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Based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, The Philippine Reporter (print edition) is a Toronto Filipino newspaper publishing since March 1989. It carries Philippine news and community news and feature stories about Filipinos in Canada and the U.S.

Deprofessionalized Filipino report presented to CIC, Ottawa

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June 1, 2010



From left, Dr. Philip Kelly, Rick Esguerra and Marie Lebel-Racine, Senior Policy-Research Specialist at the Metropolis Project.

The report done by the Community Alliance for Social Justice (CASJ) concerning Filipino deprofessionalization in Toronto was presented to policy analysts at Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) in Ottawa on Friday, May 28, 2009.

The report, titled “Explaining the Deprofessionalized Filipino: Why Filipino Immigrants Get Low-Paying Jobs in Toronto,” authored by Dr. Philip F. Kelly, Mila Astorga-Garcia,

and Enrico F. Esguerra, was presented by Kelly and Esguerra to an audience of 20 staff at CIC headquarters in a seminar organized by the Metropolis Project. The presentation was also watched by other CIC staff members through a video-conference link.

The presentation by Kelly and Esguerra followed closely the format of the report release by CERIS (The Ontario Metropolis Centre) last October 2009, but particular emphasis was placed on the policy recommendations arising from the study.

These recommendations included the need for reducing wait times for family reunification, lowering the up-front costs of immigration, considering the specific settlement needs of caregivers, ensuring that professional regulatory bodies are aware of academic and professional standards in the Philippines when assessing credentials, and providing financial assistance for upgrading and bridging programs to Philippine-educated professionals.

An extended discussion followed the presentation of the report's findings. Comments by CIC staff included an acknowledgment that immigration and settlement programs need to better understand immigrants' countries of origin and, in this case, the ties and obligations that individuals maintain with people and places in the Philippines – ties that can affect settlement experiences in Canada.

To close the presentation, Kelly and Esguerra also briefed CIC staff on plans for a forthcoming collaborative research project on Filipino-Canadian youth that will examine the ways in which ethno-racial identity shape educational and employment outcomes.

Overall, the presentation was well received and elicited a large number of comments and questions. Notably, this was the first time that a community collaborator (CASJ, represented by Esguerra) had been represented in the Metropolis research seminar series at CIC headquarters.

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