



Chinese envoys cites ‘positive progress’ in RP-China relations

MANILA, Feb. 5 (PinoyGlobal) - There have been a number of “positive developments” in the relations between the Philippines and China, according to the ambassador of the People’s Republic of China (PROC) to the Philippines. Speaking at the Spring Festival Reception that he hosted for his Chinese countrymen at the Manila Hotel Monday night (Feb. 4), Ambassador Song Tao stressed that the year 2007, among other accomplishments, “witnessed the positive progress of China-Philippine relations.

”With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the guest of honor and speaker in the Chinese New Year dinner, Ambassador Song enthused that bilateral trade between the Philippines and China “grew by 30.8 percent to \$30.6 billion, with the Philippines enjoying a surplus of \$15.6 billion.”

“The frequent high-level exchanges and contacts further deepened our mutual political trust while pragmatic cooperation in various fields has brought about substantial fruits,” the ambassador said.

Ambassador Song noted that the two countries “have reached three years ahead of schedule the trade target volume of \$30 billion for year 2010 which was set out by (PROC) President Hu Jintao and President (Gloria) Arroyo.

”The Chinese envoy — who thanked the Philippine government for its “consistent adherence to the One-China Policy and support for China’s great cause of reunification” — added, thus: “Friendship and cooperation between China and the Philippines serves the fundamental interests of our two peoples. The Chinese government is determined to further push forward the China-Philippines strategic and cooperative relations, work hard for further deepening of pragmatic cooperation in the area of trade, investment, tourism and culture.” “I am sure that, with the common effort of our two governments and peoples, mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation between China and the Philippines would bear fruitful results,” Ambassador Song concluded.

When it was her turn to speak, President Arroyo held the Chinese ambassador to his word “fruitful results,” stressing, thus: “We hope to see the nickel and other Chinese investments come to fruition soon. Three Chinese companies — Jichuan, Citic and Jilin Nickel — are just “some of the investors who have expressed interest in projects in the Philippines,” the President said as she revealed that “we are looking to develop our \$1 trillion worth of mineral reserves across the country.”#

Office of the President - released 2/5/2008