

PRESS RELEASE

**AMBASSADOR ESPIRITU MEETS
WITH THE DRAP AND PPMA OFFICIALS**

20 April 2018 – Ambassador Daniel Ramos Espiritu had a meeting with the officials of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association (PPMA) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) today, 20 April 2018 at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. In attendance were PPMA Chairman Mr. Haseeb Khan, DRAP Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sheikh Akhtar Hussain and 10 PPMA officials.



Ambassador Daniel R. Espiritu congratulates DRAP CEO Mr. Hamid Raza and Director Ubaid ur Rehman (2nd and 3rd from left) in DRAP's bid for PIC/S accession and for its efforts to address Pakistani pharma issues. Ambassador Espiritu also acknowledges the PPMA, led by its Chairman, Mr. Haseeb Khan (4th from left) for its efforts in enhancing its relations with the Philippine Embassy.

Recognizing the Philippines as one of Pakistan's markets for its pharmaceutical products, the PPMA organized the meeting to brief the Embassy on the recent developments in the PPMA and DRAP. DRAP CEO Mr. Akhtar informed the undersigned that his agency is already in the pre-accession stage of its PIC/S (Pharmaceutical Inspection Convention/Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-operation Scheme) application. DRAP expects that with its accession to PIC/S, it will be much easier for Pakistani pharmaceutical companies to export their products to the world's largest markets. Pakistani pharmaceutical products are currently exported to around 50 countries and the market has reached US\$3.2 billion last year.

Mr. Akhtar added that DRAP has also implemented systems to further improve the quality of its pharma products and prevent the trade of spurious and substandard drugs. He also expressed interest to have an MoU between DRAP and the Philippines Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enhance pharmaceutical trade between Pakistan and the Philippines.

PPMA Chairman Mr. Haseeb signified his interest in exploring the possibility of having joint ventures with Philippines pharmaceutical companies. He also requested for the Embassy's visa facilitation of PPMA members travelling to the Philippines.



Ambassador Espiritu, for his part, acknowledged the PPMA efforts in enhancing its relations with the Philippine Embassy and informed them of the Embassy's efforts for efficient processing of visa application of bona fide businessmen. He also congratulated DRAP in its bid for PIC/S accession and for its efforts to address Pakistani pharma issues. He also welcomed DRAP's interest in forging an MOU with the FDA and signified his support in this endeavor.

Ambassador Espiritu further encouraged PPMA officials to invest in the Philippines to reap the benefits that foreign manufacturers enjoy in the Philippines, which include among others, highly qualified manpower and exemption from tariff and non-tariff barriers. END