



PHILIPPINE CENTER NEW YORK
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**National Museum of the Philippines Director briefs forum
on exciting new developments that await visitors to Manila**

Updated exhibits, refurbished galleries, and a new natural history museum opening later this year are what Filipinos and visitors to the Philippines are in for the next time they visit the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila.

These and other exciting developments were the highlight of the presentation of National Museum of the Philippines Director Jeremy Barns to art and culture enthusiasts at a forum titled “The National Museum of the Philippines: The Future is Today” organized by the Philippine Center New York held at the Kalayaan Hall on 30 April 2015.



National Museum of the Philippines Director Jeremy Barns briefed a gathering of art and culture enthusiasts on the exciting new developments that await visitors to Manila during a forum titled “The National Museum of the Philippines: The Future is Today” organized by the Philippine Center New York and held at the Center’s Kalayaan Hall on 30 April 2015.

Director Barns shared that since the National Museum of the Philippines became a separate entity and acquired permanent space known today as the National Museum Complex located in the Agrifina Circle in Manila by virtue of the National Museum Act of 1998, it has been able to muster the much needed resources and talent to realize the vision of the

institution to preserve and foster the “cultural heritage of the Filipino people and the natural history of the Philippines.”

In his opening remarks, Consul General Mario de Leon Jr., who also sits as Vice Chair of the Philippine Center Management Board (PCMB), thanked Mr. Barns for the technical assistance extended by the National Museum to the Philippine Center in the recent months. National Museum officials and experts have been helping the Center with the valuation of its art pieces and updating its catalogue using the latest techniques and technology. The National Museum is also set to assist the Center in the conservation and restoration of some of its art pieces.

In his presentation, Mr. Barns gave the audience a comprehensive view of the work of the National Museum and updates on important developments that it has achieved in the recent years. His presentation covered the renovations made to the main building, particularly the Old Senate Session Hall, the restoration of many of its exhibit galleries that have allowed for the display of more art pieces and artifacts, and the opening of the new Museum of Natural History that is set to be inaugurated in November this year during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Summit.



Consul General Mario L. de Leon Jr. (L) and National Museum of the Philippines Director Jeremy Barns (R) address questions from the audience during the Q&A portion of the forum titled “The National Museum of the Philippines: The Future is Today” organized by the Philippine Center and held at the Center’s Kalayaan Hall on 30 April 2015.

Mr. Barns also spoke about the National Museum’s work of upgrading its various regional branches all over the country as a way of bringing its work closer to the Filipino people, as well as progress on its work on restoring the historical churches in Bohol that were destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan.

A lively Q&A followed Mr. Barns’ presentation, during which the audience lauded the National Museum’s recent successes and expressed excitement in experiencing its newest

offerings. Mr. Barns also addressed questions on the challenges of exhibiting intangible cultures, the issue of authenticating works of art, and the work of continuing to upgrade the facilities and quality of exhibitions being held in its halls.

Mr. Barns was in New York to upon the invitation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET), along with the national museum directors of 14 other countries, to attend the 2015 Global Museum Leaders Colloquium, which concluded just the week before.

The forum was attended mostly by art and culture enthusiasts of the Filipino-American community as well as officials and representatives of the MET and other museums and cultural institutions in New York City.



Ms. Maia Naku (standing, foreground) of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) was one of the representatives of museums and cultural institutions in the city that attended the forum on exciting developments at the National Museum of the Philippines with Director Jeremy Barns (standing, background) held on 30 April 2015 at the Philippine Center.

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