



2017 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

BACKGROUND

The annual celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos started with President Corazon Aquino issuing Proclamation No. 276 in 1988 which institutionalized the month-long celebration every December. This is in recognition of the significant contributions of overseas Filipinos to Philippine development and the restoration of Philippine democracy.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 18 each year as International Migrants Day on 4 December 2000. On the important date, all member-states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, will commence the occasion and disseminate information regarding the fundamental rights and freedom of migrants.

An Inter-Agency Committee for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day was created through Administrative Order No. 202 issued in October 2007 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The IAC is composed of the following members:

- Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (Chair)
- Commission on Filipinos Overseas (Co-Chair)
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Health
- Department of Tourism
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Presidential Communications Operations Office
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts
- Film Development Council of the Philippines
- Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
- Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
- National Reintegration Center for OFWs
- Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
- Pag-IBIG Home Development Mutual Fund
- Social Security System
- Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

- League of Provinces of the Philippines
- League of Cities of the Philippines
- League of Municipalities of the Philippines
- Philippine Migration Research Network
- Migrant Forum in Asia

The IAC is tasked to come up with activities for the MOF celebration.

The theme for the 2017 MOF is **“ENHANCING REINTEGRATION: LEAVING NO MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES BEHIND.”** This is in line with the policy pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte of providing assistance to overseas Filipinos and bringing government services closer to migrants, including the reintegration program. It will also highlight the various reintegration programs and services offered by the government to returning OFWs and other overseas Filipinos. These services will cover psycho-social, livelihood and investment, and employment, among others.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE IAC-MOF

IAC-MOF MEETINGS

2017 MOF BANNER AND TARPAULIN



The MOF Banner design and tarpaulin were made by the PCOO. The banner shows an airplane with various Philippine and major destination countries landmarks with backdrop photo of real OFs to depict reintegration of migrants back to the Philippines.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE IAC-MOF

The major activities lined-up for the 2017 MOF celebration are the Regional Forum on Migration and Migrants Health Fair in Bataan and Camarines Sur, International Forum on Migration in Hong Kong and Qatar, and the National Forum on Migration in Manila, which will be the culminating MOF activity on December 18. Part of the National Forum are also three MOF-related activities such as Film Showing on Migration, Cultural Show, and Awarding Ceremony for the Migration Advocacy and Media Awards.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE IAC-MOF

1. MIGRANTS' HEALTH FAIR & REGIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN CAMARINES SUR



The Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) on the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF) kicks-off this year's celebration with the Regional Forum on Migration and Migrants' Health Fair at the Camarines Sur Convention Center in Pili, Camarines Sur on November 6, 2017. The Forum was organized by the IAC-MOF with the Provincial

Government of Camarines Sur, with the Migrants' Health Fair led by the DOH. The activities were attended by 250 participants composed of migrants, migrant returnees and their families, government employees and civil society groups, mainly from Bicol Region.

The activities started with the Migrants' Health Fair. With the theme, "Overseas Filipinos: Saan mang Sulok, Kalusugan Maaabot," the health fair aims to provide free promotional and wellness activities to Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their family members.



Activities provided included the *hataw* group exercise, basic medical check-up, healthy lifestyle promotion, and more. Among the unique activities at the health fair was the Mass Fluoride Application campaign of the DOH. Government services were also provided by other IAC-MOF members through their respective booths.



Afterwards, film screening of "Filemon Mamon" followed. Based on the children's story book of the same name, this 2015 adaptation is about a son of an OFW who dreams of becoming the playing the lead role in their school's theatrical presentation. This screening was courtesy of the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

The Regional Forum then followed in the afternoon. With the theme: “Enhancing Reintegration: Leaving No Migrants and Their Families Behind,” the forum highlights the various reintegration programs and services offered to returning OFWs, trafficking victims, other overseas Filipinos and members of their families.

In this forum, several government agencies presented their respective programs and services to migrants and their families. Ms. Kristina Oliveros of NRCO Region V shared their services, Dir. Marie Apattad of the CFO presented the BaLinkBayan project, a one-stop online portal for diaspora engagement. Mr. Ringo Danao of Philhealth and Ms. Pinky Santi of Pag-IBIG presented updates on their programs and services. Dr. Joel Buenaventura of the DOH discussed the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP), aimed at streamlining repatriation of Filipinos needing medical care and attention. Finally, Mr. Nonoy Reforsado of Naga-LGU discussed on their city’s mainstreaming of migration and development.



The success story of Mr. Ryan Antiquera, a seafarer who won grand prize winner of the Business Plan Competition for Seafarers of the NRCO. His "walis tambo" business proposal was picked from a total of 41 entries sent in by seafarers since the competition was launched.



MIGRANTS' HEALTH FAIR & REGIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN BATAAN



The second Regional Forum on Migration and Migrants' Health Fair was held at the Bataan People's Center in Balanga, Bataan on November 9, 2017. The Forum was organized by the IAC-MOF with the Provincial Government of Bataan, with the Migrants' Health Fair led by the DOH. The activities was attended by 250 participants composed of migrants and former migrants with their families, representatives from the OFW families' federation and the Bataan LGU.

At the Migrants' Health Fair, services like medical check-ups and lectures on health lifestyle and first aid were provided. A demonstration of how to conduct proper cardiopulmonary resuscitation was also delivered among the migrants.



Several government agencies and other organizations also provided services through their respective booths. Among them are the CFO, DFA, DOLE, DTI, IOM, Pag-IBIG and



Philhealth.

The film screening of “Bamboo Flowers” followed after the health fair. This is also courtesy of the Film Development Council of the Philippines.



In the afternoon, the Forum was conducted, showcasing the various programs and services for migrants and their families. Among them are CFO’s BaLinkbayan, DOH’s IMRAP, updates on Philhealth and Pag-IBIG programs and services, and entrepreneurship and investments opportunities for returning migration by OWWA and DTI.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN HONG KONG



Two international fora on migration was conducted this year. The first International Forum on Migration was held at the Admiralty Conference Centre in Hong Kong on November 19, 2017. The Forum was organized by the IAC-MOF with the Philippine Consulate General and POLO Hong Kong. The activities was attended by 250 participants composed of OFWs and Filipino Community leaders.



PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair Carmelita Nuqui presented the activities lined up for this year's celebration and the importance of reintegration as this year's theme. Deputy Consul General Roderico Atienza of PCG Hong Kong gave his remarks with highlighting the recent signing of the ASEAN Accord on the Protection of Migrant Workers.

Several government agencies provided their services for OFs as well as tackle several issues affecting them. Mr. Mark Espina of NRCO presented their reintegration programs and services, while Mr. Frenzel Tingga of the CFO presented the initiatives of the Philippine government to combat human trafficking and CFO's programs and services. Mr. Raymond Francis Ramos of Pag-IBIG Hong Kong and Ms. Lucille Blesilda Simbol of SSS Hong Kong presented updates on their respective programs and services.



Daddy Leo Selomenio of Global Alliance shared her experience as a domestic worker and community leader in Hong Kong. She is also one of the main cast of the award-winning film, "Sunday Beauty Queen." An open forum and cultural presentation followed, performed by OFWs. The forum was capped by a message from Labatt Jalilo dela Torre.





INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN DOHA



The second International Forum on Migration was held at the Intercontinental Doha in Doha, Qatar on December 1, 2017. The Forum was organized by the IAC-MOF with the Philippine Embassy and POLO Doha. The activities was also attended by 250 participants composed of OFWs and Filipino Community leaders.



Ambassador Alan Timbayan gave his message by placing importance on reintegration among OFWs. PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair Carmelita Nuqui commended the active involvement of the Filipino community in Qatar in promoting the welfare of migrants and members of their families. Several government agencies presented their services, such as Consul General Reyes on Overseas Absentee Voting registration and Mr. Mark Espina on NRCO's programs and services.



Filipino NGOs in Qatar also shared their programs and services such as PinoyWISE and WASAHQ. Ms. Leslie De Leon of SSS and Ms. Maria Analyt Gaoat of Pag-IBIG shared updates on their respective programs and services.





To impart inspiration to the forum's attendees, POLO-Doha IT Training Program consultant, Mr. Robin Oira, shared his training experience and its impact to his students that returned to the Philippines. A special number then followed rendered by Philippine School Doha student and Tawag ng Tanghalan Middle East Edition finalist, Ms. Thea Astley. Afterwards, an open forum was facilitated by Labatt Des Dicang.



NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION



The culminating activity in the series of fora for this year is the National Forum on Migration and Celebration of International Migrants Day held at the Philippine International Convention Center on December 18, 2017. This Forum was organized by the IAC-MOF with support from the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT). This was attended by around 250 participants that include OFW Family circle members, academe, overseas Filipinos and their families, representatives from the government and other stakeholders in the migration process.

The Forum started with the screening of the award-winning film, “Sunday Beauty Queen.” This was followed by short messages from the movies director, Ms. Baby Ruth Villarama, and members of the cast, Ms. Mylene Jacobo and Daddy Leo Selomenio.

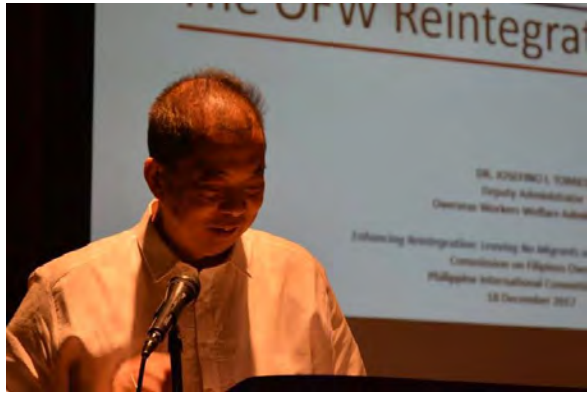


The Forum started with an invocation song composed by Fr. Graziano Batistella of the Scalabrini Migration Center, followed by the message from PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui. In her message, she has enumerated the key activities for this year's celebration of the MOF and the importance of reintegration among migrants and members of their families. Introduced Dir. Maria Regina Angela Galias of the CFO, the Forum was graced by DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III. He has reassured the government's support for OFWs through a wide array of programs and services specifically for them.



With the Forum's theme centered on reintegration, the speakers presented their respective reintegration programs and services to OFs and members of their families. OWWA Deputy Administrator Josefino Torres shared their programs and IACAT Executive Director Darlene Pajarito gave an overview on the human trafficking situation in the Philippines and interventions being provided. Mr. Roel Martin of NRCO shared their reintegration services, Ms. Corabeth Magkalas of DTI presented Entrepreneurship and Investment Opportunities for OFs, Dir. Marie Apattad of the CFO showcased the BaLinkBayan web-based portal, Dr. Joel Buenaventura discussed the IMRAP, and PMRW President and DAWN Executive Director Carmelita Nuqui shared DAWN's holistic approach to reintegration. Leo Selomenio was once again called to share her experience as an OFW and Filipino community leader in Hong Kong.





After their presentations, PMRW launched the 6th edition of “Migrants’ Stories, Migrants’ Voices.” This is a collection of stories of migrants and their families. The launch included short messages from PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui and selected contributors, a video overview of the book, and distribution of the book to the participants. IOM also launched the MigApp, a One-Stop Migration mobile application. This was facilitated by IOM’s Alex Dougan, which includes a video overview and live demonstration of the app. After the launches, a special song presentation was given by The Nightingales, courtesy of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The final activity for this year’s Forum was the Awarding Ceremonies for the Migration and Media Awards.



