House Resolution No. 1265


RESOLUTION
HONORING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY IGOR KHOVAEV AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FOSTERING STRONGER PHILIPPINES-RUSSIA BILATERAL RELATIONS AND CONFERRING UPON HIM THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives, has on several occasions, recognized the achievements of esteemed foreign delegates for their critical contribution to our country;

WHEREAS, Ambassador Igor Khovaev was designated as the Ambassador to the Philippines on March 2, 2015;¹

WHEREAS, as an expert in International Relations and Diplomacy, Ambassador Khovaev joined the diplomatic service and worked in the Consulate General in Vietnam and Embassy to Turkey, and was sent to International Missions to Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and Herzegovina;

WHEREAS, it is but proper to honor the invaluable work and contribution of outgoing Ambassador to the Philippines of the Russian Federation, H.E. Igor Khovaev, whose tour of duty in the country enhanced and deepened the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Russia especially through political consultations and support in areas of trade and investment, tourism, education, labor, cultural cooperation, anti-drug trafficking, defense cooperation, and health;²

WHEREAS, Ambassador Khovaev’s work is invaluable to the bond fostered between our countries through the successful conduct of consultations, and meetings, including official working visits of several Secretaries of Foreign Affairs and President Rodrigo R. Duterte’s two courtesy visits to the Russian Federation regarding cooperation on many policy aspects, including national defense and economic exchange;³

¹ https://philippines.mid.ru/en_GB/pasol
WHEREAS, during the assignment of Ambassador Khovaev, trade and investments between the two countries continually increased through exchanges of information and collaboration on activities as shown by the total of $1.36 billion trade in 2018 alone;4

WHEREAS, it is under the tenure of Ambassador Khovaev that the Joint Action Program of Tourism Cooperation was signed by the former Philippine Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo and officials of the Federal Agency of Tourism of Russia to expand the tourism flow for the two countries5– there was a 11.6 percent increase in Russian tourists for 2016 and has increased since then because of the continuous promotion of Philippines that picked Russian interest;6

WHEREAS, Ambassador Khovaev incessantly supported Philippine education through the facilitation of a memorandum of understanding with the Commission on Higher Education and a call for scholarships in Russian Universities;

WHEREAS, it is through the significant diplomatic efforts of Ambassador Khovaev that the Russian Federation agreed to craft a labor agreement to address the needs and concerns of Filipino migrant workers especially the protection of the rights of those currently sojourned thereat;7

WHEREAS, with the territorial threat that the country faced, the Russian Federation has continuously offered its military capabilities and technology to enhance Philippine's national defenses and potentially develop nuclear energy resources in the South China Sea8 through the enablement of the first ever port call to Russia of the Philippine Navy and implementing arrangements between the Department of National Defense and the Russian Ministry of Defense;

WHEREAS, the bilateral relations of our countries in the area of health has been deepened through the memorandum of understanding between the Philippine Department of Health and Russian Ministry of Health that was borne out of the effective efforts of Ambassador Khovaev, and just recently, the unflinching support of the Russian Federation to the well-being of the Filipino People during these trying times brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic was felt through the offering of clinical trials, supply, and manufacturing of a reliable vaccine against the virus alongside an Anti-COVID Drug and EMG diagnostic system, all of which are helpful for our Recovery as One country;

WHEREAS, in the performance of his duties as Russian Ambassador, H.E. Khovaev has played a material role for the turnaround from the previously cold relations between the two countries to the presently significant Philippines-Russia bond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives honors the work and contribution of His Excellency Igor Khovaev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Philippines in fostering stronger Philippines-Russia Bilateral relations and confer upon him the Congressional Medal of Achievement.

Adopted,

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

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4 The two countries signed at least 10 business deals amounting to more than ₱600 million
5 https://globalnation.inquirer.net/157346/russians-coming-says-tourism-chief#ixzz6V68gEkrR
6 https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/03/28/19/dot-targets-63-m-foreign-tourists-in-2019
7 https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/06/19/philippines-russia-agree-to-craft-labor-deal-for-ofws