**NEWS RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Aimee Santos-Lyons** **aimee.santoslyons@gmail.com****; 5034732960**

**Celia Ferrer-Dunne** **celiaferrerdunne@gmail.com****;**

**Jennifer Kleskie** **jkleskie@gmail.com**

**For Immediate Release:**

Parliament of the Streets to Halls of Congress:

Lessons from Philippine Congressman & Activist Walden Bello

PORTLAND, OR – Filipinos for Good Governance (F4GG) and Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (CAPIA) are proud to host a forum on March 1st at the Portland Community College Workforce Training Center with Philippine House Representative Walden Bello. Rep. Bello has a long-storied career and track record for championing human rights, participatory democracy, non-violent movement and people’s empowerment .

Congressman Walden Bello made his debut as a political activist during the Marcos dictatorship when he dedicated two decades to building an international movement to restore democracy in the Philippines. In 2003, Walden was awarded with the Right Livelihood Award, better known as the alternative Nobel Prize for outstanding efforts in educating civil society about the effects of corporate globalization and how alternatives can be implemented. A superb writer, a renowned political analyst, academic and social activist, admirers describe Walden as “the venerable rockstar” of the global progressive movement.

At present, Walden advances the people’s interests in the 15th Congress, as Representative of the Akbayan party. Their legislative agenda has deep resonance for communities in the United States, including issues such as protecting the security of workers’ tenure, providing social protections to small farmers and their families, socialized housing for informal settlers, and cutting back on trade liberalization. He has also been a fierce fighter for improving the human rights situations in the country and strengthening mechanisms for accountability of public officials. He is also known to champion clean and renewable energy development, environmental protection and policy responses to climate change. He is also in the frontline of the fight for the passage of the Reproductive Health bill, securing the welfare of migrant workers in the Middle East and across the globe, and Improving Overseas Voting.

Come join us for an evening of illuminating conversation with world renowned activist & author Representative Walden Bello. The event is being hosted by the PCC Metropolitan Workforce Training Center, and will be held in the Auditorium at 5600 NE 42nd Ave., Portland OR 97218. Doors open at 6pm and forum begins at 6:30pm.