

Political relations

Chile and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations since 1947, this being the oldest our country has with ASEAN members.

1. Bilateral Political Consultation Mechanism

Between our two countries there is a "Memorandum of Understanding on Consultations and Cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Chile and the Philippines", which was signed in Santiago, on September 16, 1999, during the visit of the President of the Philippines to Chile, Mr. Joseph E. Estrada.

That memorandum was approved in accordance with the internal procedures of the respective countries and entered into force on July 20, 2000.

To date, five meetings have been held under this mechanism:

- **First Meeting of Political Consultations:** On September 11, 2002, the Director for American Affairs of the Philippine Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Rey Carandang together with the Director of FEALAC, Counselor Miguel R. Bautista, and the Ambassador of the Philippines in Chile, Mrs. Consuelo Puyat Reyes, held a working meeting with the Director of DIRAPAC, Ambassador Adolfo Carafí Melero, the Deputy Director MC José Miguel de la Cruz and the Philippine desk manager, P.S. Pablo Mesa. At this meeting, various bilateral issues and the topic of the Latin America and East Asia Cooperation Forum FEALAC were discussed.
- **Second Meeting of Political Consultations:** On May 12, 2003, in Santiago, the second meeting of bilateral Political Consultations was held, taking advantage of the holding in Chile of a FEALAC meeting. The Philippine delegation was chaired by the Deputy Secretary for American Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Cristina Ortega, and the Chilean delegation was headed by the Director of Asia Pacific DIRAPAC, Ambassador Adolfo Carafí Melero.
- **Third Meeting of Political Consultations:** On March 24, 2007, the Director of Asia Pacific DIRAPAC, Ambassador Fernando Schmidt, visited Manila, on which occasion he held a working meeting with the Director for America of the Philippine Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Rey Carandang, accompanied by the Ambassador of the Philippines in Chile, Ms. Consuelo Puyat Reyes and the Director for South America, Ms. Josefina Estrada, in order to make a general review of the bilateral agenda.
- **Fourth Round of Political Consultations:** Between October 17 and 18, 2011, the Undersecretary of Foreign Relations of Chile, Fernando Schmidt, made an official visit to the Philippines, on which occasion he led the IV Round of Political Consultations together with his Philippine counterpart, the Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Erlinda Fadera. Likewise, he met with various authorities in order to promote the bilateral cooperation agenda that includes the areas of mining, energy, tax matters and trade.
- **Fifth Round of Political Consultations:** On May 8, 2019, the fifth Round of Political Consultations took place in Santiago, Chile. The Philippine delegation was headed by the Undersecretary of Foreign Relations, Enrique Manalo, while the Chilean delegation was headed by the Secretary General for Foreign Policy, Patricio Torres. During this meeting, various areas of convergence were highlighted, such as cooperation in natural disaster risk reduction; the strengthening of APEC as an economic forum for the Asia Pacific; the proposal for evaluation of the Philippines to become an Observer State of the Pacific Alliance; the support of the Philippines for Chile's aspiration to become

an ASEAN Development Partner and the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of agriculture and aquaculture between the two countries.

2. Candidatures

Chile and the Philippines have agreed a series of Reciprocal Support Agreements, among which the following stand out:

- Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), 2020
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2020
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), 2020
- United Nations Board of Auditors (UNBOA), 2019-2020

3. ASEAN

June 2019: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) granted Chile the status of "Development Partner", in a decision adopted at its 34th Summit, held in Bangkok. Including the support of the Philippines, Chile became the second country in the world, after Germany, to obtain this type of relationship with the bloc.

3. Official visits

The exchange of visits has been as follows:

To the Philippines:

President of the Central Bank of Chile, Mr. José De Gregorio. Manila, Philippines, June 8, 2009. Speaker at the seminar, "The Global Crisis and Latin America's Response", organized by the Asian Development Bank, ADB. He held a meeting with the President of the Central Bank of the Philippines, Mr. Amando Tetangco Jr., along with two Vice Presidents of the same institution, and met with the Board of Directors of the "Makati Business Club" where 4 of the main banks and financial groups in the country participated. Likewise, he was interviewed by journalists from specialized Filipino media.

President of the Chilean Bank Association, Mr. Hernán Somerville. Manila, Philippines, April 17, 2008. He participates as a speaker of "The Economic Miracle of Chile" in a meeting with the main representatives of the largest Philippine companies members of the Makati Business Club (MBC),

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mrs. María Soledad Alvear (January 30 and 31, 2004). She participates in the FEALAC meeting in the Philippines, there were no bilateral meetings.

Former President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle visited the Philippines in 1995 and 1996 (APEC Meeting). In November 2015, **former President Michelle Bachelet** made a State Visit to the Philippines and participated in the XXIII Leaders Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

To Chile:

Former President of the Philippines, Mr. Fidel Ramos. Viña del Mar, Chile, September 30, 2008. He participates in the XV Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Rectors, IAUP.

Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Manuel “Noli” de Castro, (April 26 to May 1, 2005). During the visit, the Memorandum of Understanding between both countries on Cooperation in Social Housing was implemented.

Official Visit of the **Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines to Chile**, (June 4 and 5, 2004) to participate in the Ministerial Meeting of APEC Trade Managers, Pucón.

Official Visit of the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines to Chile, Mr. Alberto G. Rómulo** (November 17-18, 2004).

Participation of the **President of the Philippines, Ms. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, in the XII Informal Meeting of APEC Leaders (November 20 and 21, 2004)

Economic Relations

1. Establishment of the Bilateral Business Council in Manila, “Philippine-Chile Business Council”

On April 7, 2011, the “Philippine-Chile Business Council” was launched in Manila, which is chaired by the Vice President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and a prominent Chinese-Filipino businessman, Mr. Alfonso Siy, and integrated into its Executive Board by representatives of the country's trade, industry and mining.

2. Geothermal and Philippine Investment in Chile

The Philippines 'Energy Development Corporation (EDC), after technical and feasibility studies, decided to initiate an investment process in geothermal energy in Chile.

EDC's arrival in Chile, both as a foreign investor, consultant, service provider or project manager, not only broadens the bilateral agenda but also raises the level of bilateral relations and opens up countless opportunities for the realization of other two-way initiatives in energy, commercial and educational matters, consolidating future agreements, exchanges, cooperation and investments. It should be borne in mind that behind Energy Development Corporation EDC are the main economic groups and families linked to the energy and economic development of the country.

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EDC has publicly indicated that it plans to continue with geothermal investment projects in Chile.

3. Chilean pork and poultry meat

After several years of negotiations, and after technical visits made by Philippine inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) between February and March 2019 and the National Meat Inspection Service between September and October 2019 to our country, the Philippines has decided to accredit certain Chilean establishments for the production of pork and poultry meat for its importation. With this, the door is opened for these Chilean products to enter the Philippine market.