



OFs Ngayon Balik-Pinas Bukas

December is the Month of Overseas Filipinos



2019 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. 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:

1. Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (Chair)
2. Commission on Filipinos Overseas (Co-Chair)
3. Department of Foreign Affairs
4. Department of Labor and Employment
5. Department of Health
6. Department of Tourism
7. Department of the Interior and Local Government
8. Department of Trade and Industry
9. Department of social Welfare and Development
10. Presidential Communications Operations Office
11. National Commission for Culture and the Arts
12. Film Development Council of the Philippines
13. Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
14. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
15. National Reintegration Center for OFWs
16. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
17. Pag-IBIG Home Development Mutual Fund
18. Social Security System
19. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
20. Bureau of Immigration
21. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
22. League of Provinces of the Philippines
23. League of Cities of the Philippines
24. League of Municipalities of the Philippines
25. Philippine Migration Research Network
26. Migrant Forum in Asia

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

The theme for the 2019 MOF is “OFs NGAYON, BALIK –PINAS BUKAS”. This aims to highlight reintegration programs and services of the government and other organizations for the overseas Filipinos, and to support making migration a choice for every Filipino. This is also in line with the policy pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte of providing assistance to overseas Filipinos and bringing government services closer to migrants and their families.

II. PREPARATORY MEETINGS BY IAC-MOF

The IAC-MOF conducted 5 preparatory meetings for 2019.



Meeting	Date	Venue
1 st IAC-MOF Meeting	July 11, 2019	NCCA, Intramuros, Manila
2 nd IAC-MOF Meeting	August 22, 2019	DTI, Makati City
3 rd IAC-MOF Meeting	September 16, 2019	DOLE, Intramuros, Manila
4 th IAC-MOF Meeting	October 1, 2019	DFA, Pasay City
5 th IAC-MOF Meeting	October 29, 2019	PCOO, Manila

III. MATERIALS PRODUCED BY IAC-MOF

A. MOF BANNER AND TARPAULIN



The MOF Banner design and tarpaulin were made/printed by PCOO. The banner shows an OFW Family in the airport depicting the return of an OFW back to the Philippines. In the background is a collage of the various reintegration services of migrant serving agencies in the Philippines.

B. MOF CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2019

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

The month of December is known as the "MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS." The annual celebration of the MOF in the Philippines started in 1966, when then President Corason Aquino issued Proclamation No. 276, 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.

In the global scene, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 18 each year as International Migrants Day in 2000. On this important date, all member-states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, will commemorate the occasion and disseminate information regarding the fundamental rights and freedom of migrants.

In 2007, 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 by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The IAC, which is a migrant civil society and government partnership, is tasked to come up with and organize activities for the MOF celebration. It is composed of the following members:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Department of Social Welfare and Development • Presidential Communications Operations Office • National Commission for Culture and the Arts • Film Development Council of the Philippines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas Workers Welfare Administration • Philippine Overseas Employment Administration • National Reintegration Center for OFWs • Bureau of Immigration • 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 • Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
--	--

Supported by:

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

The theme of this year's forum is "OFs NGAYON, BALIK -PINAS BUKAS". This aims to highlight reintegration programs and services of the government and other organizations for the overseas Filipinos, and to support making migration a choice for every Filipino. This is also in line with the policy pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte of providing assistance to overseas Filipinos and bringing government services closer to migrants and their families.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

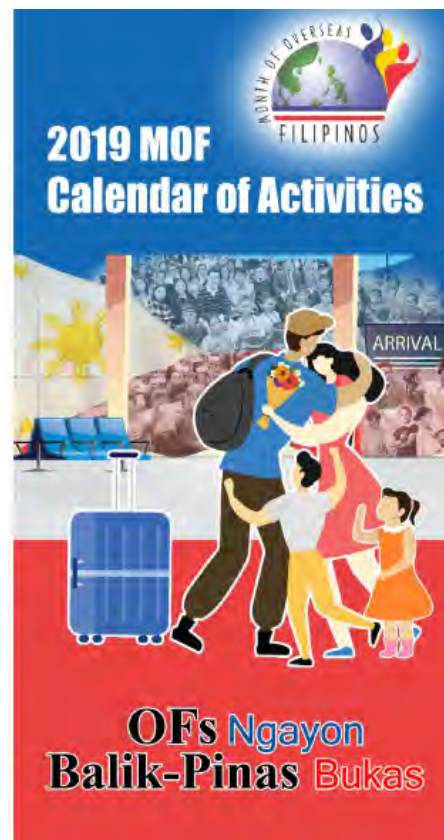
MOF REGIONAL FAIR IN SOUTH COTABATO
October 18, 2019
Venue: South Cotabato Gymnasium and Cultural System, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
Open to OFs and their families in South Cotabato

MOF REGIONAL FAIR IN SORSOGON
October 25, 2019
Venue: Bibincahan Gymnasium, Sorsogon City, Sorsogon
Open to OFs and their families in Sorsogon

MOF REGIONAL FAIR IN LEYTE
November 11, 2019
Venue: Leyte Academic Center Gym, Palo, Leyte
Open to OFs and their families in Leyte

**INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION
IN TOKYO, JAPAN**
November 17-18, 2019
Venue: Philippine Embassy, 5-15-5 Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Open to OFs in Japan

NATIONAL FAIR AND FORUM ON MIGRATION
December 18, 2018
Venue: Hotel Jen, Pasay City
Open to OFs and their families



The MOF Calendar of Activities was designed by CFO and printed by PCOO. The Calendar contains the MOF-related activities organized by the IAC-MOF, as well as the activities of agency members and other migrant organization for the MOF Celebration.

IV. 2019 MOF ACTIVITIES

The IAC-MOF organized/ supported 9 activities for the 2019 MOF Celebration.





Activity	Date	Organizer	No. of Participants
1. Regional Migrant Fair in South Cotabato Venue: South Cotabato Gymnasium and Cultural System, Koronadal City, South Cotabato	October 16, 2019	IAC-MOF, Provincial Government of South Cotabato	550
2. Regional Migrant Fair in Sorsogon Venue: Bibincahan Gymnasium, Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	October 25, 2019	IAC-MOF, Provincial Government of Sorsogon	450
3. Regional Migrant Fair in Leyte Venue: Leyte Academic Center Gym, Palo, Leyte	November 11, 2019	IAC-MOF, Provincial Government of Leyte	365
4. International Forum on Migration in Japan Venue: Philippine Embassy, Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan	November 17, 2019	IAC-MOF, Philippine Embassy Tokyo, POLO-Tokyo	80
5. Sentro Rizal Lecture Play Venue: NCCA, Intramuros, Manila	November 25, 2019	NCCA, PETA	20
6. Cineforum on Migration – Signal Rock Venue: Cinematheque Manila, Manila	December 13, 2019	FDCP, IAC-MOF	15
7. Migration Advocacy and Media Awards Venue: Diamond Hotel, Manila	December 17, 2019	CFO	140

8. National Forum on Migration Venue: Hotel Jen, Pasay City	December 18, 2019	IAC-MOF	200
9. Babaeng Biyaheroes Cultural Night Venue: Ayala Malls, Manila Bay	December 18, 2019	ILO, UN Women	80
TOTAL			1,900

REGIONAL MIGRANT FAIRS IN SOUTH COTABATO, SORSOGON AND LEYTE



Migrant Fair in South Cotabato



Migrant Fair in Sorsogon



Migrant Fair in Leyte

The kick-off activities of the IAC-MOF are the Regional Migrant Fairs held in Koronadal, South Cotabato (October 16, 2019), Sorsogon City, Sorsogon (October 25, 2019) and Palo, Leyte (November 11, 2019). The areas (coming from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) have been identified to have large concentration of OFW families.

Migrant Fair is a one-day activity organized mainly for returning/vacationing migrants and their families. During the Fair, they are treated to free basic medical check-up, free dental service, free medicines and vitamins, health and wellness activities, free food, cultural entertainment, games and raffle. Participating IAC members set-up booth to offer their services, provide free consultation and information materials/freebies. Successful small and medium enterprises and businesses owned by families of OFWs also exhibited their products. Part of the Fair is a Forum highlighting programs and services of the government and civil society for the migrants and the families, as well as sharing of success stories of migrant returnees.

These activities were organized respectively in partnership with the Provincial Governments of South Cotabato, Sorsogon and Leyte.

Please see Annex 1 for Press Releases on Regional Migrant Fairs

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN JAPAN



International Forum on Migration

The International Forum on Migration, held in Tokyo, Japan on November 17, 2019, is the only activity organized overseas by the IAC-MOF in partnership with the Philippine Embassy-Tokyo and Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Tokyo. Home to more than 300,000 Filipinos, Japan is a major destination of OFWs in Asia, majority of them are permanent or long term residents, spouses and children of Japanese.

During the Forum, various programs and services for migrants, with particular focus on financial awareness, investment opportunities, freedom of information, health and welfare services and reintegration back to the Philippines, were highlighted for the information of OFWs and community leaders in Japan. Successful overseas Filipinos in Japan also shared their success stories and volunteerism initiatives to serve as inspiration to the participants. Raffles and give-aways were also provided to participants.

Please see Annex 2 for Press Release on International Forum on Migration

SENTRO RIZAL LECTURE PLAY



The stage actors and organizers of the Sentro Rizal Lecture Play

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts in partnership with the Philippine Educational Theater Association, conducted the “Balik-Kuwento ng Bayan: A Sentro Rizal Lecture-Performance on Philippine History” at the NCCA Auditorium on 25 November 2019. The interactive lecture performance mainly targets overseas Filipino youth and students, for them to have deep appreciation of their home country, Philippine culture and history. It traces the colourful and poignant historical events of the Philippines starting with the myth of Malakas and Maganda, to Spanish, Japanese, and American colonization and Martial Law.

CINE FORUM FEATURING “SIGNAL ROCK”



The organizers and participants of the Cine-Forum

The Film Development Council of the Philippines and the IAC-MOF conducted Cineforum on Migration featuring the award winning film “SIGNAL ROCK” at Manila Cinematheque on December 13 2019.

The film starring Christian Bables and directed by Chito Rono, tackles how marriage migration affects the whole community in a small poor island in Samar. Most of the young women in the village resort to marrying foreigner in order to get out of poverty. It shows the social costs of migration both to the migrants and the families left behind.

After the film showing, a short open forum followed where participants shared their sentiments and learnings about the film.

MIGRATION ADVOCACY AND MEDIA AWARDS



The winners of the 2019 MAM Awards

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas led the conferment of Migration Advocacy and Media Awards to 20 best media works from the Philippines and abroad during the Awarding Ceremony on December 17, 2019 at the Diamond Hotel, Manila.

The awardees were selected for having raised public awareness on issues on Filipino migration, advocated the cause of Filipinos overseas, promoted a positive image of Filipinos overseas, and espoused the concepts of migration and development.

Please see Annex 3 for Press Release on 2019 MAM Awards

NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION



The organizers and participants of the National Forum on Migration

The National Forum on Migration held on December 18, 2019 (which is the International Migrants Day) at Hotel Jen, Pasay City, is the culminating activity of the IAC-MOF. It was sponsored by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking chaired by the Department of Justice.

The forum highlighted the various programs and services of the government, private sector, and civil society organizations offered to returning OFWs, trafficking victims, and other overseas Filipinos. The keynote speaker for the forum was Department of Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III.

A simultaneous Mini Trade Fair featured successful businesses owned by OFW families who were assisted by the DTI. The participants were also treated to a raffle and cultural performance.

Please see Annex 4 for Press Release on National Forum on Migration

BABAENG BIYAHERO CULTURAL NIGHT



The organizers of the Babaeng Biyahero Cultural Night

United Nations Women-Philippines and International Labour Organization-Philippines conducted the Migrants' Night: A Cultural Celebration with Biya(heroes) at Ayala Malls Manila Bay on December 18, 2019. A night of music and performance, this is the culminating activity of the "Babaeng Biya(hero): Travels, Travails and Triumphs of Filipina OFWs" campaign launched on November 24, 2019. The exhibition features Filipina migrant workers' biyaha (journey) through their experiences and hardships working and living abroad.