

By JOSEPH G. LARIOS

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CHICAGO (*jGLi*) – The great-grandnephew of Filipinos' foremost national hero Jose Rizal said his great-granduncle left a legacy for the ages that stand the test of time because it is "always moral and grand" during a lecture held May 11 at Chicago's imposing Harold Washington Public Library, listed by Guinness Book of Records as the largest public library building in the world.

Dr. Ramon G. Lopez, a descendant of Dr. Rizal's siblings Paciano and Narcisa, presented fascinating insights into Rizal's dreams and aspirations for the Philippines in the prestigious Cindy Pritzker Auditorium of the Harold Washington Library Center.

Dr. Lopez' talk entitled "Rizal Dream: The past, present and the future" reminded the audience about the ideals expressed by Dr. Rizal during his brief lifetime and discussed their relevance to the present and future of the Philippines

"The towering pillars of his legacy will always be moral and grand. Patriotism, education and service to the country and its people were the dreams and passion of our martyred hero and these are now the dreams and passion that need to be fulfilled for 92-million Filipinos," Dr. Lopez stressed this in his lecture.

Chicago Public Library Director of Adult Services Craig Davis gave his welcome remarks during the event while Consul General Leo M. Herrera-Lim introduced Dr. Lopez as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Lopez' lecture is part of the activities marking the year-round celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Dr. Rizal that falls on June 19 next month.

Written by

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The activities aim to propagate, enlighten and increase the awareness of the public about Rizal's life and works, not only among Filipino Americans, but also to a broader American audience.

Jointly organized by the Philippine Consulate General and the Chicago Public Library, the lecture series gathered different audiences, including students, members of the academe, professionals, the library's patrons and the general public. Also in attendance during the event were members of the Knights of Rizal, the Filipino-American community leaders and Rizal's advocates. # # #

Editor's Note: To contact the author, please e-mail him at: ([lariosa\\_jos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lariosa_jos@sbcglobal.net))

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