

81 foreign dignitaries to attend Aquino-Binay inaugural - MabuhayRadio

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81 foreign dignitaries to attend Aquino-Binay inaugural INQUIRER.net First Posted 14:56:00 06/29/2010 MANILA, Philippines—Eighty-one countries and organizations have confirmed their attendance to the inauguration of President-elect Benigno Aquino III and Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay on June 30, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a news release Tuesday. Of these, at least 21 states are sending high-level delegations. According to DFA Chief of Protocol Eduardo Pablo Maglaya, numerous countries have expressed interest to participate in tomorrow's inauguration. "We have received a lot of requests from the international community to allow them to attend the inauguration ceremonies. Confirmations were easy to secure from those whom we invited," he said. First to arrive last June 28 is Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta who will lead his country's delegation to the event. A close friend of the Aquino family, President Horta was also present during the interment of former President Corazon C. Aquino, the mother of President-elect Aquino. The United States will be represented by Trade Representative Ron Kirk. US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. was earlier quoted as saying that the attendance of Kirk in the inauguration signals the US government's commitment to increasing trade opportunities with the Philippines and how it looks forward to working with the new Philippine government. Meanwhile, the delegation of the People's Republic of China will be led by National People's Congress Vice Chairperson Madame Yan Junqi. The Chinese embassy said the expected visit by Madame Yan would help maintain the sound momentum of high-level exchanges between China and the Philippines. The visit would also contribute to ensure that China-Philippines strategic and cooperative relationship gets off to a good start under the new Philippine administration and continues to forge ahead. Japan will be sending its State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Osamu Fujimura and Tokyo Governor Shintaro Ishihara. Mr. Ishihara is also a close friend of the Aquino family. The Holy See's representative is the Titular Archbishop of Pia and Apostolic Nuncio to Korea The Most Reverend Osvaldo Padilla. Archbishop Padilla is a Filipino born in Sogod, Cebu and has previously served as the Apostolic Nuncio to Costa Rica, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka. Spain will be represented by its Defensor del Pueblo Enrique Mugica. In a May 14 letter coursed through the Spanish Embassy, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero wished President-elect Aquino success during his presidency, adding that Spain is ready to cooperate with his administration. Singapore will be sending its Foreign Minister George Yong-Boon Yeo, while Minister of State of the Foreign Affairs Dr. Nizar bin Abaid Madani will lead Saudi Arabia's delegation. Brunei Darussalam will be represented by Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma, Cambodia by Minister of Information Khieuk Kanharith, and Indonesia by Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Dr. H.R. Agung Laksono. Other guest of ministerial rank include Korea's Chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection Kim Hwang-Sik, Laos' Chief of Cabinet to the President Souban Srithirath, Malaysia's Minister for Women, Family and Community Development Senator Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Thailand's Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Ongart Klampaiboon, and Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade Vu Huy Hoang. Members of Parliament attending the inauguration include Australia's Julie Owens, Canada's Jim Abbott, and New Zealand's John Hayes. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will be represented by its Assistant Secretary General Samir Diab, while Peru will be represented by its Ambassador to Indonesia Jorge Castaneda Mendez. Representatives of international organizations attending the inauguration include the United Nations' Resident Coordinator Jacqueline Babcock, Food and Agricultural Organization's Kazuyuki Tsurumi, International Committee of the Red Cross' Jean-Daniel Tauxe, International Labor

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Organization's Linda Wirth, and International Monetary Fund's Dennis Bothman. Other representatives of international organizations include: International Organization for Migration's Duc Tran, United Nations Children's Fund Vanessa Tobin (represented by Colin Davis), UN Development Program Renaud Mayer, UN High Commission for Refugees Rico Salcedo, UN World Food Program Stephen Anderson, World Banks' Bert Hoffman, and World Health Organization's Dr. Linda Milan. Foreign ambassadors who are residents here, as well as based in nearby countries, have also confirmed their attendance to the inauguration tomorrow.

These representatives are expected to attend the inauguration ceremonies tomorrow morning at the Quirino Grandstand and the presidential reception at Malacanang Palace in the evening.

The inauguration ceremonies will start at 11 a.m. with the singing of the Philippine national anthem and the invocation, followed by a musical ensemble and a reading of the proclamation of election results by the Senate President. At 11:40 a.m., the oath of office will be administered to Vice President-elect Binay, and at exactly 12 p.m., President-elect Aquino will take his oath as the new President of the Philippines. President Aquino will give an inaugural address thereafter, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance (Panata sa Pagbabago). The inauguration ceremonies will end at around 1 p.m. with the new President heading for Malacanan. A vin d'honneur reception for the foreign dignitaries and other guests will be held at 6 p.m. in Malacanang. [Joomla SEO powered by JoomSEF](#)