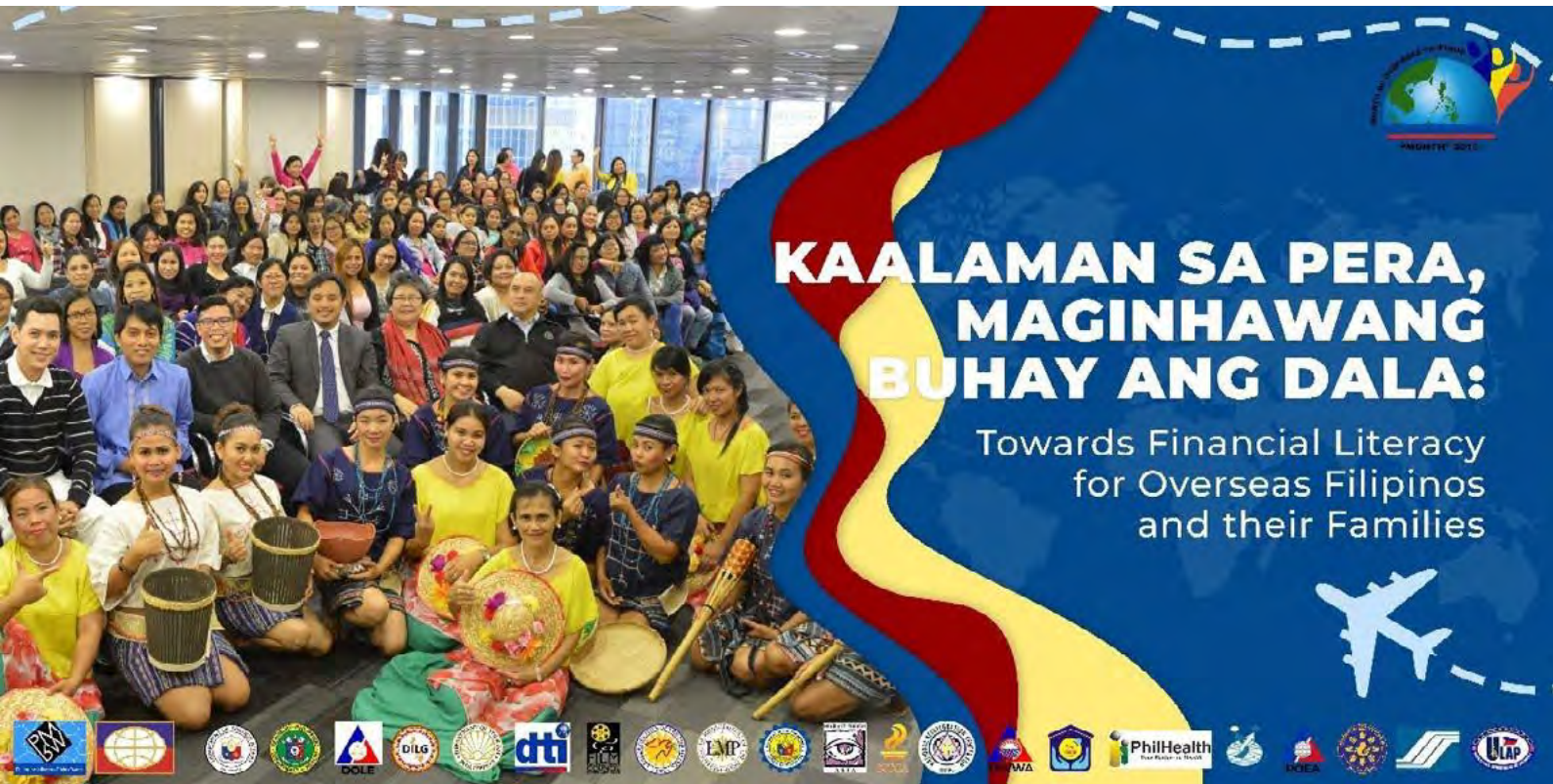




2018 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



KAALAMAN SA PERA, MAGINHAWANG BUHAY ANG DALA:

Towards Financial Literacy
for Overseas Filipinos
and their Families



PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES THE MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS AND THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

December is the most joyous month of the year. In the Philippines, it is celebrated as the “Month of Overseas Filipinos” in honor of the significant contributions of the more than 10 million overseas Filipinos to Philippine development and nation-building. In the global scene, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 18 as International Migrants Day in 2000.

The Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF), chaired by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) and co-chaired by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) led the celebration of the MOF and the International Migrants Day through conduct of a series of fora for the migrants and their families in the national, regional and international level, migrants’ health fair and cineforum on migration. This year’s theme is “Kaalaman sa Pera, Maginhawang Buhay ang Dala: Towards Financial Literacy for Overseas Filipinos and their Families.” This is in line with the policy pronouncement of providing assistance to overseas Filipinos and bringing government services closer to migrants, including financial literacy and investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos and their families.



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NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

Hotel Jen, Pasay City

December 18, 2018

The National Forum on Migration which was held at Hotel Jen in Pasay City on December 18, 2018 – the International Migrants Day, served as the culminating activity in the series of fora for this year. It was attended by 250 participants that include overseas Filipinos, OFW families, academe, representatives from the government and other stakeholders in the migration process. It was supported by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) chaired by the Department of Justice.

The guests and participants of the National Forum on Migration





CFO Secretary Nick Acosta, Ms. Mel Nuqui with the resource speakers

Following this year's theme, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui gave the welcome remarks and shared the several activities organized by the IAC-MOF since October 2018. POEA Administrator Bernard Olalia delivered the keynote message of DOLE Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III. He stated the importance of collaborative work among the migration stakeholders to empower migrants for financial stability. CFO Secretary Justice Francisco "Nick" Acosta also graced the event.

Resource speakers include Assistant City Prosecutor Rey P. Inciong of IACAT-DOJ who discussed the status of human trafficking in the Philippines and interventions provided to overseas Filipino victims and survivors; Mr. Karl Christian Vega, a former OFW from Dubai and a MOFYA awardee who shared his success story as a migrant returnee. He currently owns and manages various businesses that include KCVega Construction and Supply and KCVega Properties, involved in construction, real properties, dormitories, resort and hotel accommodations; Ms. Lenlen Mesina of Enrich Hong Kong who discussed the impact of financial empowerment education programs for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong; Mr. Melvin D. Caseda of NRCO who discussed the reintegration programs and services for

returning OFs and OFWs; Ms. Olive O. Rivera of DTI who discussed entrepreneurship and investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos; and Usec. Astravel Pimentel-Naik who discussed PESO Sense: Financial Literacy Campaign for Overseas Filipinos and Their Families, and friendly financial tips for OFs and OFW Families.

Dir. Andrelyn R. Gregorio of OWWA, Mr. Aurelio B. Miguel of Pag-IBIG Fund, Mr. Antonio Danao of PhilHealth, Mr. Romell V. Regino of SSS, and Ms. Caroline J. Mutia of DSWD discussed updates on their respective government programs and services for OFs and OFWs.

The Forum served as a good platform to discuss about the different issues of and recent initiatives concerning Filipino migrants such as the Global Compact on Migration, the



CFO Undersecretary Astra P. Naik while presenting the PESO Sense

endemic problem on poverty that often leads to migration, trafficking involving family members as perpetrators, and the importance of engaging in business and investment for OFs and their families who usually have the financial capital.

The participants were also treated to a raffle and cultural presentation and soulful song



Ms. Michelle Dawn Bande of CFO while serenading the guests and participants.

numbers performed by Tenor Conrado Calnea Ong III (supported by the NCCA) and Ms. Michelle Dawn Bande of CFO. A short film “*Ang Pagbabalikbayan ang Bagong Bayanihan*” made through the collaborative effort of OWWA, NRCO and IOM was also shown.

The event was hosted by Director Ivy Miravalles of the CFO.

REGIONAL FORA ON MIGRATION

Lingayen, Pangasinan

October 16, 2018

OFW families and associations from different municipalites in Pangasinan participated in the Regional Forum.

The first leg of the Regional Forum on Migration and the Migrants Health Fair kicked off at Sison Auditorium in Lingayen, Pangasinan on October 16, 2018. This was organized in partnership with the Provincial Government of Pangasinan and Department

of Health Region 1; and was attended by more than 300 participants composed of migrants, migrant returnees and their families, OFW organizations, government employees and civil society groups, mainly from different cities and municipalities of Pangasinan.

The event started in the morning with the Migrants’ Health Fair. It was graced by Pangasinan Vice Governor Jose Ferdinand Calimlim, Jr. and DOH Regional Director Dr. Valeriano Jesus V. Lopez, who also led the ribbon cutting for the formal opening of the event. With the theme, “Migranteng Pilipino: Kalusugan Iyong Pahalagahan, Maginhawang Buhay Makakamtan”, the health fair provided free basic health, promotional and wellness services to participants. These include hataw group exercise, basic medical and dental check-



OFW families and associations from different municipalites in Pangasinan participated in the Regional Forum.

up, healthy lifestyle promotion, nutritional assessment, mental health program, blindness prevention, distribution of free medicines and vitamins, family planning, hands-on CPR demo, and massage. Government services were also provided by other IAC-MOF members and partners such as PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, Social Security System, National Reintegration Center for OFWs, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Department of Trade

and Industry) Commission on Filipinos Overseas) and International Organization for Migration through their respective members' verification and contribution updating and information booths. The participants were also entertained by Danggoan Pangasinan) a cultural dance group.

Photos during the Migrants Health Fair and provision of various services by the IAC-MOF members





Photos during the Regional Forum on Migration

NEGROS ORIENTAL

November 9, 2018

Participants to the Regional Forum are migrant organizations and families from various municipalities of Negros Oriental and Occidental.

The second leg of the Regional Forum was held at Negros Oriental Convention Center in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental on November 9, 2018. The event was organized in partnership with the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental under the leadership of Governor Roel Ragay Degamo; and was attended by more than 200 participants composed of migrants, migrant returnees and their families,



Participants to the Regional Forum are migrant organizations and families from various municipalities of Negros Oriental and Occidental.

government employees, OFW organizations from different cities and municipalities of Negros Oriental and Occidental. It was graced by IAC Chairperson Carmelita Nuqui, Assistant Provincial Administrator Atty. Froilan Joseph Pinili and PESO Manager Ramon Benedicto of the Provincial Government.

The event started with free consultation with migration-related agencies for migrants and their families. Officers and representatives from the CFO, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, National Reintegration Center for OFWs, Overseas Workers Welfare and Administration, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Statistics Authority, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, provided assistance and information materials, and entertained inquiries (on ATN cases, scholarship program for dependents of OFWs, passporing, human trafficking, setting up of business, etc.) from the participants. The PhilHealth, Social Security System and Pag-IBIG offered first time membership application and registration services, and updates on contributions for their respective members.

During the free consultation with migration-related agencies for migrants and their families



After the consultation, the forum commenced highlighting the different financial literacy programs and investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos and their families. Several government agencies presented their respective programs and services. Ms. Michelle Dawn Bande (who represented CFO Secretary Nick Acosta and Usec. Astravel Pimentel-Naik) presented CFO's flagship program - PESO Sense: Financial Literacy Campaign for Overseas Filipinos and their Families, easy saving tips and productive use of remittances. Ms. Nimfa M. Virtucio of DTI-Negros Oriental discussed tips on how to become successful entrepreneurs and the factors needed to consider when setting up a business. Ms. Valerie Anne Jill I. Valero of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas discussed financial inclusion initiative of the BSP, microfinance financial products available for OFs and their families, consumer assistance, tips on avoiding frauds and scams, debt and credit card management.



Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, Chair of IAC-MOF delivering the opening message

Mr. Dexter F. Paro of the NRCO presented the reintegration programs of DOLE and secured investments for overseas Filipinos. Ms. Jenilyn Encierto shared her success story as a migrant returnee. She and her husband used to work in Dubai, UAE in the food and hospitality service. They decided to return to their hometown to personally take care of their growing son, and invested their hard earned money from working abroad, by opening Flower's Coffee, a quaint coffee shop in Dauin, Negros Oriental. They are also engaged in food catering business.



Assistant Provincial Administrator Atty. Froilan Joseph Pinili delivering the welcome message in behalf of Governor Degamo

Ambassador Olivia Palala of DFA, Mr. Reynaldo Jacalan of OWWA, Ms. Ligaya G. Dael of DSWD, Ms. Paulina B. Taguinod of Philheath, Mr. Fernando De Castro of Pag-IBIG, and Atty. Sylvette Sybico of SSS,

presented updates on their programs and services (covering ATN, repatriation, welfare, reintegration, labor assistance, health, housing, and pension) for overseas Filipinos.

The participants were treated with good food and entertained with jazz song numbers by the Negros Oriental Jazz Band with the special participation of Ms. Bande, and a delightful Filipino cultural dance by Kahayag Dance Company Philippines.

Photos taken during the Regional Forum on Migration





Photos taken during the Regional Forum on Migration

CAGAYAN DE ORO, MISAMIS ORIENTAL
November 13, 2018

The IAC-MOF concluded its series of Migrants' Health Fair and Regional Forum on Migration at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Mindanao in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental on November 13, 2018. The activity was organized in partnership with the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental and Department of Health Regional

Office 10. As one of the pre-MOF activities of the IAC-MOF, it was attended by more than 400 participants composed of migrants, migrant returnees and their families, OFW organizations, government employees and civil society groups, mainly from different cities and municipalities of Misamis Oriental.

The event started in the morning with the Migrants' Health Fair where DOH Region 10 Regional Director Nimfa Torrizo welcomed



The participants to the Regional Forum on Migration and Migrants Health Fair



Governor Emano leading the ribbon cutting

the guests, speakers, and participants of the forum. It was later graced by Misamis Oriental Provincial Governor Yevgeny Vincente Emano, who also led the ribbon cutting for the formal opening of the event. With the theme, “Migranteng Pilipino: Kalusugan Iyong Pahalagahan, Maginhawang Buhay Makakamtan”, the health fair provided free basic health, promotional and wellness services to participants. These include hataw group exercise, basic medical and dental check-up, healthy lifestyle promotion, nutritional assessment, distribution of free medicines and vitamins, and free eyeglasses to senior citizens. Government services were also provided by other IAC-MOF members and partners such as

PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, Social Security System,

Department of Trade and Industry, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Department of Trade and Industry, and Commission on Filipinos Overseas Filipinos.

Ms. Brillalyn Sibonga of DSWD, Mr. Rhona Fahigal of OWWA, Ms. Mary Grace Eugenio of Pag-IBIG, Ms. Elryn Salcedo of PhilHealth, and Ms. Elena Clemente of SSS presented updates on their programs and services for overseas Filipinos.

Several government agencies presented their respective programs and services: Mr. Michael Apattad presented CFO’s flagship program - PESO Sense: Financial Literacy Campaign for Overseas Filipinos and their Families; Mr. Angelito Acupan of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas discussed microfinance and financial inclusion initiatives for overseas Filipinos; Ms. Jesusa Abear of DTI Misamis Oriental discussed entrepreneurship and investment opportunities that migrant families in the province should take advantage of; Ms. Marry Gill Damasing of the NRCO discussed guides for overseas Filipinos to secured investments. Personal stories were also shared during the forum by Ms. Zusette Alaba, Ms. Rosalina Sabuga-a, Mr. Ronald Prosia, and Dr. Marilu Dizon.



During the health fair and hataw exercise



One of the participants also commented: “Mahalaga ang mga ganitong forum at pagdala at paglapit sa mga tao ng mga serbisyo ng ibat-ibang ahensa ng gobyerno. Ang kapatid ko kliyente ng CFO at nasa ibang bansa na rin. Maraming matututunan ang ating mga kababayan na nais mangibang bansa.”



Photos during the Regional Forum on Migration

The participants were entertained throughout the the day with the performances by the Gintong Amihan Dance Troupe, the Provincial Band of Misamis Oriental, and DOH Region 10 personnel.

Dr. Jocelyn P. Torrecampo gave the closing remarks and thanked the participants who represent all the cities and municipalities of Misamis Oriental. The event was hosted by Mr. Eric Yee and Ms. Nur-Aian Caridad of DOH Region 10 and later in the afternoon with Deputy Administrator Arnell Ignacio of OWWA.

population working in the largest and most populous city of the country - Dubai.

It was graced by Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes and Labor Attache Felicitas Bay. Resource speakers from the government, private sector and the civil society who came from the Philippines and UAE shared and discussed various programs and services on financial literacy, migration and reintegration, tips on budgeting and saving, and business and investment opportunities. They include Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch, Mr. Roel Martin of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs, Mr. Frencl Tingga of the Commission on Filipinos

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

*Dubai, United Arab Emirates
November 30, 2018*

Free financial awareness seminar was given to more than 120 OFWs at the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on November 30, 2018. Home to more than 600,000 Filipinos, UAE is a major destination of OFWs with the majority of the Filipino



Consul General Paul Raymund Cortes welcoming the OFW participants during the Forum

Photos during the International Forum on Migration in Dubai



Overseas, Welfare Officer Danilo Flores of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Trade Attache Charmaine Mignon Yalong of the Department of Trade and Industry, Social Welfare Attaché Judith Bacwaden of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Ms. Lowella Recto of Pag-IBIG Fund, Mr. Mark Roue Oliva of the Social Security System, Mr. Allan Miranda of The Global Filipino Investors, and Ms. Jessie Quintilla of EntrePinoy Social Enterprise.

Some of the programs and services highlighted during the Forum are “Small Business Management Training and Financial Awareness Seminar”, “Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma’am/Sir (SPIMS)”, PESO Sense: Philippine Financial Freedom Campaign”, “BaLinkBayan: Overseas Filipinos’ One Stop Online Portal”, “Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development (OF-RED)”, “Special Training for Employment Program”, “Kapatid Mentor Me Program”, “Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-Asenso (P3)”, “Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program”, “OWWA OFW E-Card”, “Modified Pag-IBIG 2 Savings Program”, and “SSS Flexi-fund Program”. These may be availed or accessed by OFWs and/or their families.

Philippine representatives also got to “meet and greet” with the more than 300 distressed Filipinas (mostly run-away) housed at the Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Resource Center of POLO.

Dubai is a global “open” city and business hub of the Middle East. Thousands of Filipinos are attracted to live and work in Dubai because of the competitive remunerative package offered by employers and the ease of getting visit visa and converting it afterwards to work visa.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

November 24, 2018

The second leg of the international forum was held at One Hall KLCC Auditorium and Multipurpose Hall, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 24, 2018. Around 200 representatives from various Filipino organizations and representatives from local manpower agencies attended the forum. It was graced by Philippine Embassy's Second Secretary, Ms. Rachel Oronce, and Philippine Labor Attaché to Malaysia, Ms. Elizabeth Marie Estrada.

Following this year's theme, member agencies of the IAC-MOF discussed their financial literacy programs and services, as well as other projects on savings and investments. Ms. Ivy Miravalles of the CFO presented the PESO SENSE, and the Philippine government's interventions against human trafficking. Mr. Floi Wycoco, President of The Global Filipino Investors, discussed the investment marketplace in the Philippines. He also provided advice regarding where OFWs should direct their hard-earned savings,



Around 200 participants attended the International Forum on Migration in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

reminding that a lot of Filipinos in Malaysia were victimized by the Aman Futures Scam. Meanwhile, Dir. Hilario Villagonzalo of the Department of Health presented the medical repatriation service for overseas Filipinos. Ms. Rosa Katrina Banzon, current Commercial Attaché to Malaysia (DTI), also shared investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos back in the Philippines in her interactive presentation and defined the importance of how remittances can be important instruments of the development of the Philippine economy, especially when channeled wisely into savings and fruitful investments.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Pag-IBIG, and Social Security System also provided updates on the programs and services that can be accessed by OFWs and their families.

OFWs with inspiring stories were also part of the program. First was from Ms. Marlyn Balbuena, lady-in-waiting for the Sultanah of Pahang. Second was from Engr. Allan Secretario, who manages Hume Concrete's factory. All of

The members of the IAC-MOF and resource persons



them shared their life story as an OFW, and also tips for the OFW participants to be better workers in Malaysia.

An open forum was also conducted before the end of the program, for participants to clarify and have better understanding of all the programs and services presented to them in the day. A critical discussion of disinformation and clarification mostly took the slot for the



The IAC-MOF members and participants to the forum

open forum, exhausting questions on OWWA's programs and services, in which Welfare Officer Ramos and LabAtt Estrada diligently attended to.

CINEFORUM ON MIGRATION

The Cinematheque Centre Manila, Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)

December 14, 2018

In line with the month-long celebration of 2018 MOF, the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and IAC-MOF screened for free the film "Bagahe" at the Cinematique Centre Manila. The film starring Angeli Bayani and directed by Zig Dulay, explores the life of an OFW, named Mercy, who is suspected of abandoning a newborn child in a trash bin of an airplane toilet. The film shows what happens to her while being investigated. It also tackles social cost of migration and abuses faced by OFW domestic workers in the Middle East.

