

PERFECTO RIVAS YASAY, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Philippines

Perfecto “Jun” Yasay, Jr. was appointed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte as Secretary of Foreign Affairs on 30 June 2016.

Secretary Yasay, former Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman, was cited by Business Week Magazine as one of the “Stars of Asia” along with 50 other prominent Asian leaders, as being at the forefront of change and striving for a firmer foundation for Asia by mending a social fabric torn by crisis. He also received the EDSA People Power Freedom Award for his advocacy for transparency and the fight against corruption in government service.

Jun Yasay is an outstanding lawyer, with experience in both the Philippines and the United States. He litigated numerous corporate, civil, and criminal and immigration cases under the Philippine and American legal and judicial systems and in various quasi-judicial and administrative bodies. He authored numerous articles and commentaries on various fields of law published in US-based Philippine newspaper and magazines, and was a host of live radio broadcast in Metro New York, giving commentaries and counsel to program listeners with special legal concerns. He was featured and editorialized in various US-based Philippine newspapers, for successfully representing and championing the cause of Filipinos in criminal and in deportation and de-naturalization proceedings in the United States. He also served as visiting Professor of Law at the Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii.

A practicing lawyer specializing in Corporate Law and Securities Regulation, Jun obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Arts, major in Political Science from Central Philippines University in Iloilo City and secondary education in Davao City National High School in 1961.

As a student, he extensively participated in several international conferences and seminars on leadership, world peace, refugee migration and development in the US, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

In July 1969, he was elected as the youngest Vice-President of the World Alliance of YMCA's at the age of 23 in Nottingham, England.

Other awards and recognitions include the Gold Vision Triangle Award, the highest award granted by the YMCA of the Philippines for community service, particularly in the area of youth leadership, as well as the Domingo Bascara Leadership Award. The Davao Sun Star gave him the Dabawenyoy of the Year Award in 1997, the Central Philippine University conferred on him the Distinguished Centralian Award and the University of the Philippines Law Class of 1972 also gave him the Outstanding Achievement Award in 1996.

He was also a Podium Speaker at the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland at the Experts Meeting on the Growth of Domestic Capital Markets, Geneva, Switzerland, 27 May 1998.

Jun is the author of two books, to date: Out of the Lion's Den: The Travails and Triumphs of a Public Servant and Terminal Four: Corruption in America's Only Colony in Asia.

Born on 27 January 1947, he is married to Cecile Joaquin Yasay. They have five children, Nino, Oliver, Richie, Raveena, and Stephanie.