

**Celso L. Dayrit (MH, PHI)**

Celso Limjuco Dayrit was born on December 19th 1951 in Manila, Philippines.

He studied at the De La Salle University in Manila, where he obtained his Bachelor in Business Management in 1973. Then, he took up further studies at the La Salle Business School and received his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in 1978. In 2007, he was honoured with a Doctorate Degree by the Incheon University in Korea.

Celso Dayrit began his business career in the banking field in 1973 having joined the Philippine Commercial & Industrial Bank (PCIBank). Pioneering in the credit card industry, he occupied various managerial positions and became the Vice President and General Manager of the BPI Credit Corporation.

Celso Dayrit was connected with the IOC, being the only Filipino accredited International Course Director of the Olympic Solidarity Itinerant Administration School for sports leaders. He gave intensive seminars in various Asian countries as well as in many provinces in the Philippines. He founded the Philippine Olympic Academy and the Philippine Olympians Association. In 1993, he was appointed as Commissioner of the government Philippine Sports Commission.

Mr Dayrit started fencing at the age of six, trained by his father who was the first fencing Master in the Philippines and founder of the Philippine Amateur Fencers Association. He handled all three weapons and won in many national competitions, while he received the Fencer of the Year Award for Epee in 1984. He was a member of the Philippine’s national team from 1979 to 1988, wining a bronze medal at the Southeast Asian Games in 1987.

On the national level, Dayrit started as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Philippine Amateur Fencers Association in 1969, then the Vice President in 1983 and its President from 1989 to 2008. He was also the Treasurer of the Philippine Olympic Committee from 1985 to 1988, the Vice President from 1989 to 1992, then the NOC President from 1999 to 2004.

Celso Dayrit also had an impressive international career. He was a member of the Olympic Council of Asia of which he was Vice-president from 2003 to 2007. He was also the Chairman of the Southeast Asian Games Federation from 2002 to 2005, and became its President in 2004 to 2005. Presently, Dayrit is the President of the Fencing Confederation of Asia, having been elected 3 times since 2004. He is also the longest serving official of the Asian Confederation since being the first Treasurer when the AFC was organized in 1988.

For his valuable contributions in sports, Dayrit was awarded by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in 2007, and given the Olympic Merit Award in 2006 by the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) that was personally given by the IOC President Jacques Rogge. He was also a two time recipient of the Leadership Awards given by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, and installed a member of the De La Salle Sports Hall of Fame. He is a Member of Honour and a Hall of Fame awardee of the International Fencing Federation. He is a member of the FIE Executive Committee from 2004 to 2020.

Celso Dayrit has the distinction of founding the “Philippine National Games” program which was declared by then Philippine government President Fidel V. Ramos as the Centerpiece of the Government’s Sports Development Program in 1993. He also authored the “The Olympic Movement in the Philippines”in 2003 which is the first and only book on sports written and published in the Philippines.