

PSD Honors ASEAN's 51st Founding Anniversary

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In celebration of the 51st founding anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which was held last August 9, Philippine School Doha took great pride in staging this momentous event. With its numerous years of deliverance, this confirms how much Philippines had intensified its consular link with other nations; just like what the theme for the ASEAN's 51st Foundation Anniversary says, "Resilient and Innovative".

Cultural events highlighted the celebration. The traditional flag-raising led by Dr. Alexander S. Acosta, the school principal, Dr. Gerardo P. Macasa Jr., the BOT chairman, and Mr. Joseph Rivera, the PTA president was one of the highlights. The PSD Hiyaw Chorale gathered up to stage the official ASEAN anthem "*The ASEAN Way*". This serves as a custom of commemorating its fortified unity through the past years. Moreover, PSD students dressed in different native costumes as representatives, recreated the renowned ASEAN handshake, a symbol of lasting *harmony and oneness*. Succeeding the formal blessing of the occasion, with Shaina Heart Pineda addressing the ecumenical prayer, masters of the ceremony Marelle Bañez and Xandre Acosta conversed about the resilience and innovation of ASEAN throughout the years. "ASEAN has been flourishing for officially 51 years today and in that period of time change has been evident," said Xandre Acosta, Link's editor-in-chief. "In a generation moving towards technology's development, ASEAN aims to recreate groundbreaking machineries that will create more opportunities", he added.

The PSD's officer-in-charge Dr. Lorina S. Villanueva greeted everyone a pleasant morning, and expressed her commendation towards the way ASEAN principles contributed to PSD's fundamentals. She ended her speech with the quote, "One ASEAN, One Community, One PSD." A video presentation developed by Dr. Don John A. Vallesteros was featured almost halfway through the program; it tackled the history of the founding of ASEAN and its development after facing different problems with its armor of solutions. The video then paved the way for Dr. Gerardo P. Macasa, Jr. to share his message to all the celebration's attendees.

The music and dance presentations took over the spotlight afterwards, having the audience left in amazement with how the ASEAN glory was showcased in creativity and grace. Groups of student performers from PSD enthralled spectators and guests with songs, dances, and shows on stage. The department tapped PSD student leaders such as the PSD Grand Chorale, PSD Dance Troupes, Supreme Student Government (SSG), LINK journalists, Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT) officers and other selected students across all levels.

The Junior High School Vice Principal Dr. Caridad A. Canete gave her vote of thanks, acknowledging the people who helped in making the event happened successfully. Thus, the event will not be made possible without the efforts extended by the Office of the Student Affairs headed by Mrs. Melissa Montayre, Vice Principal, together with the Social Studies teachers of the JHS Department.

ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up what is today the ten Member States of ASEAN. On its 51st years of existence, ASEAN will continue to make a tangible contribution to friendship, sturdiness and prosperity in the region and the world at large. The fruitful and memorable gathering reached its finale with the community singing of the ASEAN's official anthem, "*The ASEAN Way*."

