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EVENTS

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Filipino embassy donates books to forge closer ties

Building ties: Malaya (centre) presenting a set of books to Nafisah (left) during the presentation ceremony. Looking on is Encarnacion (right).



CULTURAL and ties between the Philippines and Malaysia received a boost when the embassy and the Filipino Businessmen and Professional Caucus (FBPC) donated a set of books to Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (PNM) at its main office in Kuala Lumpur.

Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya and FBPC Chair Edna Encarnacion presented copies of Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, and award-winning novels notably F. Sionil Jose's *Viajero*, Jessica Hagedorn's *Dog eaters*, and Miguel Syjuco's *Ilustrado*.

Also part of the donation were books highlighting the rich heritage of Muslim Filipinos, notably the *Children of the Ever Changing Moon*, a collection of essays by Muslim Filipino writers edited by Gutierrez Mangansakan III, and the *Masjid/Mosque Architecture: Jewels of Philippine Islamic Faith*, a book on Muslim architecture published by the Philippine National Commission on cul-

ture and the arts.

PNM director-general Nafisah Ahmad conveyed the National Library's appreciation for the donation of books and called it "timely."

"It will form part of the library's exhibit on noted Asean works in April to June in line with Malaysia's Asean chairmanship this year," she said.

The ambassador also donated copies of the three books he wrote and/or edited — *So Help Me God: the Presidents of the Philippines and their Inaugural Addresses*; *Frontlines of Diplomacy: Conversations with Philippine Ambassadors*, an oral history of 37 Philippine ambassadors and three diplomatic spouses and, *Philippines-Malaysia Agreements (1964-2014): Cornerstones of a Partnership*, a compendium of Philippine-Malaysia agreements.

Malaya said he looked forward to further joint projects between the embassy and the library and other Malaysian cultural institution and groups.