

# Asian Ambassadors' Ladies in Amman Experience Filipino Christmas Traditions

AMMAN, 10 November 2021 - It certainly began to feel a lot like Christmas as the Philippine Embassy Ladies, headed by Madame Ruby Sakkam, set off the holiday mood at the Ambassador's residence for the Asian Ambassadors' Ladies in Amman (AALIA) meeting.

AALIA members experienced and learned about Christmas in the Philippines as Madame Sakkam shared unique Filipino traditions and icons to celebrate the season. Highlights include the *simbang gabi* or "night mass", a series of dawn masses held on the nine days leading up to Christmas. Madame Sakkam also told the story of *parol*, a traditional Filipino ornamental lantern displayed during the Christmas season.

The attendees also took part in the traditional exchange gift-giving, a social custom during Christmas which highlights the essence of generosity and maintaining good social relations. It was also a way of cultural exchange among the participants, because they prepared a unique gift coming from their own country.

A sumptuous luncheon followed which featured various Filipino Christmas dishes. The whole event truly delighted the participants and ended with stronger solidarity and a shared vision to have more participative and productive activities in the future.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Ambassador Nahida Sobhan of Bangladesh, Madame Mahani Taja'ah of Brunei, Madame Keiko Shimazaki of Japan, Madame Gaziza Zhalmagmbetova of Kazakhstan, Madame An Se-Eun of Korea, Madame Datin Noraimah Abdul Jalil of Malaysia, Madame Yasmine Sajjad of Pakistan, Madame Jaisamarn Kanittanon of Thailand, Mrs. Tria Adriansyah, spouse of the CDA of Indonesia, and Mrs. Vidhu George, representative from the Embassy of India. END







10 NOVEMBER 2021

# ASIAN AMBASSADORS' LADIES IN AMMAN EXPERIENCE FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



 [fb.com/PHlinJORDAN](https://www.facebook.com/PHlinJORDAN)  
 [amman.pe@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:amman.pe@dfa.gov.ph)  
 [www.ammanpe.dfa.gov.ph](http://www.ammanpe.dfa.gov.ph)