

SOLIDARITY MESSAGE

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The Ateneo Center for Asian Studies is deeply delighted and pleased to support and co-sponsor the 2nd International Conference of the Ateneo Initiative on Korean Studies. This Conference, with the theme “Investigating Transnational Relations in Philippine – Korea Relations,” a sequel to the highly-successful inaugural Conference held in 2014, brings together Korean and Philippine scholars, as well as students and enthusiasts, in highlighting and reexamining the deep relations between the two countries. Papers that deal on trade and economic exchange, migration, intermarriage are but some of the facets that have cultivated and deepened Philippine – Korea relations over the past several decades.

The Conference comes at a very auspicious time as Korea emerges from being insular to one that has a big role to play in Asian affairs, particularly in the Southeast Asian region. Whether it is technology-based trade, defense, or even pop culture, Korea’s imprint on the region is clearly visible and persuasive. Moreover, the Conference fulfills the aims and objectives of the Ateneo de Manila University in its thrust towards internationalization. Likewise, it has been the objective of the Ateneo Center for Asian Studies not only to promote understanding and cooperation among Asian

communities through scholarly exchange but also to help in developing emerging scholars who will carry on the torch for area studies in the future.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the organizers of this Conference and to all those who made this possible.