

The BalikPhD Roadshow in Berlin



Berlin, 25 April 2015. Dr. Gisela Padilla-Concepcion, Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University of the Philippines (UP) System, delivered a presentation at the Philippine Embassy in Berlin on the current programs of UP encouraging foreign-trained Filipinos to be part of the internationalisation and enhancement of UP's educational and research

activities. Academicians and other interested participants from different parts of Germany attended the *BalikPhD* seminar which was co-hosted by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association Germany e.V. (UPAA Germany), The Filipino Students, Alumni and Academics in Germany (FSAAG) and the Philippine Embassy in Berlin.

The *BalikPhD* program which offers relocation package and start-up research grant for *balikbayan* experts has been discussed in the seminar. UP is inviting applicants from all fields, especially those who can serve best the interests of the nation towards nation-building. Other programs and mechanisms of financial support for continued research productivity, continued foreign training, participation in international conferences, hosting of international meetings, the visiting professor program, and others programs for students, researchers and faculty exchange were also discussed. Dr. Padilla-Concepcion mentioned that in addition to enhancing UP's existing scholarship programs, the university is also actively strengthening support to its faculty members and administrative staff. UP recently received additional funding support from both local and international sources to improve its facilities and offer better productivity pay to its constituents. New buildings for campuses in Cebu, Diliman, Bonifacio Global City and other parts of the country are currently being constructed. Parallel to improving its infrastructure, UP is actively recruiting foreign-trained Filipinos to its faculty through the *BalikPhD* program. Filipino experts who are not available to serve long-term in the country may also explore other short-term programs and research collaboration mechanisms detailed on the website of UP's Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (www.ovpaa.up.edu.ph). In terms of additional means of raising funds to sustain its programs, UP is putting-up a new donation scheme that will allow donors from all over the world to easily donate to UP's scholarship and professorial chair programs using their Visa card.

After the seminar, an extended fellowship with the speaker was held at the residence of Dr. Gabriel Kühne and former president of UPAA Germany, Dr. Jingky Lozano-Kühne.

