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'Viva Europa 2018' to bring European culture, heritage closer to Filipinos

By: **Patricia Ann V. Roxas** -Reporter INQUIRER.net / 03:52 PM April 19, 2018

The European Union launches on Thursday, April 19, "Viva Europa 2018" – a series of activities that aims to "highlight the shared cultural values between the EU and the Philippines."

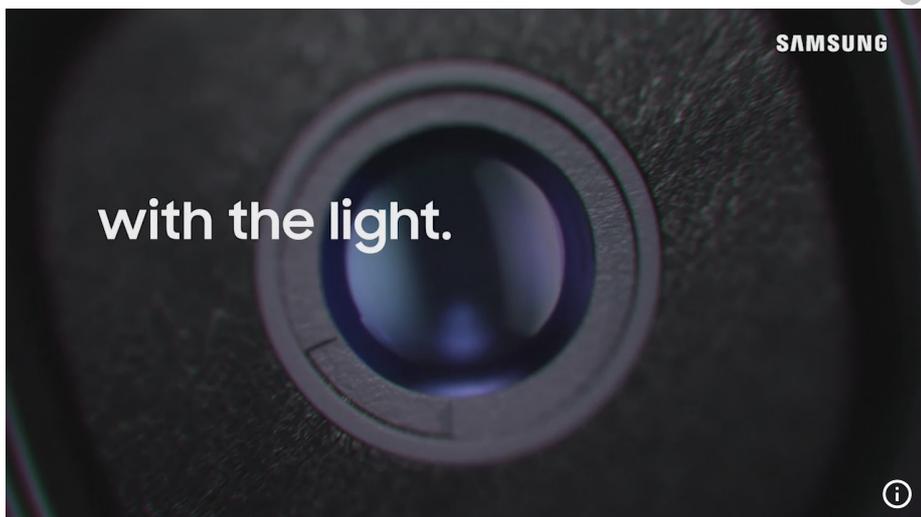
Despite the seemingly hazy politics, the European Union is launching on Thursday its summer cultural festival in the Philippines in

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Dubbed as “Viva Europa 2018,” the event’s series of activities will run from April to June 2018 in Metro Manila and Palawan, among others.

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Franz Jessen said Viva Europa 2018 aims to “highlight the shared cultural values between the EU and the Philippines.”

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The European cultural summer also aims to celebrate the best of European dance, film, literature, music, photography/visual arts, and sports.



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The EU ambassador said the festival likewise signifies the... the Philippines with the EU, and to highlight the important... Philippines as a cultural partner of the European Union.”

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“Heritage is not defined by political borders. It’s beyond borders,” he added.

Viva Europa 2018 is organized by the EU delegation in the Philippines, as well as the Embassies of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

It is also in partnership with cultural institutes including Goethe-Institut Philippine, Alliance Francaise, the British Council, and Instituto Cervantes.

Jessen, together with high-ranking diplomats; Dr. Ulrich Nowak, director of Goethe-Institut Philippinen; cultural officers and cultural attaches from the EU member States’ embassies; and cultural Institutes were also present at the press briefing.

Sikad Palawan

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A major highlight of this year’s Viva Europa is the “Sikad Palawan.” In this initiative, Jessen, and other ambassadors of several EU member-states would join a 200-kilometer bike tour from El Nido, Palawan to Taytay, Roxas, and finally to Puerto Princesa.

The bike tour from April 28 to 30, aims to promote cycling as an illustration of a healthy and climate-friendly lifestyle.

Children in the spotlight

The EU Ambassador said children would also be in the spotlight for this year’s cultural festival.

On May 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the EU would provide best of European storytelling, games, languages, film, music, and arts and crafts to disadvantaged children in the Museo Pambata, in Manila.

On May 24, a workshop and on-the-spot drawing contest with the theme “Europa, Kaibigan ko ‘to” would be held for children in private and public schools at the Museo Pambata. A child summit would also be conducted on that day.

Musical heritage

A nationwide choir competition organized by the Far East European Union (FEU) and EU delegation as well as embassy of Spain would be held on May 26 to 27 at the FEU.

