**Good day, everyone!** Today, I will be discussing **Rizal’s Second Travel Abroad**, which took place from **1888 to 1892**. This journey was crucial in shaping his ideas, writings, and advocacy for reforms in the Philippines.

### ****Why Did Rizal Leave the Philippines Again?****

After the publication of **Noli Me Tangere**, Rizal faced intense threats from Spanish friars. His family was also persecuted in Calamba, which left him with no choice but to leave the country once again. On **February 3, 1888**, he departed from Manila aboard the ship **Zafiro**, starting a journey that would take him to various parts of Asia, the United States, and Europe.

### ****Rizal’s Journey Across Countries****

#### **Departure from the Philippines (February 3, 1888)**

#### **2. Rizal in Hong Kong (February 8 – February 22, 1888)**

On *February 3, 1888*, Rizal departed from Manila aboard the *Zafiro*, a steamship bound for Hong Kong. His departure was done discreetly to avoid being intercepted by Spanish authorities, who were keeping close watch on him. Upon arrival in Hong Kong on *February 8, 1888*, Rizal checked into the *Victoria Hotel*, where he was warmly welcomed by the Filipino community. However, he soon noticed that a Spaniard named *Jose Varanda* was spying on him, confirming that the Spanish government saw him as a threat. During his stay, he witnessed the lively *Chinese New Year* celebrations and visited key landmarks, but he did not stay long. On *February 22, 1888*, Rizal boarded the *Oceanic* and set sail for Japan

#### **3. Rizal in Japan (February 28 – April 13, 1888)**

Rizal arrived in *Yokohama* on *February 28, 1888*, before proceeding to *Tokyo*, where he initially stayed at the *Tokyo Hotel*. Later, he was invited to stay at the *Spanish Legation*, but he remained cautious, knowing that he was being monitored by Spanish authorities. He was deeply impressed by Japan’s discipline, cleanliness, and modernization, noting that the country had successfully preserved its culture while embracing progress. During this time, he began learning the *Japanese language* and explored various cultural sites. One of the most significant events of his stay was his romantic involvement with *Seiko Usui (O-Sei-San)*, a refined and educated Japanese woman. Though they developed a deep affection for each other, Rizal ultimately chose to leave Japan, prioritizing his mission for the Philippines over personal happiness. On *April 13, 1888*, he boarded the *Belgic* and set sail for the United States.

#### **4. Rizal in the United States (April 28 – May 16, 1888)**

Rizal arrived in *San Francisco, California*, on *April 28, 1888*. One of his most striking observations in the U.S. was the racial discrimination faced by *Chinese immigrants and African Americans*, which reinforced his belief that colonialism and racism were interconnected. Despite this, he was also fascinated by America’s rapid industrial progress, particularly its advanced *railroad system, towering buildings, and economic opportunities*. He traveled across the country, visiting major cities like *New York* and seeing the *Statue of Liberty*, which he admired but questioned whether its ideals of freedom truly applied to all races. On *May 16, 1888*, Rizal departed from the U.S. aboard the *City of Rome*, bound for Europe.

#### **5. Rizal in London (May 1888 – March 1889)**

Upon arriving in *London in May 1888*, Rizal chose to stay in the British capital for several reasons: to *improve his English*, to *study and annotate Antonio de Morga’s Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas at the British Museum*, and to *avoid Spanish persecution*. Initially, he lived with *Dr. Antonio Ma. Regidor*, a fellow Filipino exile, before moving in with the *Beckett family*. During his stay, he had a brief romance with *Gertrude Beckett*, but he decided to end their relationship to focus on his work. His most significant contribution during this time was his *annotation of Morga’s historical work*, which provided strong evidence that *Filipinos had a rich and advanced civilization before Spanish colonization*. While in London, Rizal was also elected *honorary president of La Solidaridad*, a newspaper advocating for Philippine reforms.

#### **6. Rizal in Paris (March 1889 – January 1890)**

By *March 1889*, Rizal moved to *Paris*, but he faced difficulties finding lodging due to the influx of visitors for the *Universal Exposition*. He briefly stayed with *Valentin Ventura*, a fellow reformist. During his stay, he \*published his annotated version of Morga’s *Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas* and founded the *Redemption of the Malays*, a secret society aiming to unite Malays across Southeast Asia. He also joined the *International Association of Filipinologists*, which studied Filipino culture and history, and witnessed the unveiling of the *Eiffel Tower* in Paris.

#### **7. Rizal in Brussels (January 1890 – August 1890)**

In *January 1890*, Rizal relocated to *Brussels, Belgium*, where he moved in with *Jose Albert*, later joined by *Jose Alejandro*. This period was crucial as Rizal worked tirelessly on his second novel, *El Filibusterismo*, while continuing to write articles for *La Solidaridad*. However, he received distressing news about the *ongoing persecution of his family in Calamba*, which deeply affected him. Despite his worries, he remained committed to finishing his novel and advancing the reform movement.

#### **8. Rizal in Madrid (August 1890 – 1891)**

By *August 1890*, Rizal moved to *Madrid*, Spain, where he fought for *the rights of Calamba’s tenants* who were being oppressed by the Spanish friars. Unfortunately, his legal efforts failed, leaving him frustrated and disheartened. Around the same time, he received another personal blow—his former fiancée, *Leonor Rivera*, had married a British engineer. Despite these hardships, Rizal did not waver in his mission and continued advocating for Filipino rights through his writings and activism.

### ****Conclusion****

Rizal’s second journey abroad was a *transformative period* in his life, further developing his ideas and reinforcing his commitment to Philippine reform. His experiences in different countries shaped his understanding of *freedom, justice, and nationalism*, inspiring him to continue his work despite personal sacrifices. His observations of *progress and oppression* fueled his writings, particularly *El Filibusterismo*, which exposed the harsh realities of Spanish rule. Despite the heartbreaks and struggles he endured, Rizal remained unwavering in his *dedication to the Filipino people*. His intellectual and political contributions laid the groundwork for the eventual *Philippine Revolution*, proving that his sacrifices were not in vain.

That concludes my report. **Thank you for listening, and I am open to any questions!**