

Philippines President Fidel Ramos to receive UCSD medal May 8

April 28, 1997

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Editor's Note: A Presidential Press Conference will be held May 8 at approximately 12 p.m., immediately following the UCSD awards ceremony. Members of the news media wishing to attend the ceremony and the press conference must register in advance and must have press accreditation cards which must be displayed during coverage. Members of the media who do not have official press i.d. must obtain accreditation through the Office of Foreign Information, Philippine Consulate General, Los Angeles, (213) 930-3220.

PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS TO RECEIVE UCSD MEDAL MAY 8

The President of the Philippines, Fidel V. Ramos, will visit the University of California, San Diego May 8 to receive the UCSD Medal, the highest honor given by the university in recognition of significant accomplishments in public life.

President Ramos will be presented with the UCSD Medal at an awards ceremony at 11 a.m. at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). The medal, to be awarded to the President by UCSD Chancellor Robert Dynes, is being given in recognition of President Ramos' extraordinary efforts in consolidating democracy and stimulating economic development in the Philippines.

"Given UCSD's strong interest in Asia and the Philippines, and the outstanding accomplishments of President Ramos, we are very honored to be conferring this honor on the man who has helped unite the Philippine people behind a common vision of democracy and peace," said Chancellor Dynes.

Through its Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), UCSD has a rapidly expanding focus on Southeast Asia in general and the Philippines in particular. IR/PS, the only Pacific Rim-oriented school of international affairs in the country, is gearing up for an expanded program to attract outstanding Filipino students for advanced training in international relations and business.

President Ramos, who became the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines on June 30, 1992, is a military hero of the 1986 Philippine People Power Revolution and a victor in the country's first multi-party presidential elections. He has anchored his governance on his philosophy of people empowerment as the engine to "operationalize economic growth, social equity, and national solidarity." The President's framework of governance is founded on a 5- point program: peace and stability; economic growth and sustainable development; energy and power generation; environmental protection; and a streamlined bureaucracy.

In 1992, the President took over the reins of a newly restored democracy, which he helped recover from a 20-year dictatorship and then successfully defended it against a series of military take-over attempts. The Centennial President, a name conferred on him because his term of office coincides with the centennial anniversary in 1998 of Philippine independence from Spain, is also credited with implementing the political and economic reforms that have led to the current economic resurgence in the Philippines.

Previous recipients of the UCSD Medal include news correspondent John Chancellor; Raul Alfonsin, president of Argentina; Yutaka Nakaoki, governor, Toyama Prefecture, Japan; Carlos Salinas de Gortari, president of Mexico; N. Scott Momaday, Pulitzer Prize winning poet; and Walter E. Massey, president, Morehouse College, and former UC vice president for Academic Affairs.

(April 28, 1997)