

Dear Partners in Service,

Greetings from the Philippine Consulate General in Osaka! I hope this email finds you all safe and healthy despite the current situation we all find ourselves in due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We, ourselves, have taken extra precautions since the start of the outbreak to try to ward off the disease, diligently heeding the local and national Japanese governments' various advice on prevention, especially since the Consulate premises meet the three (3) Cs (i.e., closed space, crowded place, and close contact setting) that the public is strongly advised to avoid. When the virus hit Osaka hard during the final weeks of March 2020, the Consulate decided that it would be in the best interest of its public to temporarily suspend its delivery of onsite consular services, including cancelling planned outreach missions in the pipeline, while back-end operations continued and still continues to-date on a work-from-home basis.

Thankfully, things are looking up for Japan, which, per current data, appears to be effectively flattening the curve. Osaka prefecture is no exception and as we look optimistically to the future, we are also being realistic and pragmatic in our approach to what will eventually become "the New Normal" especially since a cure is currently nowhere near the horizon and infections may still rise without our vigilance.

As such, the Philippine Consulate General has been working hard to overhaul its processes to mitigate these risks so that when the time comes for it to re-open its doors to the public, procedures are in place that would ensure effective crowd management, social distancing, and proper hygiene. For starters, we will be implementing a strict "By Appointment Only" policy, the details of which will be announced in the near future.

In line with this, and to effectively condition and inform the public about this latest policy change, we would like to request your support and cooperation in disseminating the latest infographic we have released on our Facebook page, which is attached to this email. We will be releasing a series of infographics and announcements to give more detailed information about the change in our processes in the days and weeks to come. We will be sharing the same with you in the hopes of effectively disseminating the same to the public.

Thank you for helping us gear up for the New Normal. Maraming salamat po! Yoroshiku onegaishimasu! Let us all continue to stay safe and healthy. Mabuhay!

Sincerely,

MARIA AILEEN H. BUGARIN
Consul General