



2023 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Prepared and Compiled by the
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



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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 Migrant Workers
5. Department of Labor and Employment
6. Department of Health
7. Department of Tourism
8. Department of the Interior and Local Government
9. Department of Trade and Industry
10. Department of social Welfare and Development

11. Office of the Press Secretary
12. National Commission for Culture and the Arts
13. Film Development Council of the Philippines
14. Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
15. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
16. National Reintegration Center for OFWs
17. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
18. Pag-IBIG Home Development Mutual Fund
19. Social Security System
20. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
21. Bureau of Immigration
22. Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
23. League of Provinces of the Philippines
24. League of Cities of the Philippines
25. League of Municipalities of the Philippines
26. Philippine Migration Research Network
27. Migrant Forum in Asia

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

The MOF theme for 2023 is “Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs Towards Sustainable Reintegration.” This emphasizes the importance of providing essential programs and services to our migrant returnees and members of their families in achieving sustainable reintegration and development.

II. PREPARATORY MEETINGS BY IAC-MOF

The IAC-MOF conducted six IAC-MOF regular meetings for 2023, with several pocket and preparatory meetings.



Meeting	Venue	Date
1 st IAC-MOF Meeting	Department of Interior and Local Government, Quezon City	May 2, 2023
2 nd IAC-MOF Meeting	Department of Health, Manila	June 26, 2023
3 rd IAC-MOF Meeting	Bureau of Immigration, Pasay City	July 19, 2023
4 th IAC-MOF Meeting	PhilHealth, Pasig City	August 14, 2023
5 th IAC-MOF Meeting	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Pasay	September 14, 2023
6 th IAC-MOF Meeting	Presidential Communications Office, Manila	November 16, 2023

III. MOF BANNER



The MOF Banner design was made by PCO. The banner shows a group of overseas Filipinos representing different professions, and an OFW family in the airport depicting the return of an OFW back to the Philippines. It also highlights the theme for this year's MOF Celebration. In the background is a collage of the various reintegration services of migrant serving agencies in the Philippines, during Migrant Fairs and other activities of the IAC-MOF.

IV. 2023 MOF ACTIVITIES

The IAC-MOF organized for main activities and supported 6 activities of member agencies for the 2023 MOF Celebration.

Activity	Date	Organizer	No. of Participants
1. MIGRANT FAIR IN AGUSAN DEL NORTE	October 20, 2023	IAC-MOF in partnership with the Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte	450
2. MIGRANT FAIR IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	November 8-9, 2023	IAC-MOF in partnership with the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental	850
3. SSS OFW DAY, SSS, QUEZON CITY	December 1, 2023	SSS	200
4. INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN GREECE	December 3, 2023	IAC-MOF in partnership with Philippine Embassy in Athens	150
5. FILM SHOWING ON MIGRATION "PUROK 7"	December 13, 2023	FDCCP and IAC-MOF	20
6. NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION	December 18, 2023	IAC-MOF	250
TOTAL			1,920

1. MIGRANT FAIR IN AGUSAN DEL NORTE

October 20, 2023



The Inter-Agency Committee on the Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF) led by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW), successfully conducted a daylong Migrant Fair in Agusan del Norte on October 20, 2023. Mainly sponsored by the Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)-CARAGA Region, the Fair held at Almond Inland Resort provided services to more than 400 migrant workers and their families, most of whom came from Agusan del Norte province and Butuan City. The pre-MOF activity, was a convergence activity of government, civil society and business, and in line with the “Bagong Pilipinas” program and brand of governance under the leadership of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.

The event was graced by Provincial Administrator Elizabeth Calo, who represented Governor Maria Angelica Rosedell M. Amante, Asec. Evangeline de Leon of Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Asst. Regional Director Raymond Fel Sajor of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Provincial Director Lorijane D. Sacote of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Dr. Airish Guia C. Magtibay of the Department of Health (DOH), Executive Director Bernadette Mendoza of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Mr. Rodel P. Deligero of OWWA, Provincial Director Carlito Quintano of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and PhilHealth Regional Vice President William O. Chavez.

Special video messages for the participants were given by CFO Secretary Romulo V. Arugay, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) OIC-Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, and PMRW Chair Carmelita Nuque who praised the sacrifices of our overseas Filipinos and their important contributions to national and local development.

Participating agencies from the government, civil society groups and international organizations which set-up booths include CFO, DFA, DOH, DOLE, DMW, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Tourism (DOT), DTI, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), OWWA, Pag-IBIG Fund (Pag-IBIG), PhilHealth, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), PCO, Social Security System (SSS), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Unlad Kabayan.

These organizations provided an array of free services that include agency consultation, health and wellness services, basic medical check-up, flu and pneumonia vaccination, nutrition and family counseling, HIV testing and counseling, dental services, distribution of vitamins and medicines, legal consultation, haircut and massage, issuance of Pag-IBIG Loyalty Card, updating of government records, passport application, skills training, setting up of photo booth, provision of information materials, freebies and tokens. OWWA also awarded financial assistance for their beneficiaries under the Balik Pinas! Balik Hanapbuhay! Program.

A mini trade fair was mounted by DTI and showcased various food and other products owned mostly by OFW families from CARAGA Region. Businesses that participated include PHD Spicy Foods Corporation (PHD SFC), Nadeen's Gown Gallery and Enterprises, Ambrosia's Food Products, Lea's Food Products, Jojajeb Food Products, 12.25 Coffee House, Succulent Enterprise, Butuanon Producers Association, Resee's Food Products, Tonyts Food Products (TFP), and Aquarianne Food Products. To inspire the participants, successful entrepreneurs - Gay S. Pia of PHD SFC, Antonitte C. Canda of TFP, Roy Maceda who has water purifying station, Maybonn-set M. Martinez who has a sizzling food bar, and Cherrylyn B. Mahilom who has food cart business - also shared their success stories.

A job fair, organized by DOLE, provided local employment opportunities to participants – a good reintegration program for returning OFWs. Employers that participated include ARQ Builders, Equi-Parco Construction Company, Wing On, Wizard Manpower and Allied Services, SM City Butuan, Davao Manpower, Gaisano Mall, Happy Enterprises, Bachelor Express, JMNC Technological Training Center, and D'Best Value Products Distribution. More than 20 job applicants were hired on the spot, and about a hundred qualified during job interview by respective employers.

Participants, who were treated to dance and song numbers, trivia games with prizes, and raffle items of various home appliances and gadgets, sacks of rice, grocery items, and local trip to Enchanted River in Hinatuan, expressed appreciation for a fun-filled day of celebration.

The program was hosted by Ms. Jenny Lascoña of OWWA, Mr. Jun Jumong and Ms. Johanna Quiñones of DOH.











































DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
CARAGA REGION

JOB FAIR 2023

ALMONT INLAND RESORT, BUTUAN CITY
OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 8AM - 4PM

- STEP 1** **REGISTRATION AREA**
-Register Attendance
-Secure Job Fair Forms
- STEP 2** **FILL-OUT AREA**
-Fill-out NSRP Form
- STEP 3** **VACANCY AREA**
-Look for Job Vacancies













2. MIGRANT FAIR IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

November 8-9, 2023



The Provincial Government of Negros Occidental and the Inter-Agency Committee on the Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF) led by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW), successfully conducted a two-day Migrant Fair at SMX Convention Center, Bacolod City on November 8-9, 2023. The Fair provided services to more than 800 migrant workers and their families, mostly OFW Family Circle members. The first day was dedicated to OFWs and their families from Northern Negros, and the second day for those coming from the Southern part.

The pre-MOF event was a convergence activity of government, civil society and business, and in line with the “Bagong Pilipinas” program and brand of governance under the leadership of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks from the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose “Bong” Lacson, and Bacolod City Mayor Alfredo Abelardo “Albee” Benitez, both of whom extended their gratitude to the overseas Filipino community and their families for their unwavering support. Governor Lacson shared that the provincial government has instituted programs and services for OFWs, including partnership with the International Labor for Organization on Migrant Resource Center and Help Desk, and providing

financial assistance to distressed OFWs and to the families of those who died during the COVID-19 global pandemic and other calamities. Mayor Benitez, on the other hand, said that the city government has allocated P5 million in livelihood assistance for returning OFWs.

Special video messages for the participants were given by CFO Secretary Romulo V. Arugay, and PMRW Chair Carmelita Nuque who praised the sacrifices of our overseas Filipinos and their important contributions to national and local development.

Also present in the event were Bacolod City Councilor Cindy Rojas, Atty. Alma Royandoyan-Alli of the CFO, PhilHealth Regional Vice President William O. Chavez, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Negros Occidental OIC Provincial Director Lynna Joy Cardinal, Regional Vice President William Chavez, Dr. Lilani Benedian of the Social Security System, and OWWA Region VI OIC Regional Director Rizza Joy Moldes.

Participating agencies from the government, civil society groups and international organizations which set-up booths include the Provincial Government, CFO, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), DOH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Tourism (DOT), DTI, International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), OWWA, Pag-IBIG Fund (Pag-IBIG), PhilHealth, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Social Security System (SSS), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

These organizations provided an array of free services that include agency consultation, health and wellness services, basic medical check-up, HIV testing and counseling, mental health counseling, digital x-ray services, distribution of vitamins and medicines, massage, issuance of Pag-IBIG Loyalty Card, updating of government records, passport application, skills training, photo booth, provision of information materials, freebies and tokens. OWWA also awarded financial assistance for their beneficiaries under the Balik Pinas! Balik Hanapbuhay! Program.

A mini trade fair was mounted by DTI and the Provincial Government and showcased various food and other products owned mostly by OFW families from Negros. Businesses that participated include Virgies Homemade Products, Margies Filipino Pastries, Claras Food Products, Sugar Valley Coffee, Gawahon Honey, Rensel's Food Products, Nannette Agri and Products, Momshie/MFK Batuan, Laguerta Apolonio, Danielle's Food Products, Bush Bush Coffee, Mt. Kanla-on Coffee, ASMBI Foods, JN TRU Herbal Foods, Rama Chocolates, Mangkasroast Coffee/Cafe Norma, Llanera Tamarind Jam, Susan Dried Fish, Gracie's Best by GraceBox, T Flavor's, Alter Trade Philippines, Crigo Handicrafts, Saturn Arts and Fashion, Azatri Souvenirs, D'Bayong, and Lilas Pandan Livelihood Association.

To inspire the participants, former OFWs assisted by the government (mainly OWWA and DTI) shared their success stories. These entrepreneurs, now based in Negros, include Bernard Velasco Lamio, Archie Lamio Sayo, Rodson Segayo Riofrir, Epifanio Enojo, Nannette Thiel, Kristin Nicolau, and Jerann Uberas. OWWA also awarded cheques for their beneficiaries under the Balik Pinas! Balik Hanapbuhay! Program.

A job fair, organized by DOLE and the PESO Provincial Government, provided local employment opportunities to participants – a good reintegration program for returning OFWs. Employers that participated include PanAsiatic, RMA Manpower, TTEC, Negros Grace Pharmacy, and Toyota Negros Occidental. Job vacancy available are Customer service representative, manager, sales personnel, cashier, housekeeping personnel, driver, vehicle sales agent, licensed pharmacist, among others.

Participants were also treated to games, and dance and song numbers from VMA Global College and Training Center Performers (composed of Poseidon Dance Theater and Masskara Dancers), Orlan M. Desucatan (Champion ASEAN Flairtending Competition during the ASEAN Exhibit and Skills Expo 2023), Negros Occidental Singing Ambassadors, Federation of OFW Family Circle Talisay City Zumba Dancers, Ms. Janelle Maraya D. Paderog of DILG, Mr. Enrique R. Custado of CFO, and Former OFWs Ms. Desiree Camus and Ms. Jennife Llanera.

The most anticipated part of the program was the raffle draw, where participants got the chance to win fantastic prizes sponsored by IAC-MOF. These included bags of rice, grocery items, and home appliances such as microwave oven, rice cooker, washing machine and smart television.

The program was hosted by Mr. Ramon Albeza of OWWA and Mr. Lorenzo Lambatin, Jr. of PIA.

The MOF Migrant Fair in Negros Occidental was not just a celebration but also forms part of the provincial government's '*Abanse Negrense*' vision and a testament to the unwavering support and commitment of the Philippine government to our overseas Filipinos.



























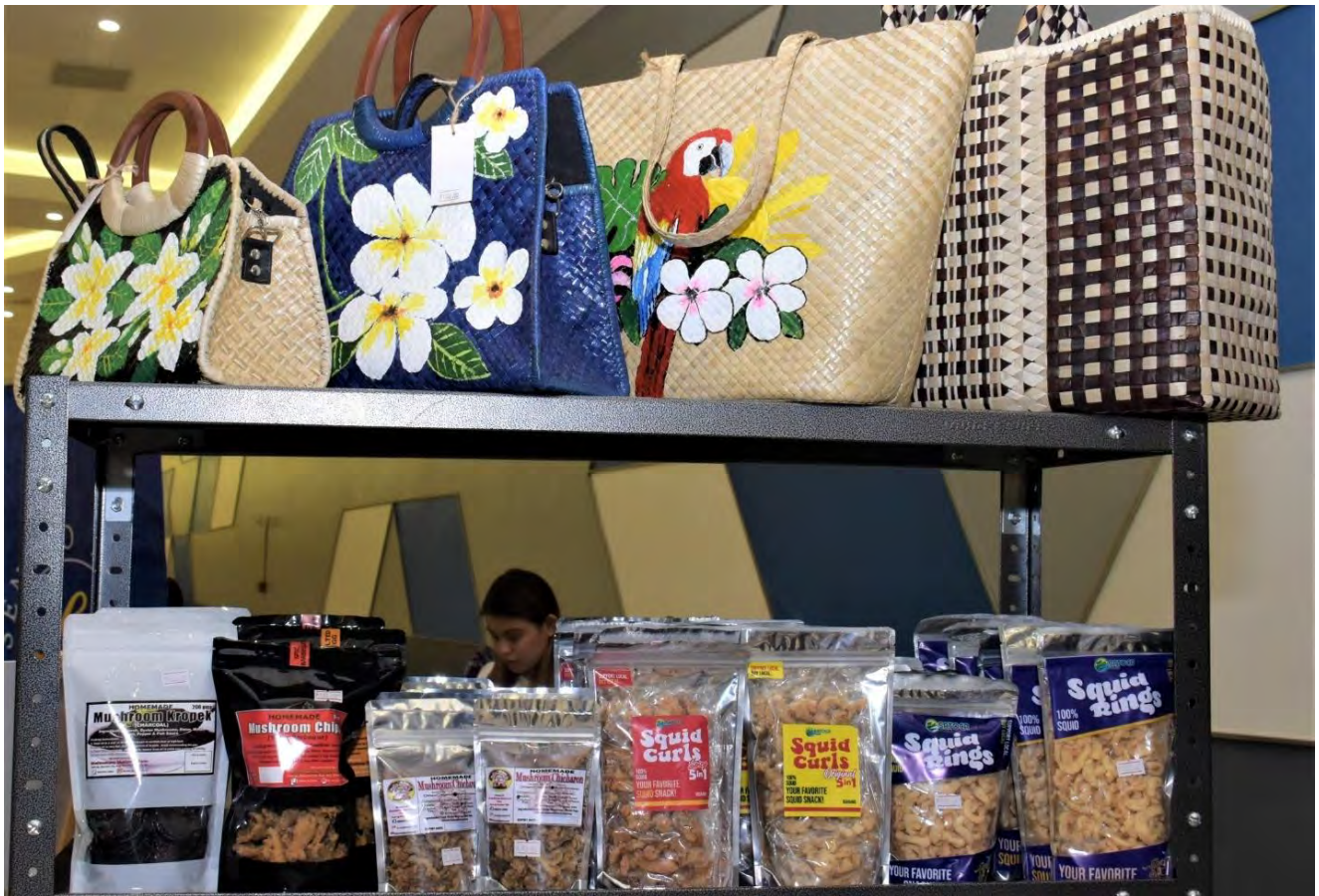


























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3. SSS OFW DAY

December 1, 2023



In line with its 66th Anniversary Celebration, the Social Security System (SSS) organized the OFW Day on December 1, 2023 at Ramon Magsaysay Hall, SSS Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

With an estimated 200 attendees, the celebration was a treat to SSS-OFW members and beneficiaries, and honored the sacrifices and contributions of OFWs to Motherland. The event was graced by SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Rolando Ledesma Macasaet and OFW Party List Representative Marissa "Del Mar" Magsino. SSS Executive Vice President of the Branch Operations Sector Mr. Voltaire Agas highlighted the importance of OFWs and their family members to be part of the SSS in order to be protected by unprecedented calamities and unlawful acts.

This meaningful OFW Day celebration also provided attendees with the opportunity to explore the diverse services offered by other partner government agencies of SSS, such as such as the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), OFBank, iRemit, Billeroo, AltPayNet, Tinbo by PLDT, PNB, UnionBank, and Ventaja.



4. INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN GREECE

December 3, 2023



As part of the 2023 Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF), the Inter-Agency Committee on MOF, led by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) and Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), organized a forum and caravan of government services for Filipinos in Greece. The Hellenic Republic is home to about 17,000 Filipinos, mostly OFWs.

The event with a theme “*Empowering Overseas Filipinos / OFWs Towards Sustainable Reintegration*” was hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Athens, and held on December 3, 2023 at Divani Caravel Hotel, Athens. It was participated by more than 150 Filipino community leaders from Greece and Cyprus, and Philippine head of posts in Europe.

Gracing the event were Ambassador Giovanni E. Palec of the Philippine Embassy, Labor Attache Cynthia Cruz of the MWO, Usec. Eduardo Jose A. De Vega of the DFA, and Carmelita G. Nuqui, President of the PMRW. They praised the immense contributions of overseas Filipinos in Philippine development and highlighted the importance of reintegration program of the government, upon their eventual return to the home country. Ambassador Palec also

highlighted that the event fall within the period of the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, noting that majority of OFWs in Greece is women.

Asec. Venecio V. Legaspi of the Department of Migrant Workers presented Full-cycle National Reintegration Program of the government for OFs and their families. He discussed reintegration programs and services of DMW such as Livelihood Development Assistance Program, Balik-Pinay Balik-Hanapbuhay, Sa Pinas Ikaw ang Maam at Sir, Financial Awareness Seminar-Small Business Management Training, Tulong Puso, Balikbayanihan Program, and Project ORION.

Admin. Arnell A. Ignacio of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) presented various programs and services for OWWA members and their dependents. These include social and health benefits, education and training assistance, welfare and reintegration programs, and repatriation assistance. He also showcased the newest AYOS OWWA Trucks equipped with powerful lights, WIFI, LED Screen for video calls, clinic, shower, kitchen, generators, sound system, collapsible stage, which aim to help families of OFWs in the Philippines during calamities.

Head Executive Asst. Atty. Alma Royandoyan-Alli, who represented CFO Secretary Romulo V. Arugay, presented CFO programs and services for overseas Filipino youth. She highlighted Youth Leaders in the Diapora, Philippine Schools Overseas, Virtual Sentro Rizal, BaLinkBayan Program, and Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. Sec. Arugay who gave a virtual message said that our overseas Filipinos and OFWs' welfare is among the top priorities of President Ferdinand "Bong-bong" Marcos' Administration, emphasizing that the government is "putting in place responsive mechanisms for the social welfare, repatriation, and reintegration of our returning OFWs."

Ms. Gina Marie Esmaña of the Department of Tourism represented Balikbayani sa Turismo. She discussed tourism-related training programs of DOT for returnees, as well as their latest flagship program "Bisita, Be My Guest" to promote the Philippines to foreigners.

Usec. Cherbett Karen Maralit and Ms. Patricia Maranan of the Presidential Communications Office presented Freedom of Information Program, which could also be availed by overseas Filipinos who wanted to access public documents and information from the executive branch of the government.

Agriculture Attaché Kristine Jeanne A. Yap of the Department of Agriculture (DA) presented Agribusiness Opportunities for OFWs and Support Services of DA. She also highlighted the potential of OFs in promoting Philippine agricultural, fisheries and food exports.

Ms. Aiza Marie C. Advincula of the Department of Health (DOH) presented DOH Programs and Services on Migrant Health, highlighting the Philippine Migrant Health Network and the Inter-agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program for OFs.

Atty. Eli Dino D. Santos of PhilHealth presented the Overseas Filipinos Program of PhilHealth, the health benefits they, including their dependents could avail.

Ms. Lydia E. Cabagnot of the Social Security System (SSS) presented the SSS Program for OFs, from membership benefits, loan programs, to savings and investment options.

Ms. Andrea Nichole Gatbonton of Pag-IBIG Fund presented via Zoom the benefits and services of Pag-IBIG to OF members. These include regular and MP2 savings, multi-purpose and housing loans.

The participants were able to engage with the officials directly during the open forum to raise issues that concern them. These include status of the bilateral agreement between Philippines and Greece on Social Security Agreement, why the need for registration with the CFO of dual citizens/ marriage migrants, payment and dividend with Pag-IBIG and SSS, coverage of the educational assistance program of OWWA for dependents living abroad, and what the government can do for recruiters imposing exorbitant fees, among others.

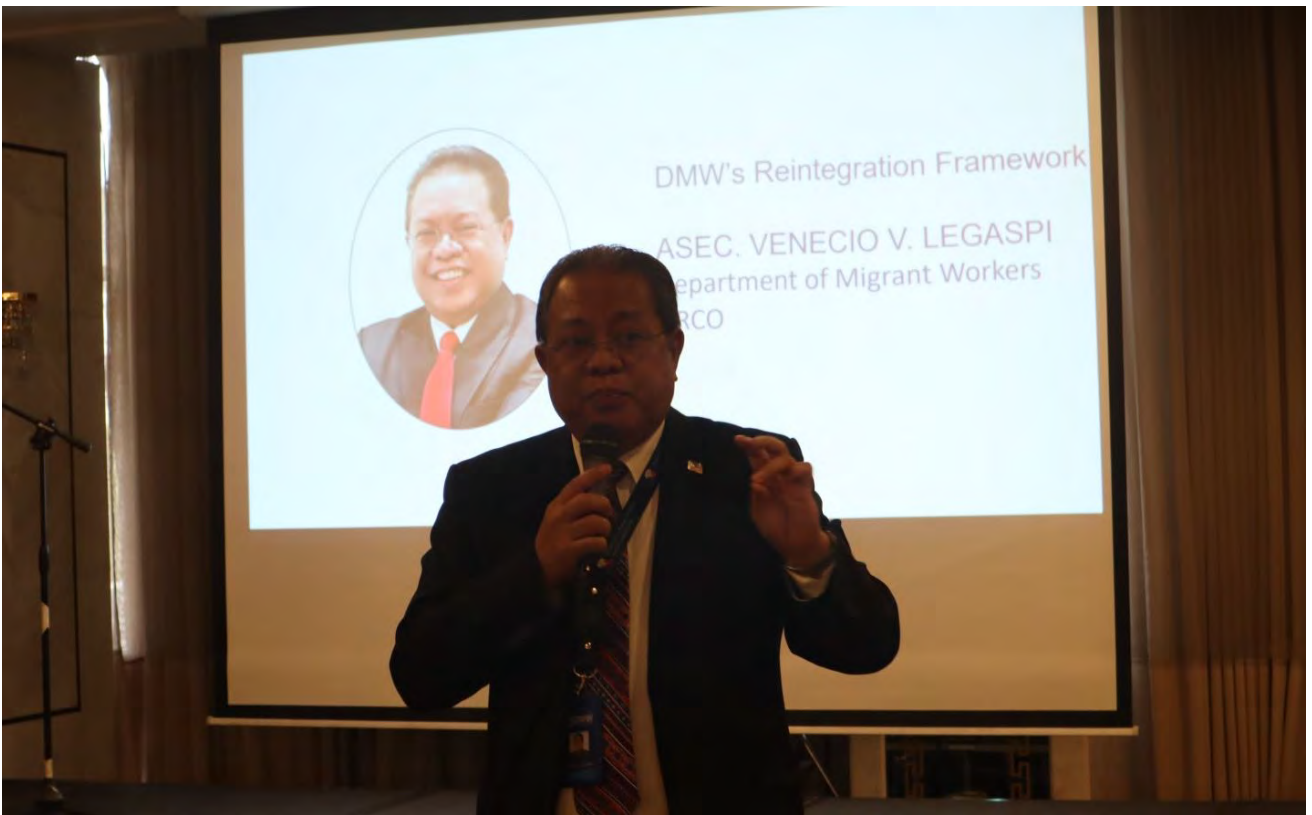
Successful migrant entrepreneurs from Greece and neighboring country Cyprus, also shared their inspiring success stories, as they ventured into business. They include Ms. Margarita Agana (AirBnb host), Mr. Edwin Castillo (Cargo forwarder), Ms. Gracia Celia Nickel (representative in Greece of the Association of PSOs), and Ms. Armelita Sunga (Agripneur).

Simultaneous with the forum, representatives of the SSS, PhilHealth, DOT, PCO, MWO-OWWA Athens set up booth and offered their services to Filipinos in Greece in a one-stop-shop.

The Forum was formally closed by Labor Attaché Cruz. It was hosted by Ms. Patricia Maranan of PCO, Mr. Lance A.S. Velasco of PMRW, and Consul Judy Robianes of the Philippine Embassy.

Prior the Forum, the IAC-MOF held a preparatory meeting at the MWO, Athens on December 2, 2023. After the Forum, the DFA and Philippine Embassy hosted a welcome dinner for the IAC-MOF members and the Head of Posts in Europe at Cookoovaya Restaurant. MWO also hosted a visit to the newly opened Migrant Workers Resource Center. Labat Cruz toured the IAC-MOF members to the Center, which opened last August 2023. It could be used by Filcom for free to host their meetings/ gatherings.



























5. FILM SHOWING ON MIGRATION “PUROK 7”

December 13, 2023



As part of the 2023 MOF Celebration, IAC-MOF and Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) sponsored a free film showing on Migration, featuring the film “PUROK 7” at Cinematheque Manila on December 13, 2023.

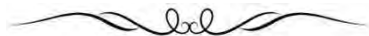
The movie, written and directed by Carlo Obispo, tells a poignant and heartwarming story of two siblings as they go through life and childhood in a country farm village called "Purok 7". They live independently for their father is living with another woman in the area while their mother is working abroad, and falsely accused of drug trafficking case. Set against a backdrop of laid-back living and copious optimism characteristic of country life, the movie is an endearing tale of innocence and reality, and the wonderfully inescapable bonds of community. It tackled social costs of migration and the challenges faced by OFWs while working abroad.

The screening was attended by university students and IAC-MOF members.



6. NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

December 18, 2023



On International Migrants Day - December 18, 2023, the Inter-agency Committee on Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF), celebrated thru a forum, the contributions of overseas Filipinos to Philippine development. IAC-MOF is co-chaired by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) and Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), with members from the government and migration sector.

With the theme “Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs Towards Sustainable Reintegration”, the National Forum on Migration held at Sheraton Manila Bay, was a tribute to overseas Filipinos and their families. Attended by more than 200 participants, including OFW Family Circle members and migrant returnees, it was the culminating activity of the 2023 MOF Celebration, and sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)-Manila.

The event was graced by CFO Secretary Romulo V. Arugay, Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW), Usec. Cherbett Maralit of the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Asec. Jerome Alcantara of the Department of Migrant Workers, and Ms. Yuko Tomita of IOM.

During his message Sec. Arugay commended our *bagong bayani*, stressing that their welfare is among the top priorities of the present administration - *“Our beloved President Ferdinand “Bong-bong” Marcos, Jr. has constantly assured our OFs that the government would continue to provide assistance to them, whenever and wherever they are.”* And because of their unwavering commitment to improving our nation and the global community, he asked the stakeholders to continue building a more inclusive and supportive environment for them.

Sec. Arugay also led the launching of the opening of nominations to the 2024 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO).

PAFIOO is the highest honor bestowed by the Philippine President to Filipinos and organizations based overseas which have uplifted lives and communities through their exceptional contributions in their respective fields of work and philanthropic initiatives.

Ms. Nuqui highlighted the importance and history of MOF Celebration and shared the activities in the Philippines and abroad, organized by the IAC-MOF for this year. She also commended the significant contributions of overseas Filipinos to motherland.

Other resource speakers include ExDir. Bernadette A. Mendoza of Department of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Admin. Mary Melanie Quiño of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Dir. Patrick P. Patriwirawan, Jr. of the Department of Labor and Employment, and Ms. Aileen Constantino-Peñas of Atikha. They discussed their organization’s respective programs and services, in line with reintegration, employment opportunities, and migrant welfare and assistance. Participants were able to clarify their issues and concerns, especially in availing government service from these agencies, during the open forum.

Ms. Nomie Cruz, former OFW from Bahrain and Yemen and now successful entrepreneur, also shared her poignant and inspiring journey, to encourage OFWs to invest and plan for their eventual reintegration back to the country. The latest book by PMRW - *“Migrants’ Stories, Migrants’ Voices”* 8th Edition - was also launched, with some of the contributors sharing their insights and experiences on migration.

Also present during the forum are Usec. Valery Joy Brion and Atty. Alma Royandoyan-Alli of CFO, Asec. Evangeline de Leon of PCO, and Mr. William O. Chavez of PhilHealth.

Part of the forum was information caravan thru agency booths, and entertainment thru song numbers and raffle of gift items sponsored by IAC-MOF.











V. ACTIVITY EVALUATION

The activities organized by the IAC-MOF generally have favorable rating from the participants.

