

**Ambassador Neal IMPERIAL**

**Presentation of Credentials: 10/12/2014**

Ambassador Neal Imperial, a career diplomat, presented his credentials to President Reuven Rivlin on December 10, 2014 to become his country’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Israel.

Ambassador Imperial has a Master’s degree in International Studies from the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the Ateneo de Manila University.

He joined the Philippine foreign service in 1995 and served in various diplomatic and consular positions in Jakarta and Vancouver and during his last overseas posting in Singapore, he served as Minister and Consul General. At the Department of Foreign Affairs, he served as Functional Specialist in the APEC office, as Assistant Director in the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, as Director in the Asia-Pacific Affairs office, and as Executive Director of the Office of Middle East and African Affairs.

As an author, Ambassador Imperial has published a monograph on ASEAN counter-terrorism cooperation (University of Hong Kong) and two volumes of poetry, the last of which was a finalist in the National Book Award for Poetry and the Madrigal-Gonzales First Book Award in the Philippines.

Ambassador Imperial is currently the coordinator for the Asia-Pacific group of ambassadors in Israel.