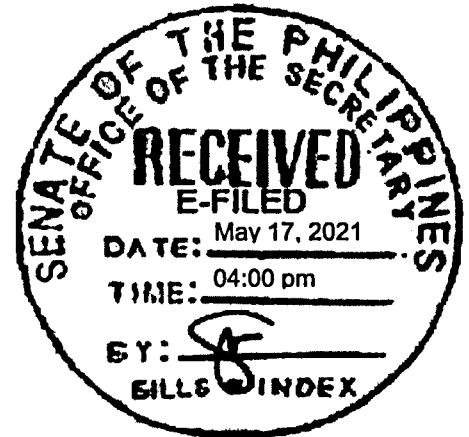


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session**

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 723

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION

**COMMENDING FILIPINO SCIENTIST AND MICROBIAL OCEANOGRAPHER
DR. DEO FLORENCE ONDA FOR BEING THE FIRST FILIPINO AND ONE OF
THE FIRST HUMANS TO REACH AND EXPLORE THE EMDEN DEEP IN THE
PHILIPPINE TRENCH, WHICH IS THE THIRD DEEPEST POINT ON EARTH**

1 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines, on numerous occasions, commended
2 and celebrated the historic achievements, remarkable accomplishments and valuable
3 contribution of outstanding Filipinos in sports, arts and culture, public service and
4 community development, science and technology, among others;

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Deo Florence L. Onda is a 33-year old microbial oceanographer
6 and assistant professor in the Marine Science Institute of the University of the
7 Philippines in Quezon City;

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Onda earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology (Marine Microbial
9 Ecology) from the University of the Philippines in Baguio City, his post-graduate degree
10 in Marine Science (Marine Biotechnology) from the Marine Science Institute (MSI) in
11 UP Diliman, and his PhD in Microbial Oceanography in Université Laval in Quebec,
12 Canada;

13 WHEREAS, he was also a Research Fellow in Takuvik Joint International
14 Laboratory in Université Laval in Quebec, Canada, and a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Alfred
15 Wegener Institute-Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven,
16 Germany;

17 WHEREAS, in 2019, Dr. Onda, headed a team of 74 young Filipino scientists on
18 a two-week research expedition which sailed to the Kalayaan Group of Islands in the

1 West Philippine Sea and sought to “establish baseline data and understand the
2 responses of threatened marine ecosystems to the changing environment¹”;

3 WHEREAS, because of his training, experience and expertise, Dr. Onda was
4 invited by private organization Caladan Oceanic in a historic two-man, deep-sea
5 expedition to the Emden Deep, a 34,100 feet (10,400 meters) deep feature in the
6 Philippine Trench, considered as the third deepest spot on Earth located in the
7 Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);

8 WHEREAS, on 23 March 2021, Dr. Onda and American undersea explorer Victor
9 Vescovo successfully accomplished the first-ever crewed descent to Emden Deep
10 onboard the deep-sea submersible DSV Limiting Factor;

11 WHEREAS, in an important and symbolic gesture, Dr. Onda waved the
12 Philippine flag upon reaching the Emden Deep and upon the safe ascent of the
13 submersible to the surface, marking the significant achievement for the Philippines;

14 WHEREAS, according to the UP MSI, deep sea expeditions like this one are
15 equivalent to the first early flights into outer space, thus it is a major record-setting
16 scientific and historic achievement. To date, most of these records are held by foreign
17 scientists or explorers²;

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Onda said that the voyage is “about our country that is rich,
19 beautiful and unique in its own ways and Emden Deep is a symbol of the depth of our
20 aspirations and the greatness of our dreams.” He also hoped that this will “spark
21 interest in more Filipinos to appreciate the extent of our marine heritage and the
22 marine environment and to encourage them in studying and protecting the oceans;”

23 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to
24 commend Filipino scientist and microbial oceanographer Dr. Deo Florence Onda for
25 being the first Filipino and one of the first humans to reach and explore the Emden
26 Deep in the Philippine Trench, which is the third deepest point on Earth.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

¹ “Balik Scientist leads all-Filipino research expedition to West Philippine Sea.” June 26, 2019. Accessed on March 30, 2021 through <http://www.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph/home/portal/index.php/quick-information-dispatch/3492-balik-scientist-leads-all-filipino-research-expedition-to-west-philippine-sea>

² “Filipino scientist to make history by reaching the 3rd deepest spot on Earth (Emden Deep in the Philippine Trench). March 17, 2021. Accessed on March 30, 2021 through <http://www.msi.upd.edu.ph/>