Dr. Mina T. Gabor – Panelist

Dr. Mina T. Gabor was the founder and first president of the Center for International Trade Exhibitions and Missions Inc. (CITEM), the export promotions arm of the Department of Trade and Industry. She was also Philippine Undersecretary for Trade and Industry and was Secretary of Tourism from 1995 to 1998.

She continues to work with her passion of promoting the Philippines through trade and tourism as the founder and president of the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST), the only such school in Asia Pacific. As founder and president of the Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation, Inc. (PHILSMED), she is currently involved in improving the status of the ASEAN master craft, artisans and designers and she is also the President of AAP Travel. Dr. Gabor is also a member of the board of the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, a director of the Automobile Association of the Philippines, and a columnist for Business Mirror (The BM Traveller).

Dr. Gabor is a recipient of the Philippine Legion of Honor Award, the highest award bestowed by the Philippine government to an individual. As such, she is a reserve Lt. Colonel of the Philippine Army in recognition of her exemplary contributions to the development of tourism in the Philippines and her outstanding performance as Tourism Secretary. She received a distinction award in Sustainable Tourism in June 2017 for her contribution to the advancement of Philippine Tourism, given by the Rotary Club of Manila, the oldest Rotary Club in Asia. Earlier in the same year, she received a Tourism Award by SKAL International. Further, the NY Travel Magazine named her as one of the 35 top women in travel worldwide.
Dr. Gabor’s advocacy for community-based rural tourism has paid off with the enactment of RA 10816; an Act to Develop Farm Tourism. Among her other advocacies are the development and promotion of faith-based tourism and ecotourism. She was instrumental in the declaration of Ecotourism celebration by the UN in 2002. Her long list of achievements and awards both in Tourism and Trade has made her a sought-after speaker in these areas of expertise.