



# PAGPUPUGAY SA MIGRANTENG FILIPINO TUNGO SA PAGBANGON MULA SA PANDEMYA



## **2020 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**

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## **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 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic is the worst-ever Global Health Emergency according to the World Health Organization. Unforeseen and unexpected, the pandemic brought devastating impact on economies around the world, international travel and mobility, and employment of people. The health crisis has changed dramatically the way of everyday living, established a “new normal”, and took away migration option for millions in the Philippines. Migrant workers and overseas Filipinos are among the hardest hit groups.

According to the Department of Labor and Employment, an estimated 500,000 Filipino migrant workers have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 200,000 of them who lost their jobs and were already repatriated back to the Philippines. Moreover, as of November 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported that the total number of overseas Filipinos afflicted with COVID-19 reached almost 12,000 with more than 800 casualties, in 82 countries.

As tribute to the heroism of our OF frontliners and to the resiliency of our overseas Filipinos, especially those adversely affected by the pandemic, the Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF) adopted the theme “PAGPUPUGAY SA MIGRANTENG FILIPINO TUNGO SA PAGBANGON MULA SA PANDEMYA” for the 2020 MOF Celebration. As the world grapples with COVID-19 pandemic with more and more overseas Filipinos affected, the Philippine government remains committed in assisting them and ensuring their welfare and well-being. The private sector and the civil society have also contributed significantly in helping our affected kababayans abroad. Importantly, the IAC-MOF pays homage to the sacrifices and invaluable contribution of our OF health workers and frontliners worldwide, in curbing and taking care of those who were afflicted with the disease.

The IAC-MOF and member agencies organized several online activities for the months of November and December to celebrate the Month of Overseas Filipinos. It was the first time that all the activities were virtual in compliance to health protocols mandated by the government.

## II. PREPARATORY MEETINGS BY IAC-MOF

The IAC-MOF conducted 6 preparatory Zoom meetings for 2020.





Meeting	Date
1 <sup>st</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	September 9, 2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	September 23, 2020
3 <sup>rd</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	October 8, 2020
4 <sup>th</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	November 3, 2020
5 <sup>th</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	November 25, 2020
6 <sup>th</sup> IAC-MOF Meeting	December 15, 2020

### III. MATERIALS PRODUCED BY IAC-MOF

#### A. MOF BANNER AND TARPAULIN



The MOF Banner was designed by PCOO. The banner shows overseas Filipinos from different professions, including frontliners who are ready to serve and help the people in this time of global pandemic (represented by the virus and facemask). The background photo is a collage of overseas Filipinos. This is in honor of their bravery and hardwork in helping fight and contain the pandemic which has claimed millions of lives worldwide.

## B. MOF CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

December is the  
"Month of Overseas Filipinos"

*MOF Theme for 2020:  
Pagpupugay sa Migranteng  
Filipino tungo sa Pagbangon  
mula sa Pandemya*

**2020 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**  
MOF ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

NOV. 26, 2020 **Webinar on the Issues of Filipinos in Intermarriage**  
By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

DEC. 6, 2020 **Virtual Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD) Program**  
By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

DEC. 12, 2020 **Online Talakayan towards VAW-free Barangays**  
By PCW and IACAT

DEC. 16, 2020 **Online Community Education Program on Migration and Human Trafficking** By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

DEC. 16, 2020 **Inauguration of IACAT Center, Tahanan ng Iyong Pag-asa**  
By IACAT

DEC. 17, 2020 **Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking**  
By IACAT

DEC. 18, 2020 **National Forum on Migration Webinar**  
By IAC-MOF

DEC. 19, 2020 **Balitang Hapon, Pre-departure Orientation Webinar for Japan-bound Emigrants**  
By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

MOFDecember [mof.cfo.gov.ph](http://mof.cfo.gov.ph)



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"Month of Overseas Filipinos"

*MOF Theme for 2020:  
Pagpupugay sa Migranteng  
Filipino tungo sa Pagbangon  
mula sa Pandemya*

**2020 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**  
MOF ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

NOV. 9 & 11, 2020; **Barangay IACAT Webinar**  
DEC. 4, 2020 By Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)

NOV. 8, 2020 **Turismo Para sa Lahat Webinar**  
By Department of Tourism

NOV. 8, 2020 **Online Ugnayan sa Korea**  
By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

NOV. 18 & 26, 2020; **4TH National Conference on Migrant Health Webinar**  
DEC. 3 & 10, 2020 By Department of Health

NOV. 19, 2020 **DTI Business and Livelihood Presentation Webinar**  
By Department of Trade and Industry

NOV. 21, 2020 **Online Ugnayan sa Hawaii**  
By Commission on Filipinos Overseas

NOV. 23, 2020 **Aninag: Photo Essay Competition (Deadline of submission of entries)** By National Commission for Culture and the Arts

NOV. 20 – **Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino (with migration-related films)**  
DEC. 13, 2020 By Film Development Council of the Philippines

MOFDecember [mof.cfo.gov.ph](http://mof.cfo.gov.ph)




The MOF Calendar of Activities was prepared by the CFO and made available online. 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. 2020 MOF ACTIVITIES

The IAC-MOF organized/ supported the following activities for the 2020 MOF Celebration.

Activity	Date	Organizer	No. of Participants
<b>1. TURISMO PARA SA LAHAT WEBINAR</b>	November 8, 2020	DOT, IAC-MOF	10,000
<b>2. 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRANT HEALTH WEBINAR</b>	November 18 & 26, 2020, December 3 & 10, 2020	DOH, PMHN, IAC-MOF	900
<b>DTI BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD PRESENTATION WEBINAR</b>	November 19, 2020	DTI, IAC-MOF	150
<b>4. PAGPUPUGAY SA MIGRANTENG FILIPINO TUNGO SA PAGBANGON MULA SA PANDEMYA WEBINAR</b>	December 17, 2020	DSWD, IAC-MOF	300
<b>5. ANINAG: PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION AND ONLINE PHOTO EXHIBIT</b>	December 18, 2020	NCCA, IAC-MOF	300
<b>6. NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION WEBINAR</b>	December 18, 2020	IAC-MOF	7,400
<b>TOTAL</b>			19,050

# 1. TURISMO PARA SA LAHAT: SAMA-SAMANG PAGHARAP SA MAGANDANG BUKAS SA PINAS

November 8, 2020



**TURISMO PARA SA LAHAT:  
SAMA-SAMANG PAGHARAP SA  
MAGANDANG BUKAS SA 'PINAS**

A Webinar for the Overseas Filipinos  
November 8, 2020 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM

**SPEAKERS**



**OPENING REMARKS**  
BERNADETTE ROMULO - PUYAT  
Secretary  
Department of Tourism



**KEYNOTE MESSAGE**  
MS. CARMELITA G. NUQUI  
Chair of the Inter-Agency  
Committee for the Month of  
Overseas Filipinos



**CLOSING REMARKS**  
BENITO C. BENGZON, JR.  
Undersecretary  
Department of Tourism



**MODERATOR**  
MS. DORIS A. BIGORNIA

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

**Panel Discussion 1:**  
Programang Responsable Tungo sa Dekalidad na Pagbabago sa Turismo  
(Responsible Programs Towards Quality Development in Tourism)

**Panel Discussion 2:**  
Kapakinabangan at Halaga ng Turismo at mga kaugnay na Industriya  
(Opportunities in Tourism and other related Industries)

**LIVE** [www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfTourism](https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfTourism)

Scan to Register





The kick-off activity of the IAC-MOF is the Turismo Para sa Sa Lahat: Sama-samang Pagharap sa Magandang Bukas sa Pinas held via Zoom and FB Live on November 8, 2020 (2:00 – 4:00 pm). Organized by the Department of Tourism, the webinar aims to provide information about existing programs and assistance provided by the government and the private sector through the tourism industry in support of overseas Filipinos' safety, welfare, livelihood and protection back home, especially this time of global pandemic. Opportunities in Tourism and Other Related Industries for Overseas Filipinos affected by the pandemic were also discussed.

Resource speakers include DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, DOT Usec. Benito Bengzon Jr., DOT Asec. Maria Rica Bueno, PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui, OWWA Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac, DFA Asst. Dir. Geronimo Saliguin, Jr., POEA Atty. Geraldine Mendez, DTI Asec. Ameenah Fajardo, DOLE Dir. Dominique Tutay, Intramuros Administration Admin. Guiller Asido, and Tourism Congress of the Philippines President Jojo Clemente.

The webinar was hosted by Ms. Doris Bigornia of ABS-CBN.

An estimated total number of 10,000 online participants and viewers participated in the webinar.

***Please see Annex 1 for Highlights of the webinar***

***Link of the Webinar:***

***<https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfTourism/videos/744113392846344>***

## 2. 4TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRANT HEALTH WEBINAR

November 18 & 26, 2020, December 3 & 10, 2020






**PMHN**  
 Philippine Migrant Health Network

YOU ARE INVITED

# 4th National Conference on Migrant Health

## WEBINAR SERIES

*Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward*

**November 18, 2020 | 1:00PM – 4:00 PM (Manila, UTC +8)**  
**November 26, December 3 & 10, 2020 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM (Manila, UTC +8)**

Register at [bit.ly/4thncmh](https://bit.ly/4thncmh)

For inquiries, please email [pmhn.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:pmhn.secretariat@gmail.com) or call 651-7800 local 1304

f OfficialDOHgov   
 @DOHgovph   
 doh.gov.ph   
 (02) 894-COVID / 1555




## 4th National Conference on Migrant Health

WEBINAR SERIES  
Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward

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### Session 4: Ways Forward: Addressing Health and Migration Challenges in the Better Normal

December 10, 2020 | 2:00-4:00pm Manila (UTC +8)

#### SPEAKERS

**Keynote Speech**



**Addressing Health and Migration Challenges in the Better Normal**  
**Ms. Kristin Marie Dadey**  
Chief of Mission  
International Organization for Migration



**Recharge PH Strategic Action Plan Accomplishments: Social and Health Sector**  
**Ms. Myrna Clara B. Asuncion**  
Director, Social Development Staff  
National Economic Development Authority

**Closing Remarks:**



**Dir. Maria Soledad Q. Antonio**  
Bureau of International Health Cooperation  
Department of Health  
Chair, Philippine Migrant Health Network

Moderated by:




**Dr. Renzo Guinto**  
Planetary & Global Health Program

**Ms. Stella Go**  
Philippine Migration Research Network

#### PANEL OF REACTORS



**Mr. Oscar B. Abadu, Jr.**  
Vice President, Member Management Group  
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation



**Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis**  
Executive Director  
Scalabrini Migration Center



**Ms. Ma. Fe Nicodemus**  
Chairperson  
Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino



**Dr. Joel H. Buenaventura**  
OIC-Division Chief  
Bureau of International Health Cooperation

**REGISTER NOW AT [bit.ly/4thncmh](http://bit.ly/4thncmh)**



## 4th National Conference on Migrant Health




WEBINAR SERIES

*Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward*

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### Session 2: Migrant Voices: Experiences of Overseas Filipinos During the COVID-19 Pandemic

November 26, 2020 | 2:00-4:00pm Manila (UTC +8)

#### SPEAKERS



**Perspective of a Frontline Worker Overseas Filipino**

**Ms. Glenggeley Guerrero**  
*Registered Nurse  
United Kingdom*



**Perspective of a Returned Sea-based Overseas Filipino**

**Mr. Roy B. Cubos Jr.**  
*Senior Cabin Steward  
Cruise Ship, Jebsens Maritime Inc.*



**Perspective of a Returned Land-based Overseas Filipino**

**Ms. Mary Joy Ildefonso**  
*Psychiatric Nurse  
Oman*

Moderated by:



**Ms. Fatima Shahana Haron**  
*DFA - Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs*



**Mr. Christopher Ryan De Onon**  
*DSWD-International Social Services Office*

#### PANEL OF REACTORS



**Usec. Cesar B. Yano**  
*Focal Point National Task Force, TGMROF*



**Ms. Johaira C. Wahab-Manantan**  
*Third Secretary and Vice Consul, Embassy of the Philippines, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*



**Ms. Yolanda U. Peñaranda**  
*Welfare Officer  
Philippines Consulate General, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*



**Ms. Annabel R. Oidem**  
*Social Welfare Attache  
Philippine Consulate General, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

**REGISTER NOW AT [bit.ly/4thncmh](https://bit.ly/4thncmh)**




## 4th National Conference on Migrant Health

WEBINAR SERIES  
Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward

### Repatriation and Reintegration of Overseas Filipinos in the Time of COVID-19: Current Government Policies, Programs, and Other Initiatives

November 18, 2020 | 1:00-4:00pm Manila (UTC +8)

#### HIGH-LEVEL PANEL



**COVID-19 Surveillance Among Migrants and Overseas Filipinos**  
Dir. Maria Antonio Q. Soledad  
*Bureau of International Health Cooperation  
Department of Health*



**COVID-19 Policies and Initiatives on Repatriation for Overseas Filipinos**  
Exec. Dir. Iric C. Arribas  
*Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs*



**Reintegration Services for Returning Overseas Filipinos during COVID-19**  
Admin. Hans Leo J. Cacdac  
*Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)*

#### PANEL OF REACTORS



**Ms. Stella P. Go**  
*Convener  
Philippine Migration Research Network*



**Ms. Ellene A. Sana**  
*Executive Director  
Center for Migrant Advocacy*



**Mr. Venecio V. Legaspi**  
*Director General  
OFW Council of Leaders, Middle East*

Moderated by:



**Dr. Juan Alfonso Perez IV**  
*Department of Health  
Migrant Health Unit*

REGISTER NOW AT [bit.ly/4thncmh](https://bit.ly/4thncmh)




Cisco Webex Events | Event Info | Hide menu bar ^

File Edit View Audio & Video Participant Event Help

Connected

FRENCEL TINGGA Me  
doh webex Host  
Carlos Dela Reyna  
Jeanne Bernas  
Carmelita Nuqui  
VENECIO LEGASPI

## Welcome Remarks



**Dr. Mario C. Villaverde**  
Undersecretary of Health  
Health Policy and Systems Development Team  
Department of Health

**4th National Conference on Migrant Health**  
WEBINAR SERIES  
Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward

Healthy Philippines PMHN

Unmute Share ...

Participants Chat

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Connected

FRENCEL TINGGA Me  
doh webex Host  
Stella Go  
Juan Perez  
VENECIO LEGASPI

Some Comments and Reactions | Viewing Stella Go's Co...

- COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching consequences globally beyond its primary health impacts
- Data presented by DOH, OUMWA & OWWA highlights the crisis vulnerability of our OFWs and the magnitude of its effects on the migrants and their families
- Like other countries, the Philippines was caught by surprise

Healthy Philippines PMHN

**4th National Conference on Migrant Health**  
Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos in the Time of COVID-19:  
Current Government Policies, Programs, and Other Initiatives

Unmute Share ...

Participants Chat

**Polling**

Remaining time: 0:00 Time limit: 1:00

Poll results:

Questions	Results	Bar Graph
1. Do you have a family mem...		
A. yes	109/185...	<div style="width: 59%;"></div>
B. no	9/185 (...)	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
No Answer	67/185...	<div style="width: 36%;"></div>
2. Why did you decide to join...		
A. Knowledge building	64/185...	<div style="width: 35%;"></div>
B. Speaker line-up	4/185 (...)	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>
C. Network opportunities	6/185 (...)	<div style="width: 3%;"></div>
D. Interest on the topic	32/185...	<div style="width: 17%;"></div>
E. Others	11/185...	<div style="width: 6%;"></div>
No Answer	68/185...	<div style="width: 37%;"></div>

Submit

The poll has ended.

The Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC) - Migrant Health Unit (MHU) of the Department of Health (DOH) together with the Philippine Migrant Health Network (PMHN) successfully conducted the 4th National Conference on Migrant Health (NCMH), first time in a virtual format, with the theme “Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal: Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward”.

The 4th NCMH is a 4-part webinar series held on November 18 and 26, December 3 and 10, 2020. This biennial Conference was participated by experts involved in the field of migration and health which include government officials, policy makers, academic experts, representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foreign service posts and migrants themselves.

The conference highlighted the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and overseas Filipinos as vulnerable populations, discussed the government's response against COVID-19, and the current government policies, programs and initiatives on the testing and quarantine protocols, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration services for returning overseas Filipinos. The importance of realizing Universal Health Care (UHC) was also underscored to ensure equitable access to quality health care by all Filipinos, whether in-country or abroad. Overseas Filipinos also shared their real personal experiences on dealing with COVID-19.

Resource speakers include DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, DOH Spokesperson Dr. Maria Rosario S. Vergeire, DOH Usec. Mario C. Villaverde, DOH Dir. Maria Soledad Antonio, Dr. Joel Buenaventura of DOH, OWWA Admin. Hans Leo Cacdac, DFA Executive Director Iric Arribas, PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui, POEA Dir. Levinson Alcantara, DND Usec. Cesar Yano, IOM Chief of Mission Kristin Marie Dadey, Blas Ople Center President Susan Ople, Mr. Rex Varona of ILO-Philippines, SMC Executive Director Maruja Asis.


The webinars were hosted by Dr. Juan Alfonso Perez IV, Ms. Fatima Shahana Haron of DFA, Mr. Christopher de Onon of DSWD, Prof. Stella Go of PMRN, Mr. Ringo Danao of Philhealth and Dr. Renzo Guinto of Planetary and Global Health Program.

An estimated total number of 900 online participants and viewers participated in the webinar.


***Please see Annex 2 for the Press Release of the webinar***

### 3. DTI BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD PRESENTATION WEBINAR

November 19, 2020



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR SPECIAL CONCERNS**

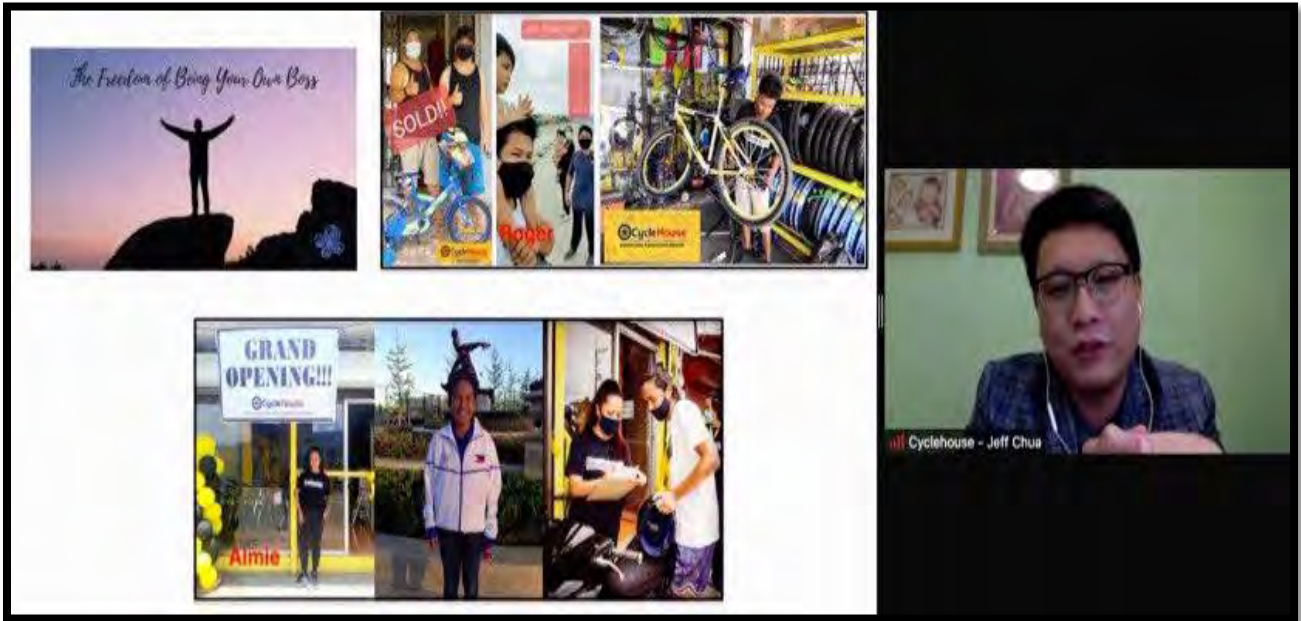


**BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD  
PRESENTATION WEBINAR FOR  
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

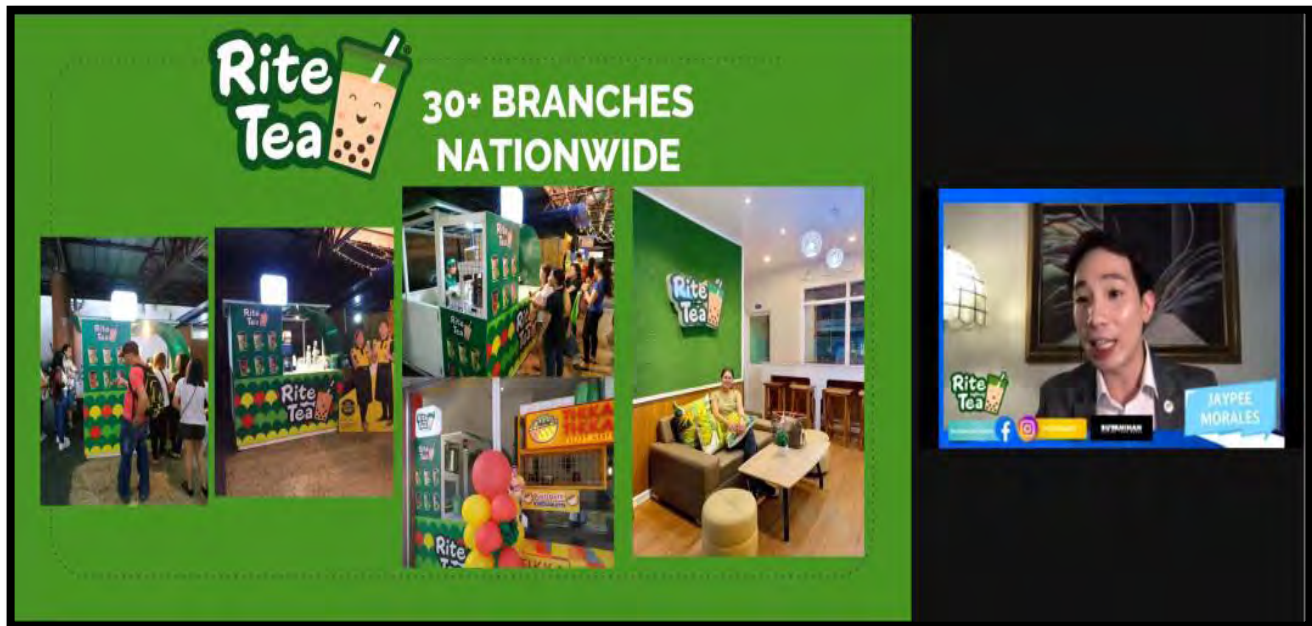
*November 19, 2020, 1 PM via Zoom*



||| Ameenah Fajardo



||| Cyclehouse - Jeff Chua



The Department of Trade and Industry - Office of Assistant Secretary Ameenah Fajardo held Business and Livelihood Presentation Webinar via Zoom for the Marino Defenders Group Inc. (MDG). The webinar aims to provide interested overseas Filipinos about the various insights on how to start and develop their own businesses. Different services and programs of the DTI were discussed, including loan assistance under the Small Business Corporation that OFWs may avail for those who are looking for alternative livelihood opportunities and business ventures.

The following franchisers from the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI) also presented their various business models that the participants may take an interest to and may invest on: Mr. Jeff Chua of CycleHouse; Mr. Gilbert Inmenzo of Siomai House; Mr, Eric Montoya of Mr. Dagupeno; Mr. Miguel Wieneke of Tokyo Tempura; Mr. Ronald German of Steaktime; and Mr. Jaypee Morales of Rite Tea.

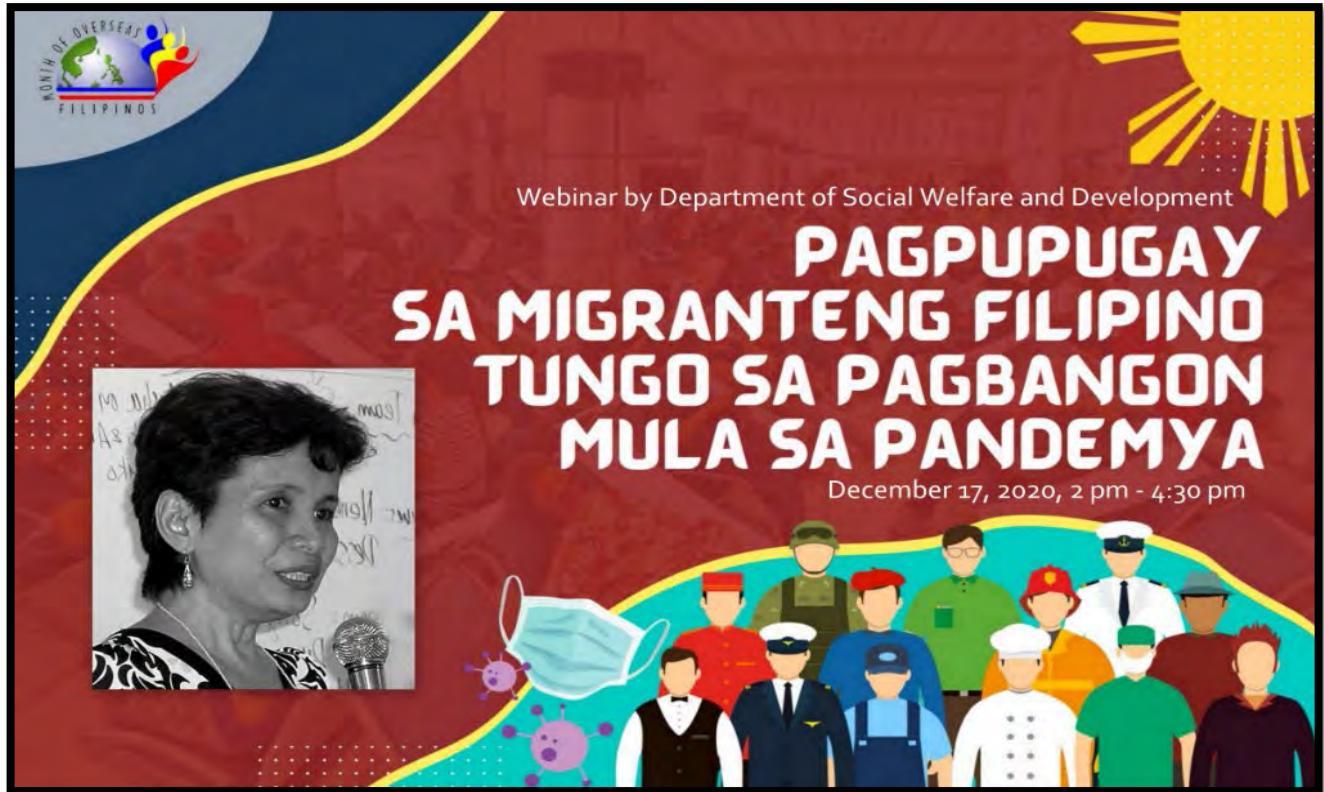
The webinar was hosted by Ms. Ekaterina Ocampo of DTI.

An estimated total number of 150 online participants participated in the webinar.

**Please see Annex 3 for the Highlights of the webinar**

## 4. PAGPUPUGAY SA MIGRANTENG FILIPINO TUNGO SA PAGBANGON MULA SA PANDEMYA WEBINAR

December 17, 2020



The Department of Social Work and Development - International Social Services Office conducted “Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino Tungo sa Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya” on December 17, 2020 (2:00 – 4:30 pm) via Google Meet.

The resource person was UP Professor Marylou Alcid who discussed the psychological impacts of COVID-19 health crisis, and the strengths based approach and coping skills of individuals and families. Social workers, including those handling cases of distressed OFWs, also shared their experiences and learnings during the pandemic.


The webinar was facilitated by Mr. Christopher Ryan de Onon of DSWD.

An estimated 300 online participants consisting of OFWs, next of kin of overseas Filipinos, social welfare attaches, DSWD staff and IAC-MOF members, participated in the webinar.


**Please see Annex 4 for the Highlights of the webinar**

## 5. ANINAG: PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION AND ONLINE PHOTO EXHIBIT


December 18, 2020



NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS



SENTRO RIZAL  
FILIPINAS











MONTH OF OVERSEAS  
FILIPINOS

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (MOF) 2020

# ANINAG:

PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION













In celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day in 2020, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through Sentro Rizal, is holding a photo essay competition based on this year's MOF theme: **“Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino Tungo sa Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya.”**


**November 23, 2020 - Deadline of submission**

Visit [bit.ly/animagphotoessay](http://bit.ly/animagphotoessay) for contest mechanics






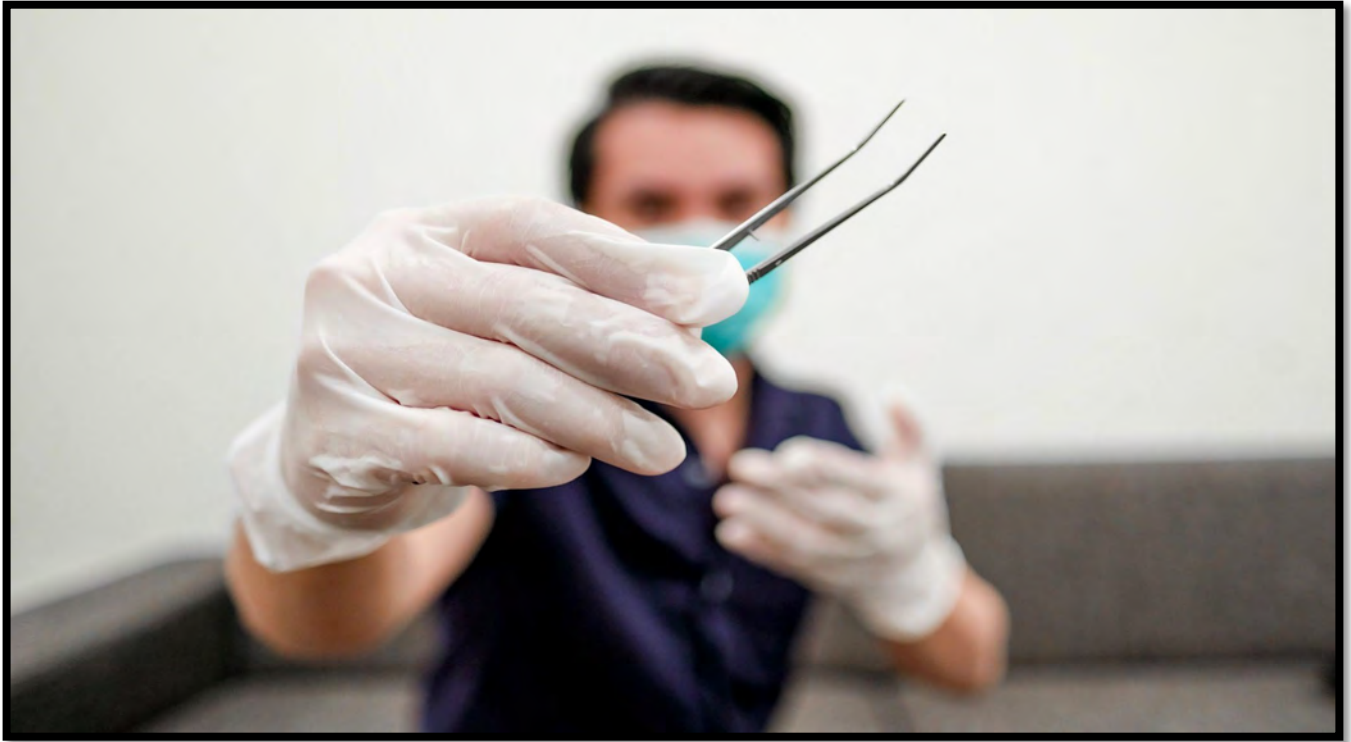
Sentro Rizal - NCCA



@sentrorizalph



@NCCAOfficial



Entry of Lizano Arandela from Doha, Qatar



Entry of Jonathan Robianes Cacatian from Athens, Greece





Entry of L Aguanta Mahilum from Haifa, Israel

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts through Sentro Rizal, launched an online exhibit of the winning entries of the ANINAG: Photo Essay Competition held in celebration of Month of Overseas Filipinos - MOF and International Migrants Day on December 18, 2020.

Three prizes were awarded to Verlex Lizano Arandela from Doha, Qatar; Jonathan Robianes Cacatian from Athens, Greece; and L Aguanta Mahilum from Haifa, Israel. They were chosen from a total of 23 photo essay entries by a panel of Judges from the NCCA's National Committee on Visual Arts and representatives from member agencies of the IAC-MOF.

With the theme “Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino Tungo sa Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya”, the competition highlighted the talents of overseas Filipinos (OFs) in photography and storytelling and provided a space where OFs can share their unique stories in this time of global health crisis. The winners captured unique and moving snapshots of their daily lives while in pandemic.

The competition and online photoexhibit has engaged 300 participants and viewers.

**Please see Annex 5 for Press Release on the Online Photo Exhibit**

## 6. NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION WEBINAR

December 18, 2020

**MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**  
O F C F M R F R

**INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON THE MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (IAC-MOF)**

**NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION 2020**

**18 December 2020  
8AM - 12NN**

**WEBINAR ON REINTEGRATION SERVICES FOR RETURNING OFS DUE TO PANDEMIC**

**Open to the Public**

Scan this QR code or go to this link to register

<https://tinyurl.com/MOF2020Registration>

**SEC. SILVESTRE BELLO III (DOLE)**

**SEC. FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA (CFO)**

**USEC. ASTRAVEL PIMENTEL-NAIK (CFO)**

**CARMELITA NUQUI (PMRW)**

**ASEC. ENRICO FOS (DFA)**

**LABOR ATTACHE ROEL MARTIN (OWWA)**

**ASEC. AMEENAH FAJARDO (DTI)**

**DEPUTY DIR.-GENERAL JOHN BERTIZ III (TESDA)**

**DR. JOEL BUENAVENTURA (DOH)**

**LANCE VELASCO (PMRW)**

**AMELYN ORTEGA (OFW RETURNEE)**

**MARIFEL CHAVEZ (OFW RETURNEE)**







The National Forum on Migration held on December 18, 2020, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm (which is the International Migrants Day) was the major activity of the IAC-MOF.

The forum with the theme “Reintegration Services for Returning OFs Due to Pandemic” highlighted the various reintegration programs and services of the government, offered to returning OFWs and other overseas Filipinos, affected by the pandemic.

Resource speakers include Secretary Silvestre Bello III of the Department of Labor and Employment, CFO Secretary Francisco P. Acosta, PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui, Asec. Enrico Fos of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Labat. Roel Martin of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Dr. Joel Buenaventura of the Department of Health, Asec. Ameenah Fajardo of the Department of Trade and Industry, Ms. Elena Clemente of Social Security System, Deputy Director General Aniceto “John” Bertiz III of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Ms. Marifel Chavez, a former OFW from Dubai and SPIMS beneficiary of OWWA-NRCO and Ms. Anelyn Ortega, former OFW from Japan and beneficiary of DTI's HEROES Program, also shared their successful reintegration story.

Online participants were also treated to musical performances of the PNU Chorale, and the OF winners of the NCCA QuaranTinig Competition.

The National Forum was hosted and moderated by CFO Usec. Astravel Pimentel-Naik and Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW.

An estimated total number of 7,400 online participants and viewers participated in the webinar.

**Please see Annex 6 for Press Release on National Forum on Migration**

**Link of the webinar: <https://www.facebook.com/109312422424187/videos/693825344658818>**

## **ANNEX 1**

### **“TURISMO PARA SA LAHAT: SAMA-SAMANGPAGHARAPSA MAGANDANG BUKAS SA PINAS”**

On 08 November 2020, the Department of Tourism, in line with the celebration of the month of Overseas Filipinos conducted a webinar entitled “*Turismo para sa Lahat: Sama-samangPagharapsa Magandang Bukassa Pinas*” via Zoom and Facebook Live.

- The webinar was opened with remarks from Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat of the Department of Tourism.
- Intended for overseas Filipinos as we approach the upcoming celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos, she reaffirms their important role in the economy through their contribution and remittances over the years.
- She also adds the reality that while OFs go back home for leisure, the pandemic has instead caused them this time to go home primarily because of displacement, with most of them being repatriated.
- In recognition of their contribution and hardships, the webinar hopes to provide information about existing programs and assistance provided by the government and the private sector through the tourism industry in support of their safety, welfare, livelihood and protection back home.
- This was followed by Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch welcoming the participants and providing a brief history of the Inter-agency Council on the Month of Overseas Filipinos in her keynote address.

The webinar proper started with the first panel on “*Responsible Programs Towards Quality Development in Tourism,*” comprised by Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac of the OWWA, Assistant Secretary Maria Rica Bueno of the DOT, Mr. Geronimo Saliguin, Jr. of the OUMWA, and Atty. Geraldine Mendez of the POEA.

- The panel began with a survey of the situation of affected overseas Filipinos and the tourism sector, with around 295,000 returning per OWWA’s recent count, a significant number of which are working in cruise ships as seafarers according to OUMWA.
- The DOT also shared the more than 9,000 accredited establishments and businesses directly engaged with tourism, with over 182,700 of its employees identified to be the direct beneficiaries of the Bayanihan 2 Act of 2020, or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.
- POEA also shared how they accommodated their processes for OFWs such as extending the validity of existing overseas employment certificates, online registration/verification, priority lanes for seafarers, and logistics and accommodation assistance through recruitment agencies prior to deployment.

In response to a couple of questions regarding support for existing/returning OFs and tourism-related industries:



- DOT shared its training programs on micro-tourism, local farming, culinary skills, homestay accommodation, and multilingual tour guiding
- OWWA shared their assistance packages for returning OFWs in terms of repatriation, logistical and financial assistance, and scholarships for college-level dependents.

After a short break, the webinar proceeded with the second panel consisting of Assistant Secretary Ameenah Fajardo of the DTI, Director Dominique Tutay of the DOLE, Administrator Guillera Asido of the Intramuros Administration (IA), and Mr. Jojo Clemente of the Tourism Congress of the Philippines (TC) to discuss “*Opportunities in Tourism and Other Related Industries.*”

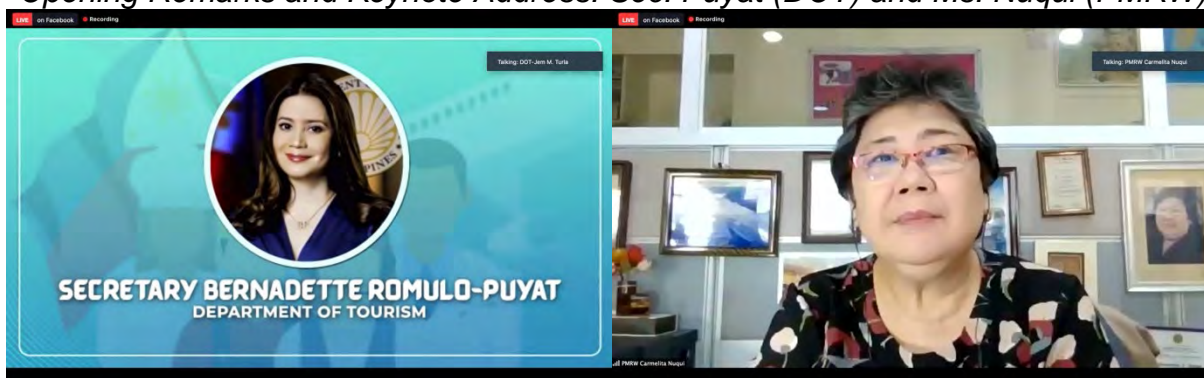
- The discussion began with each panelist highlighting the value and important role of OFs in the tourism industry. The Tourism Congress mentioned how overseas Filipinos serve as frontline promoters or ambassadors of Philippine tourism and, as shared with the Intramuros Administration, how they also encourage local tourism by bringing friends and families overseas back home.
- They are also encouraged to start businesses under the new normal, with the DTI providing business models and systems through their trainings such as e-commerce, with the support provided by DOLE for the repatriated (through OWWA) in creating and providing alternative work opportunities locally by capitalizing on incentives, exemptions, and assistance from the government.
- This also includes opportunities for returning professionals, as shared by DOLE that teachers and nurses, for example, can respectively teach in local schools and serve in health care facilities in their community. Likewise, returning creative professionals can also sell their products and services to customers both here in the Philippines and overseas.
- The DTI also mentioned affordable financing for start-ups through the Small Business Corporation (SBC), as assistance for the establishment or revitalization of tourism-related enterprises.
- The Tourism Congress and Intramuros Administration both agreed on the importance of conducting a thorough assessment of tourist establishments and destinations to ensure that health and safety protocols, ordinances, and protection measures are enforced, not only for the sake of tourists but also of those employed, to build and bring back the confidence in investing and engaging in the Philippine tourism industry
- Ultimately, as DOLE and DTI also pointed out, this will also help in providing viable and convincing local employment and enterprising options for all Filipinos as an alternative to migration.

To end the webinar, Undersecretary Benito Bengzon Jr. of the DOT thanked the panelists and participants in his closing remarks and wished that the webinar has served to acknowledge the sacrifices of overseas Filipinos and to inspire everyone in the common goal of helping our modern-day heroes.

With intermission performances by the Mandaluyong Children’s Choir, the webinar was moderated by Ms. Doris Bigornia of ABS-CBN.

*Screenshots:*

*Opening Remarks and Keynote Address: Sec. Puyat (DOT) and Ms. Nuqui (PMRW)*



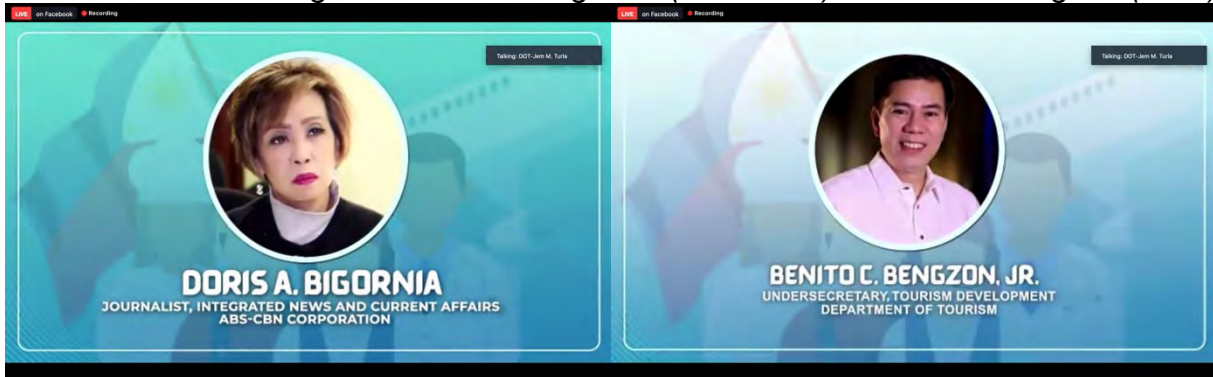
*First Panel (clockwise from top left): Administrator Cacdac (OWWA), Asec. Bueno (DOT), Atty. Mendez (POEA) and Mr. Saliguin (OUMWA),*



*Second Panel (clockwise from top left): Asec. Fajardo (DTI), Dir. Tutay (DOLE), Mr. Clemente (Tourism Congress), and Mr. Asido (Intramuros Administration)*



*Moderator and Closing Remarks: Ms. Bigornia (ABS-CBN) and Usec. Bengzon (DOT)*



**ANNEX 2**

**4TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRANT HEALTH SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED THROUGH THE DOH'S MIGRANT HEALTH UNIT**

 **Healthy Pilipinas**  **PMHN**  
Philippine Migrant Health Network

YOU ARE INVITED

# 4th National Conference on Migrant Health

## WEBINAR SERIES

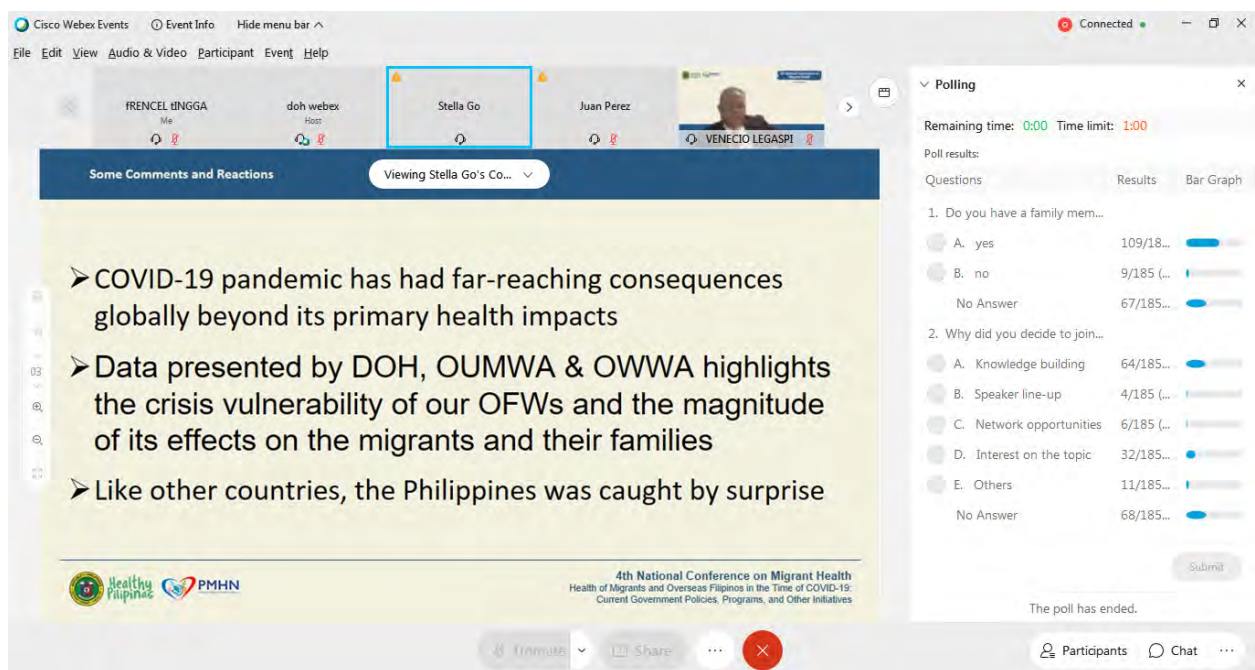
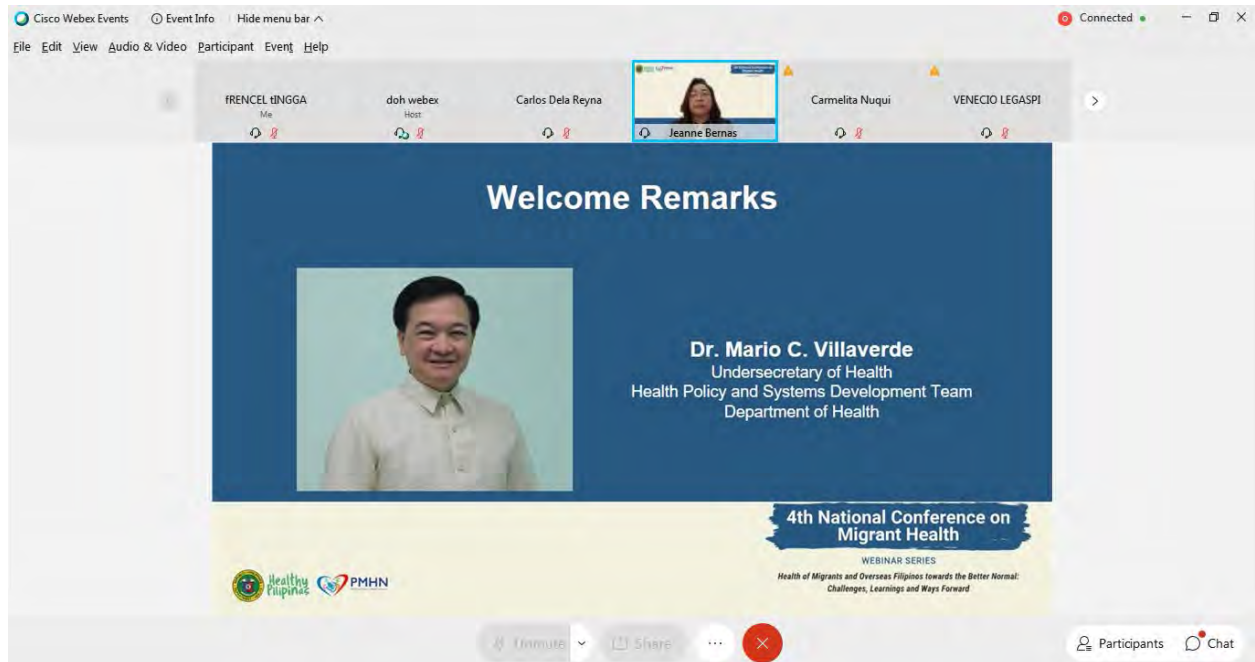
*Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal:  
Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward*

November 18, 2020 | 1:00PM – 4:00 PM (Manila, UTC +8)  
November 26, December 3 & 10, 2020 | 2:00PM - 4:00PM (Manila, UTC +8)

Register at [bit.ly/4thncmh](https://bit.ly/4thncmh)

For inquiries, please email [pmhn.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:pmhn.secretariat@gmail.com) or call 651-7800 local 1304

 OfficialDOHgov  @DOHgovph  [doh.gov.ph](https://doh.gov.ph)  (02) 894-COVID / 1555



**(14 December 2020)** – The Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC) - Migrant Health Unit (MHU) of the Department of Health (DOH) together with the Philippine Migrant Health Network (PMHN) has successfully conducted the 4th National Conference on Migrant Health (NCMH), first time in a virtual format, with the theme “Health of Migrants and Overseas Filipinos towards the Better Normal: Challenges, Learnings and Ways Forward”.

The 4th NCMH is a 4-part webinar series held on November 18 and 26, December 3

and 10, 2020, with over 900 participants registered online. This biennial Conference was participated by experts involved in the field of migration and health which include government officials, policy makers, academic experts, representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foreign service posts and migrants themselves.

The opening session of the 4th NCMH was graced by none other than the Secretary of Health, Francisco T. Duque III. Secretary Duque was able to set the tone of the conference and highlighted the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrants and overseas Filipinos as vulnerable populations. The importance of realizing Universal Health Care (UHC) was also underscored to ensure equitable access to quality health care by all Filipinos, whether in-country or abroad. The welcome remarks delivered by Undersecretary Mario C. Villaverde of the Health Policy and Systems Development Team, pointed out significant contributions and important milestones achieved by the MHU since its establishment in 2014.

The first session of the conference was represented by high-level representatives from various National Government Agencies who presented the current government policies, programs and initiatives on the testing and quarantine protocols, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration services for returning overseas Filipinos. Representatives from different civil society organizations and the academe sector served as the reactors.

The spotlight was on migrant voices during the second session of the conference, where overseas Filipinos shared their real personal experiences on dealing with COVID-19. There was a deep dive into the rich and surreal experiences of migrants themselves and their voices were heard clearly by relevant organizations such as various units from the Philippines' Foreign Service Posts, Overseas Filipino Workers' organizations abroad, and the National Task Force against COVID-19.

In the third session, the keynote speaker, Dr. Maria Rosario S. Vergeire, the Spokesperson and OIC-Undersecretary of Health Regulation Team, discussed the government's response against COVID-19 and introduced the concept of new normal from the health's perspective. She discussed the concept of the 'better normal' within the context of health, and mentioned various risk mitigation measures as well as prescribed behavioral changes that should be institutionalized in all sectors, including the migration sector.

Lastly, the fourth session had distinguished speakers from the International Organization for Migration-Philippines and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). It was highlighted that migrants are identified to be one of the more vulnerable populations and they should have equitable access to health services, including the much awaited COVID-19 vaccines. NEDA underscored also the importance of jumpstarting the economy, although on a graduated basis, to keep up with the capacity of the health system.

The MHU, on behalf of Director Maria Soledad Q. Antonio, delivered the closing remarks of the 4th NCMH webinar series. It was reiterated that the DOH believes that the recovery of our country, from both health and economic losses due to this pandemic, is dependent on sustaining a resilient health system. This can only be done through the progressive realization of Universal Health Care (UHC) for all Filipinos, including overseas Filipinos and their families. Indeed, this conference is an affirmation of the Department's commitment to make UHC a reality.

At the closing of the session, the Bureau echoed what Secretary Duque mentioned in his keynote speech, "Multisectoral collaboration is crucial to make certain that migrants are included in the discourse of health and that their voices are heard in the crafting of migrant-sensitive and migrant responsive health policies and activities. As we now carry forth in our recovery as a nation from the health and economic effects of COVID-19, our health system should be responsive to the ebb and flow of the Filipino population". The BIHC-MHU thanked all the online participants who had been part of the first ever virtual format of the Conference, and extended their deepest appreciation to all the partners, particularly from the various organizations involved in the PMHN. Truly, the success of the 4th NCMH is a testament to the importance of multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration, espousing the whole of society approach. The 5th NCMH is set to be held in 2022.

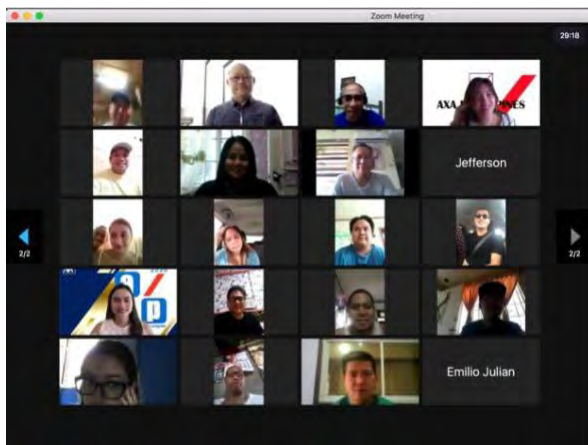
### ANNEX 3

## **“BUSINESS AND LIVELIHOOD PRESENTATION WEBINAR” FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**

Via Zoom Meeting

Date: 07 October 2020, 2 PM to 6 PM

The Office of Assistant Secretary Ameenah A. Fajardo held its Business and Livelihood Presentation Webinar via Zoom for Overseas Filiipinos. The webinar’s objective is to provide participants of various insights on how to start and develop their own businesses. Assistant Secretary Fajardo focused on the different services and programs that the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has to offer including loan assistance under the Small Business Corporation that OFWs may avail for those who are looking for alternative livelihood opportunities and business ventures. The program was more than just showing what DTI has to offer and this is why Assistant Secretary Fajardo invited other resource speakers to indulge and enlightened the participants.



The event started off with a prayer and followed by the Philippine National Anthem, Lupang Hinirang. This was then followed by Assistant Secretary Fajardo’s Welcoming Remarks highlighting that even during these times of the pandemic, DTI is still ready to assist those who need it especially the OFWs who have been repatriated and laid off of their jobs in their host



countries. She mentioned the importance the statement “Together, we can all heal as one.” That no one is alone in living through the current situations.



Following her welcome remarks, Assistant Secretary Fajardo invited presenters from AXA Philippines; Ms. Roanne Navarro and Mr. Raymond Calauad, to provide participants of opportunities on how they should insure themselves for the future, which includes financial advice from the presenters. These topics are essential especially during these times as the pandemic continues to happen worldwide. Assistant Secretary Fajardo mentioned the significance of OFWs availing insurance not only for themselves but for their family. This provides more security than casualties as the years go by.



## The Life Insurance Industry

Nobility of  
the Business

LIVING  
TOO  
LONG



EXPIRE  
TOO  
EARLY



OLD AGE



CRITICAL  
ILLNESS



DISABILITY



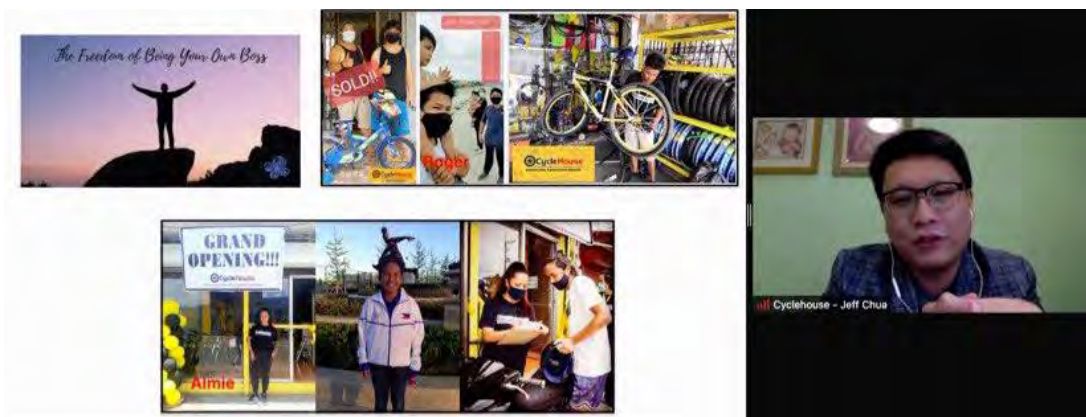
DEATH



Furthermore, Assistant Secretary Fajardo also invited six franchisers from the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI) to present their various business models that the participants may take an interest to and may invest on. The franchising businesses that AFFI presented range from milk tea stalls to bicycle manufacturing and retailing.

The franchisers are as follows:

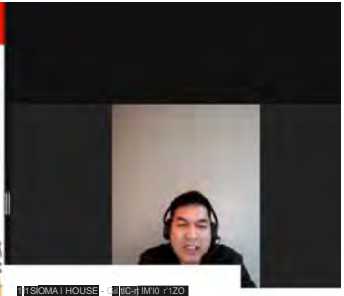
- Mr. Jeff Chua – CycleHouse
- Mr. Gilbert Inmenzo – Siomai House
- Eric Montoya – Mr. Dagupeño
- Mr. Miguel Wieneke – Tokyo Tempura
- Mr. Ronald German – Steaktime
- Mr. Jaypee Morales – Rite Tea



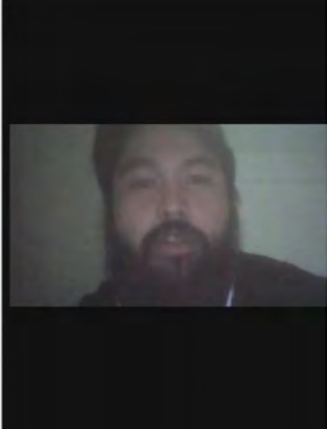
# COMPANY PROFILE

When COME TO SIOMAI HOUSE aERM (ST. WHERE EVERY & ITT FENS LIKE HOME!

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- JWIEEN FOOD CORP is the holding company of Tokyo Tempura led by its President and founder Jorge Wieneke.
- Tokyo Tempura started in 2012 as a cart operation selling shrimp tempura by the bucket. It was inspired by Wieneke's vision to democratize tempura.
- By 2015, Tokyo Tempura introduced Unlimited Tempura for P199 and created a stir in most food parks in the Metro.
- By 2016, the brand hit almost 100 stores in Luzon and Visayas
- To-date we are found in major malls nationwide



**NEGOSYO  
PANGKABUHAYAN**

dti  
AFF Empowering Entrepreneurship  
mentor me PROGRAM

Ronaldo German

**Rite Tea** 30+ BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

Jaypee Morales

Prepared by:

Ekaterina Alessandra Ocampo  
OFW Program Focal Person

Approved by:

Ameenah A. Fajardo  
Assistant Secretary for Special Concerns



**DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL  
WELFARE and DEVELOPMENT**  
International Social Services Office

<b>INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM</b>		File/Ref. No.	MRCC/CJM/RLV
		Date:	18 December 2020
FOR	:	<b>DIRECTOR MARIA ROSARIO C. CUARESMA</b> International Social Services Office	
FROM	:	<b>SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER III</b>	
SUBJECT	:	<b><i>Feedback Report on the International Migrants Day Celebration</i></b>	

This is to respectfully provide you with feedback on the International Migrants Day Celebration conducted on 17 December 2020, 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon, thru google meet.

Said event was organized by the DSWD-ISSO and was facilitated by Mr. Christopher Ryan L. De Onon, PDO III. The activity was attended by the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), Next Of Kin (NOK) of DSWD personnel with family members who are OFWs, Social Welfare Attaches, ISSO regional focal persons, and ISSO staff. DAWN Director Carmelita G. Nuqui and concurrent President of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch, grace the occasion with an inspirational message.

The half day celebration was held with the theme, "Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino Tungo sa Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya". The objectives are as follows:

- Recognize the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic to individuals and families;
- Enumerate the different situations that could lead to crisis;
- Identify the "Red Flag" indicators among clients in crisis.

The resource person was UP Professor Marylou L. Alcid. The participants were provided with input on the following topics:

- Understanding COVID-19 as a Crisis, and it's Psychosocial Impacts;
- Strengths-Based Approach and Coping Skills of Individuals and Families.

**Highlights:**

**COVID-19 as a CRISIS, and it's PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACTS.** Health providers did not fully understand the new corona virus, conflicting opinions on how it is acquired /transmitted or how to respond. There is shortage of health workers, many doctors died and indeed, a big lost. No ready response systems of the government. Among OFWs, financial impact is great in terms of contract termination, work suspension, repatriation often without collecting benefits. But not all negative, there are also positive results. More time to spend at home and have more understanding of children. Compassion and solidity of community, e.g. restaurant in own community that initiated food distribution and intense spontaneous outpouring of sharing to less in need.

So much worries once a family member got infected with COVID-19. Frustration of partner may lead to abuse of children. Depression – with face to face interaction; burnout specifically with frontline workers; anxiety easily triggered because we don't understand what's happening; lots of ideas in mind that leads to anxiety.

STRENGTHS PERSPECTIVE FOCUS should be on the people/community/environment and not only on the individual deficiencies. EMPHASIZE: human/community capacity of resilience, resistance, courage, thriving. Ingenuity, do not be overcome by the problem/difficult situation. Everybody has the competencies and capacity to look forward to possibilities and positive expectations; the Social Workers has to elicit the character, courage, resourcefulness, resilience of the client; the Social Workers also has to mobilize and harness the resources, relationships in order to resolve difficult situations. There also has to be respect between service provider/Social Workers and client/OFWs. Seven (7) Key principles of Strengths Based Approach: mutual respect, social justice, transparency, self-determination, collaborative partnership, power with not power over, focus on strengths and capabilities of the client.

**Key Insights:**

As Social Workers, we have our own anxieties, we have also victims/affected by the pandemic and our anxieties may transmit to our clients. The trick to overcome this is to consciously focus on strengths; strengths as Social Workers and the strength of the client. We believe that all of us, each one of us have strengths and we should emphasize this. Hard but doable. We have to learn to forgive ourselves if we commit mistakes. We remember that everything is in the mind and we have to control our emotions. We cannot allow anxiety to overcome us and rather always have hope. And the greatest hope is provided by the Father Almighty.

In times of crisis, relationship is truly the key.

For reference and further instruction.



**ROSEMARIE VILLADOLID**

Cc.;

**ATTY. AIMEE S. TORREFRANCA - NERI**  
Undersecretary for Operations

**A/SEC GLENDA D. RELOVA**  
Assistant Secretary for Statutory Program

**ANNEX 5**  
**ANINAG: PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION**

The NCCA through Sentro Rizal, presents an online exhibit of the winning entries of the ANINAG: Photo Essay Competition held in celebration of Month of Overseas Filipinos - MOF and International Migrants Day in December.

Three prizes were awarded to Verlex Lizano Arandela from Doha, Qatar; Jonathan Robianes Cacatian from Athens, Greece; and L Aquanta Mahilum from Haifa, Israel. With the theme “Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino Tungo sa Pagbangon Mula sa Pandemya”, the competition highlighted the talents of overseas Filipinos (OFs) in photography and storytelling and provided a space where OFs can share their unique stories in this time of pandemic.



NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS



MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (MOF) 2020

**ANINAG:**

PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:**

**Jonathan Robianes Cacatian  
Verlex Lizano Arandela  
L Mahilum Aguanta**



Sentro Rizal - NCCA



@sentrorizalph



@NCCAOfficial

From a total of 23 photo essay entries, three winners were chosen by a panel of Judges from the NCCA's National Committee on Visual Arts and representatives from member agencies of the Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of Month of Overseas Filipinos.

Photo 1-5

Verlex Lizano Arandela

Doha Qatar











I could say, being a nurse in a foreign land can be morbidly depressing at times and this story is one of those. About 4 months ago, I took care of a COVID-19-positive patient in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. That was my very first time to handle a patient with that novel disease.

I felt anxious and uneasy because my patient was not only struggling to survive the virus but also his ill-fated Burn injury. He was in critical condition. As a nurse, it was really difficult to care for someone if you have little reservations for your own well being. The reality is portraying this virus as highly contagious. Many people have died because of it, targeting mainly the elderly, immunocompromised and those with chronic diseases. But a sudden thought pops up, if healthcare workers are now afraid to take care of them, who else will do? I was not only taking care of someone's health; I was also guarding my own health. Donning my PPE literally from head to toe with minimal to no skin exposure has been my shield from the virus and rigorous frequent hand hygiene regimen seemed to be my armor.

It was hard seeing him on the bed with multiple contraptions, fighting for his life. Uncertain if he can survive it but to feel his plight made me realize many things. Epiphany that only my profession can teach me - that life is precious, life is short and life should be well-lived.

---

Photo 6 - 8

Jonathan Robianes Cacatian  
Athens, Greece





Time felt like it has stopped. Every minute, hour, and day that passed by felt like a blink of an eye. I could only look outside my window and repeatedly ask myself, "When will all of this end?" It felt like yesterday when I was just sharing the laughter among my friends at school in the huge world we have, but suddenly that world has shrunk into a room. A room where I started to feel lost and confused, where the new normal life we are in feels strange, unwanted but welcome. As time has passed, not only negative thoughts ran constantly in my head, I was lying in bed, staring at the ceiling not even knowing what day it was, I felt like it was a loop, a wild animal who is usually free is now stuck in a zoo walking in circles, but the free time it has given me allowed me to reflect on myself which was a silver lining. Tears come and go. Hard times are golden that lead to better days. All I did up to this day was to be grateful for what I have, strive for the best, think of the future, and of course, believe in myself. As life goes on, let's live on.

---

Photo 9-13  
L Aguanta Mahilum  
Haifa, Israel













DEVOTION. An enemy is attacking and the global pandemic is frightening but the defendant vigor is eager to feat. A prayer of a righteous man reaches heaven and is

heard by his powerful Master who knows everything. Pray without ceasing, faith precedes miracles and hope awakens the exhausted soul.

Wellness. The greater the challenge, the better to boost your physical strength. The body achieves what the mind believes. The body may fail to sickness but the soul yearns to live. So while young and able, be bold always to do the best in life and as you grow older regrets will not be a nightmare.

Walk. Walk with your wheels. Some paths maybe thorny yet some paths have rewards for you. Use your wheels to reach beyond your strength! Days and seasons may pass but memories remain.

Pause. The world may be drowning from many challenges but a simple time to pause-to commune with nature makes a difference. As we are tossed in this uncertainty, trusting in our Creator gives peace, serendipity to one's soul. Indeed, days may be blurry but we don't need to hurry. Pause for a moment, connect with nature and you'll find solace in His masterpiece.

QUARANTINE. The echoes of death is vividly and gradually reaching to my employer Raphael yet the soul shouts victory. Death is just a season to mourn and not be afraid of since we all subject to it. What matters great is how you live and how you touch the lives of others.

## ANNEX 6

# PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY AMIDST GLOBAL PANDEMIC

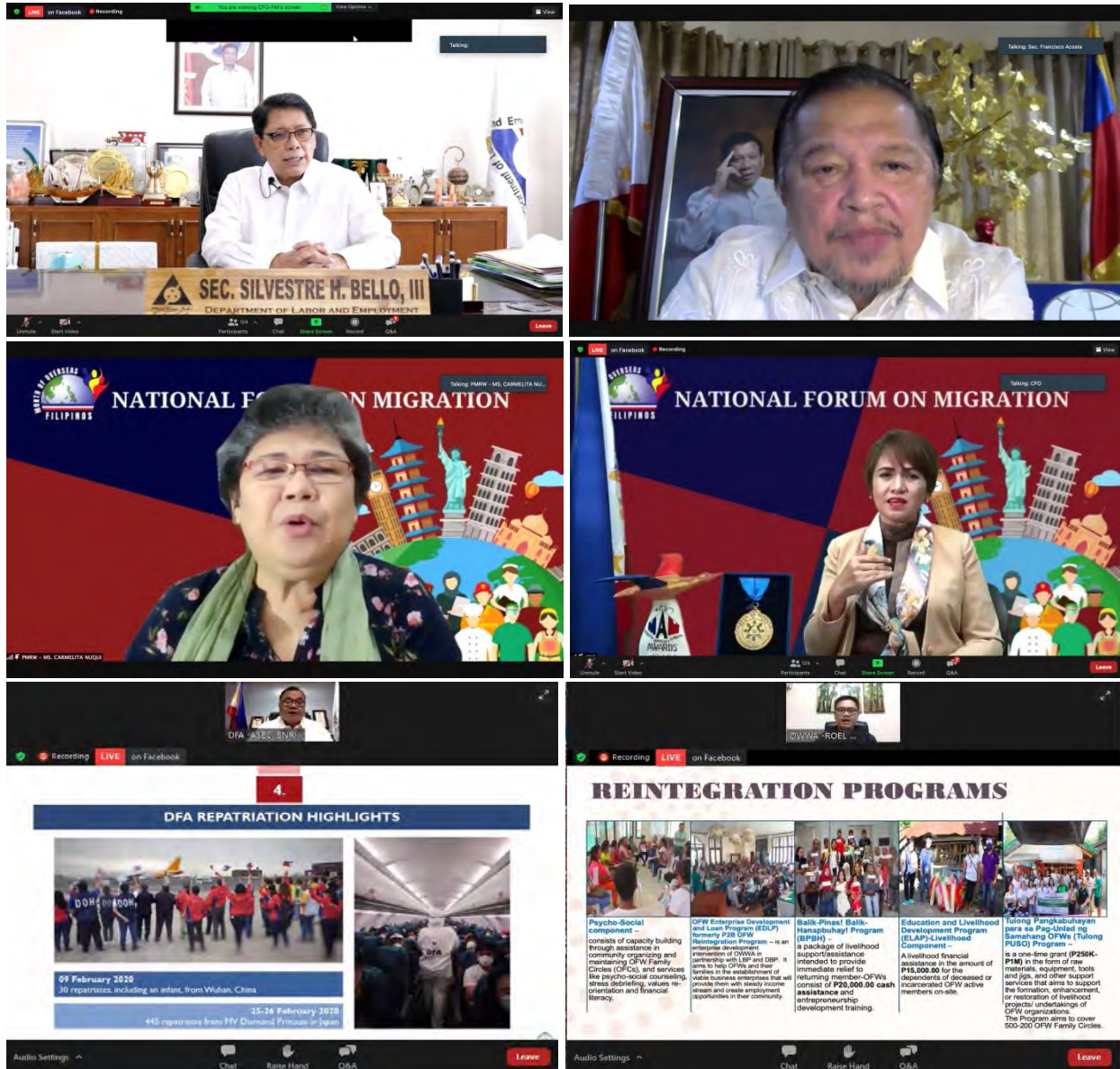


2020 may be the most challenging year in decades, but even the global pandemic brought about by COVID-19 couldn't stop the Philippine annual tradition of celebrating the Month of Overseas Filipinos in December, coinciding with the joyous Christmas season.

The Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF) co-chaired by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch and Commission on Filipinos Overseas, successfully organized the First National Forum on Migration Webinar on December 18, 2020 (which is also the global observance of International Migrants Day) via Zoom and CFO Facebook Live. It is the first time that such an event, usually held in big public gathering as a tribute to more than 10 million Filipino migrants, was held virtually because of the health protocols and restrictions needed to observe during this global health crisis.

The event was graced by Secretary Silvestre Bello III of the Department of Labor and Employment, CFO Secretary Francisco P. Acosta, CFO Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik and PMRW President Carmelita Nuqui, who gave recognition of all the sacrifices and valuable contributions of overseas Filipinos to Philippine development and nation-building. They led the discussion of the National Forum focused on the various reintegration services available for overseas Filipinos affected or displaced by the pandemic, and anchored on this year's MOF theme "Pagpupugay sa Migranteng Filipino tungo sa Pagbangon mula sa Pandemya". In their respective messages, they've said how President Rodrigo Duterte have shown great concern

especially to distressed overseas Filipinos and immediately provided additional funds for their repatriation back to the Philippines and assistance for their livelihood. Partnership among the government, private sector and business, and civil society was also highlighted in assisting the affected migrants to developing and acquiring the vaccine against COVID-19.



The Forum was divided into two sessions. The first part gathered five resource speakers from the Philippine national government who discussed the repatriation assistance and reintegration services for the migrants affected by the pandemic.

Asec. Enrico Fos of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs-Department of Foreign Affairs has been in the forefront in leading the COVID-19 response operations, particularly the mass repatriation of overseas Filipinos affected by the pandemic. He shared

how the DFA mounted chartered flights, successfully bringing home since February more than 306,000 Filipinos from the COVID epicenter Huwan, China, Japan, Uzbekistan, Lebanon and different parts of the world.

Labat. Roel Martin of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration assured returning and repatriated OFWs that they could avail of the various reintegration programs of the government under their "Collective Assistance and Restoration for Emergence" or C.A.R.E. Program. These include Psycho Social Services, OFW Enterprise Development and Loan Program, Balik-Pinas Balik-Hanapbuhay! Program, Education and Livelihood Development Program, Tulong Pangkabuhayan para sa Pag-Unlad ng Samahang OFWs Program, Livelihood Development Assistance Program, Sa Pinas Ikaw ang Ma'am/Sir (SPIMS), Employment facilitation, and DOLE-OWWA AKAP for OFWs, among others.

Dr. Joel Buenaventura of the Migrant Health Unit of the Department of Health discussed their COVID-19 efforts and health services for migrants and overseas Filipino returnees. These include surveillance of COVID-19 cases, medical assistance and coordination of care thru the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program for OFs and One Hospital Command Center, repatriation and management of returning OFS as well as human remains, and PhilHealth benefits for COVID-19 cases.

Asec. Ameenah Fajardo of the Department of Trade and Industry showcased their two latest offering for OFW returnees affected by the pandemic - the COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises or CARES Program, and Helping the Economy Recover thru OFW Enterprise Start-ups or HEROES Program. These loan facilities aim to help existing businesses recover during the pandemic, and assist OFWs rebuild their lives by providing them with opportunity to become entrepreneurs, respectively.

Ms. Elena Clemente of Social Security System shared insurance benefits available to members, highlighting the rise in claim for unemployment benefits by those who lost their jobs because of the pandemic. She also shared their recent COVID-19 Relief Operations for OFWs that include refund of pension loan payments, moratorium on housing and short-term loan, and calamity loan assistance program.

Deputy Director General Aniceto "John" Bertiz III of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority discussed skills training and services for overseas Filipinos affected by the pandemic, focusing on their enterprise-based training programs implemented within firms/companies through apprenticeship or on-site/in-company training arrangements. They also offer various scholarship programs, which are primarily dedicated to the development of the youth's capacity and competitiveness for employment and entrepreneurial undertaking.

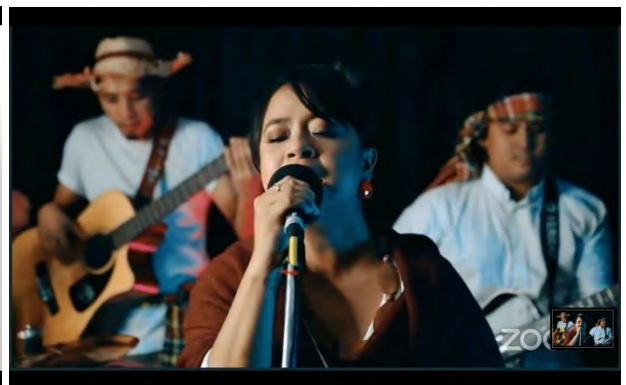




Session 2 of the Forum was devoted to sharing of migrant stories during this time of pandemic. Ms. Marifel Chavez, a former OFW from Dubai is a SPIMS beneficiary of OWWA-NRCO and is about to return to teaching profession in her hometown in Bukidnon. Ms. Aelyn Ortega, who was unable to return for work to Japan because of the pandemic, became a beneficiary of DTI's HEROES Program, allowing her to invest in seaweed farming in her hometown in Surigao del Sur. Some OFWs and OFW returnees affected by the pandemic also gave thanks to President Duterte, for the financial assistance they have received thru the DOLE-AKAP Program.

During the open forum the following issues were raised - new procedures in getting of Philippine passport under the "new normal", effect of the pandemic and decline of OF remittances to the Philippine economy, reintegration assistance specifically for human trafficking victims, and availability of government database on skilled OFWs.

After all the discussion, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts thru video formally launched the online photo exhibit of the Aninag Photo Essay Competition winners. The exhibit showcased artistic talents of overseas Filipinos from Europe and the Middle East who captured unique and moving snapshots of their daily lives while in pandemic.





Afterwards, online participants were treated to a soulful musical performance by CFO's Mr. Joshua Russel Iringan, Mr. Mhelmafa Buenafior of the PNU Chorale, and the OF winners of the NCCA Quaranting Competition - Mr. Gregorio Nolita from Brunei, Mr. Rossderick Vargas from Turkey, and Music Mix, Mr. Jyle Sedillo, and Ms. Mary Grace Millaflora from Thailand.

Three lucky online participants also won P1,000 worth of G-Cash for participating in a surprised quiz show at the end of the program.

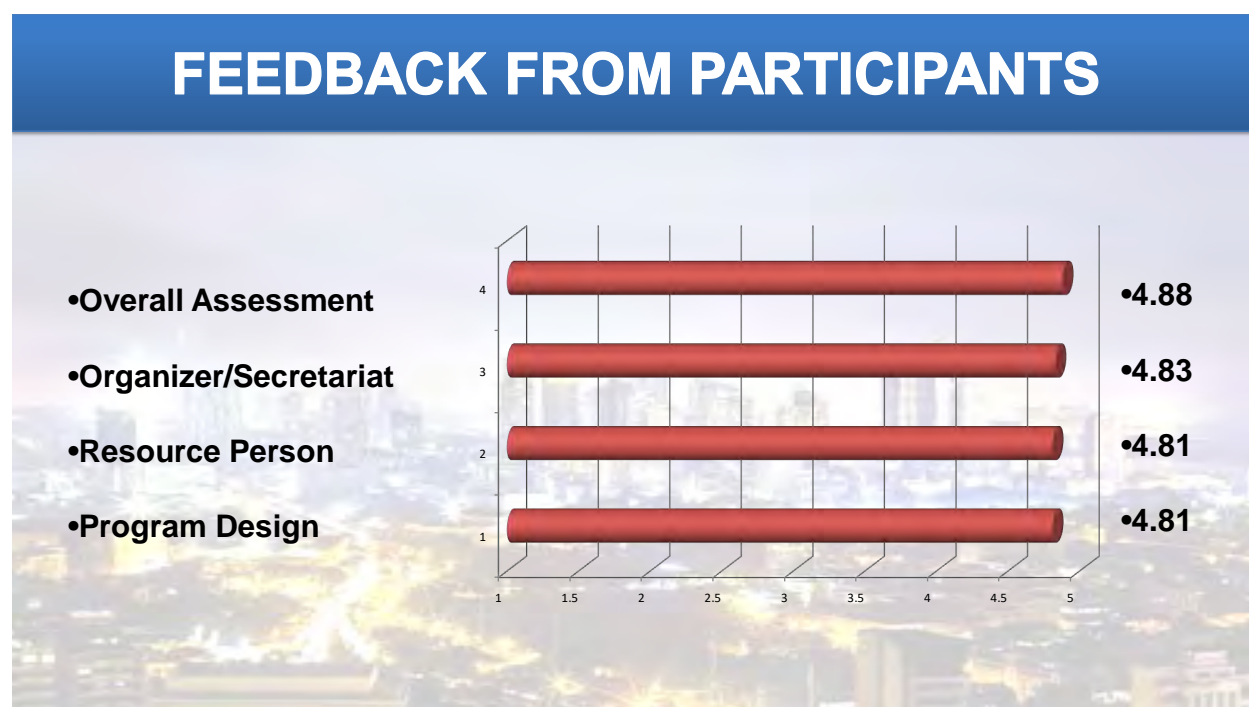
Prior this December 18 event, member agencies of IAC-MOF spearheaded several virtual activities for the migrants and their families as part of the MOF Celebration. These include "Turismo Para sa Lahat Webinar" by the Department of Tourism; "Online Ugnayan sa Japan, South Korea and Hawaii", "Webinar on the Issues of Filipinos in Inter-Marriage", "Online Community Education Program on Migration and Human Trafficking" and "Virtual YouLead Program" by CFO; "4th National Conference on Migrant Health Webinar Series" by the DOH; "Business and Livelihood Presentation Webinar" by DTI; "Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino (with migration-related films)" by the Film Development Council of the Philippines; "Inauguration of IACAT Center, Tahanan ng Iyong Pag-Asa", "Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking", and "Barangay IACAT Webinar" by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.

The IAC-MOF is a migrant-serving government and civil society partnership which for the past decade has been organizing MOF activities. It is composed of PMRW, CFO, DFA, DOLE, DOH, Department of Tourism, Department of the Interior and Local Government, DTI, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Presidential Communications Operations Office, NCCA, Film Development Council of the Philippines, OWWA-NRCO, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, SSS, TESDA, Bureau of Immigration, 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, and Migrant Forum in Asia.

The National Forum was hosted and moderated by Usec. Pimentel-Naik and Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW.

### Feedback from Participants



- Thank you for having a free webinar I hope na magkakaroon pa ulit.
- Department of Agriculture promise to OFW for Livelihood Loans ay parang nawala at di na pinansin ang mga pinaghirapan naming requirements.
- I like the information presented. I only find the visuals unappealing.
- Excellent
- Big Hand to the organizers, GOOD JOB, GREAT Conference!
- It was awesome!

- Very good webinar.
- Ano ang: Commission on Filipinos Overseas? Ano ang: Philippine Migrants Rights Watch and Commission on Filipinos Overseas?
- Sa DSWD po meron po bang assistances ang OFW ?