongi which was acquired by the Philippine government as part of a negotiated settlement with Japan on war reparations. As part of that agreement, the Roppongi property was specifically acquired for the purpose of hosting the Embassy’s chancery.

Before the current chancery was built, the site originally hosted a three-story villa built in 1923 in the Renaissance style. The villa — highly acclaimed at the time — featured an observatory tower and was surrounded by Japanese gardens with tall trees and laced with imported stones. Originally owned by Ryōji Oda and his wife, Ineko, for 33 years, the property was seized by the Japanese government due to non-payment of tax arrears, and was subsequently transferred by Japan to the Philippine government on June 27, 1958, in fulfillment of its reparations obligations.

In 1976, the Embassy relocated to a three-story building on a 2,490-square-meter (26,860 sq ft) site in Nampu-daichi, which was also turned over to the Philippine government as part of Japan’s war reparations.

Previously known as the Philippine Reparations building, the Embassy relocated to Shibuya owing to difficulties in maintaining the Roppongi property, and by 1997 it was virtually left abandoned owing to those difficulties. Today, the Nampu-daichi property serves as an annex of the chancery, as well as a venue for community events organized by the Filipino community in Japan.

On April 18, 1997, the Philippine government entered into an agreement with a consortium between Mitsui Fudosan, the Itochu Corporation and the Shimizu Corporation to redevelop the Roppongi property at no cost to the government, which was approved two months later by President Fidel V. Ramos. Ramos led a groundbreaking of the project on November 19, 1997 while transitioning through Tokyo on his way to APEC Canada 1997 in Vancouver, and construction of the 2,413-square-meter (25,970 sq ft) building was completed in February 2003.

Although the Embassy owns the underlying land on which the chancery is built, it doesn’t own the entire building; instead, it only owns outright the portions that it occupies, which include part of the basement and the entire first floor. Full ownership of the building is scheduled to revert to the Philippine government in 2047.

Jägerstraße 71, the building where José Rizal completed Novels Tánggen, was the first building the Philippine government considered for the Embassy’s permanent chancery.

The chancery of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin was first located along Uhlandstraße in Wilmersdorf, reining space in a building built over an 11-unit Gründerzeit-era residential building. That chancery, located on the building’s sixth floor, had a 300 m² (3,000 sq ft) reception area and a grand piano that was used for impromptu concerts. In 2012, Philippine Senator Franklin Drilon, recalling a previous visit to Berlin, had criticized the chancery’s location, claiming that it was an “embarrassment” for it to be above a supermarket where bank tellers could be seen hanging outside near the chancery windows. Zaide, who was ambassador at the time Drilon visited, denied his version of events, claiming that he didn’t recall that specific visit. The Uhlandstraße location was abandoned in favor of a new office along the Kurfürstendamm on November 20, 2015.

Planning for a new, permanent chancery began in the 2000s, with the government first looking at purchasing the property on Jägerstraße 71 in Friedrichstadt, across from the first headquarters of Deutsche Bank. At the time, the Philippines was the only Southeast Asian country whose embassy in Germany didn’t own its chancery nor its ambassadorial residence outright, and housing the Embassy in that building wouldn’t have been fitting as it was where José Rizal completed his first novel, Novels Tánggen. With all Philippine government offices in Germany being hosted in the building, plus the ambassadorial residence being located on the top floor, the building was proposed to become the Philippine Center for Europe.

Unable to proceed with the Jägerstraße location as the property was not available for purchase, the Embassy, led by Ambassador Ms. Cleofe Natividad, then began searching for a new property with the process formally kicking off on May 11, 2012 alongside procurement for the construction of a new chancery for the Philippine Embassy in Islamabad. Negotiations opened in late 2013 for the construction of a chancery on Von der Heydt-Straße in Berlin’s diplomatic quarter, south of the Tiergarten, with Düsseldorf-based HPP Architects serving as consultant to the project. Construction of the building, a five-story structure combining both the chancery and the ambassadorial residence on the top floor, was awarded to Groth Gruppe, which was also responsible for building several other buildings in the area where the Embassy was set to be constructed and an agreement was signed on September 20, 2014 to facilitate construction, witnessed by President Benigno Aquino III.

Despite those agreements being signed, the project was likewise not able to proceed due to several factors, including a lack of funds, the hot Berlin real estate market and the slow pace of bureaucracy, which ultimately led to the construction of the present-day chancery.
Because there’s no standard way of writing articles on diplomatic missions, the goal is to provide a consistent template that others can emulate for their countries.
The DYK Barnstar

Thanks for all the work you've been putting into developing articles and making great hooks! Personally, I appreciate your coverage of diplomatic missions because a lot of their articles are rather stubby, so it's nice to see more extensive coverage. MSG17 (talk) 01:40, 26 December 2020 (UTC) [reply]
Let's give our diplomatic missions the love and treatment they deserve.