



2024 MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

PREPARED AND COMPILED BY THE
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



2024 MOF ACTIVITIES

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I. BACKGROUND

Proclamation 276 declared every December as the “Month of Overseas Filipinos”

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.



1988



2000

UN General Assembly proclaimed December 18 as International Migrants Day

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

AO 202 created the IAC-MOF, government-CSO partnership to lead celebration of MOF

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.



2007

I.I MEMBER AGENCIES



Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (Chair) **Commission on Filipinos Overseas (Co-Chair)**

- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Migrant Workers
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Health
- Department of Tourism
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Presidential Communications Office
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts
- Film Development Council of the Philippines
- Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
- Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
- Pag-IBIG Home Development Mutual Fund
- Social Security System
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- 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
- Migrant Forum in Asia

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

I.II 2024 THEME

The MOF theme for 2024 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

1ST IAC-MOF MEETING



2ND IAC-MOF MEETING



Host: **Presidential Communications Office**

Venue: **PCO Office,
Malacañang Palace Compound**

Date: **April 18, 2024**

The meeting reviewed the 2023 MOF activities and budget status, discussed the proposal to incorporate the Bagong Pilipinas through MOF activities, and deliberated on the schedule and venue of migrant fairs to be organized by OWWA and CFO.

Host: **Social Security System**

Venue: **SSS Executive Lounge, Quezon City**

Date: **May 28, 2024**

The meeting revolved around the review of the legal bases for MOF, proposed integration of the Bagong Pilipinas logo into MOF, the proposed activities and its tentative calendar of activities.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) also unveiled the DMW-PSE Financial Education Program for OFWs, which is a collaborative effort to enhance financial literacy among overseas Filipinos.

3RD IAC-MOF MEETING

Host: **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration**

Venue: **OWWA Central Office**

Date: **June 27, 2024**

The meeting focused on planning for the activities of the 2024 MOF, particularly the target venues and schedules of Migrant Fairs, International Forum on Migration, and National Forum on Migration.



II. PREPARATORY MEETINGS



4TH IAC-MOF MEETING

Host: **Pag-IBIG Fund**
Venue: **Pag-IBIG OFW Center, Ayala Malls, Manila Bay**
Date: **July 30, 2024**

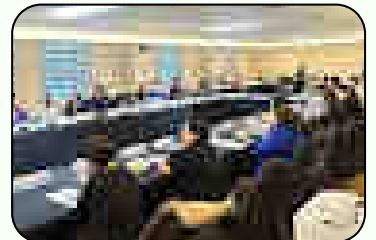
The meeting planned key MOF initiatives, including the Migrant Fairs in Tacloban City and Misamis Oriental, International Forum in Canada, and the National Forum to be hosted by the DMW.



5TH IAC-MOF MEETING

Host: **Bureau of Immigration**
Venue: **Bayview Park Hotel**
Date: **August 27, 2024**

The meeting served as a continuation of the discussions regarding the planned Migrant Fairs in Tacloban City and Misamis Oriental, the International Forum to be held in Canada and South Korea, as well as the National Forum on Migration and the Cineforum.



6TH IAC-MOF MEETING

Host: **Department of Migrant Workers**
Venue: **Blas F. Ople, Mandaluyong City**
Date: **October 1, 2024**

The meeting covered a post-event assessment of the 2024 MOF Migrant Fair in Tacloban City, plans for the upcoming Migrant Fair in Misamis Oriental, and details about the two International Forums in Seoul and Toronto occurring in December.



II. PREPARATORY MEETINGS

7TH IAC-MOF MEETING



Host: **Bureau of Immigration**
Venue: **Bayview Park Hotel**
Date: **November 5, 2024**

The meeting revolved around the conduct of post-assessment activity of the successful 2024 MOF Migrant Fair in Misamis Oriental, plans for the International Forums in South Korea and Canada, details of the National Forum on Migration, and selection of notable films to be featured through the Cine Forum.



II.I SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

MIGRANT FAIR WORKING GROUP



Date: June 18, 2024

Venue: CFO Quezon City Office

Agenda: Strategize and plan for the 2024 Migrant Fairs

NATIONAL FORUM WORKING GROUP



Date: July 9, 2024

Venue: DMW Mandaluyong City Office

Agenda: Strategize and plan for the 2024 National Forum

NATIONAL FORUM WORKING GROUP



Date: November 25, 2024

Venue: DMW Mandaluyong City Office

Agenda: Finalize plans for the 2024 National Forum



SMALL GROUP MEETINGS



COORDINATIVE MEETING FOR THE 2024 MOF MIGRANT FAIR IN TACLOBAN

Date: September 18, 2024
Venue: Hotel de Fides, Tacloban
Agenda: Reiteration of final reminders, delegation of tasks, and run through of program flow .



INITIAL COORDINATIVE MEETING FOR THE 2024 MOF MIGRANT FAIR IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Date: September 24, 2024
Venue: Provincial Capitol of Misamis Oriental
Agenda: Tasking and discussion of necessary preparations for the conduct of the fair



FINAL COORDINATIVE MEETING FOR THE 2024 MOF MIGRANT FAIR IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Date: October 23, 2024
Venue: Provincial Capitol of Misamis Oriental
Agenda: Reiteration of final reminders, delegation of tasks, and run through of program flow .



FINAL COORDINATIVE MEETING FOR THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN SOUTH KOREA

Date: November 30, 2024
Venue: Philippine Embassy in Seoul, South Korea
Agenda: Preparations for MOF Seoul Forum



FINAL COORDINATIVE MEETING FOR THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN TORONTO, CANADA

Date: December 07, 2024
Venue: Chelsea Hotel Toronto, Canada
Agenda: Preparations for MOF Toronto Forum



III. MOF BANNER



The main 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 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.

This year's MOF activities showcased a total of five poster designs, each thoughtfully inspired by the main MOF banner. These designs were customized to suit and reflect the essence of the specific event and its host while staying true to the original concept of the main MOF banner. These banners not only adorned the venue but also added a significant part where logos of IAC-MOF member agencies, along with partners who have made significant contributions to the event, were recognized.

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

MIGRANT FAIR 2024

IN TACLOBAN CITY

A tribute and public service for Overseas Filipinos and their families

September 19, 2024
Thursday, 8AM to 5PM

Tacloban City Convention Center
Tacloban Astrodome Park,
Esperanza Ave., Tacloban City

Job Fair | Trade Fair | Health and Wellness Fair | Government Services | Freebies & Raffle

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

MIGRANT FAIR 2024

IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

A tribute and public service for Overseas Filipinos and their families

October 24, 2024
Thursday, 8AM to 4PM

University of Science and Technology of
Southern Philippines - CDO Campus Gymnasium

Job Fair | Trade Fair | Health and Wellness Fair | Government Services | Freebies & Raffle

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

The Philippine Embassy in Seoul and the Inter-agency Committee for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day present

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs
Towards Sustainable Reintegration

AND
BOOK LAUNCHING

Dáyo 이민자 : Stories of Migration

(To be followed by the Filipino Community Organizations' Year-End Fellowship)

December 01, 2024
Sunday, 9AM to 8PM

Dongdaemun Shared Space, 247,
Jangchungdan-ro, Jung-gu,
Goodmorning City Shopping Mall
8th Floor, Seoul

REGISTER AT
[Q. https://mof.gov.ph/2024/12/01](https://mof.gov.ph/2024/12/01)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto and the Inter-agency Committee for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day present

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

TORONTO, CANADA

Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs
Towards Sustainable Reintegration

December 08, 2024
Sunday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM

The Mountbatten Salon, 2nd floor,
Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard St. West,
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1Z4

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

AND CELEBRATION OF

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs Towards Sustainable Reintegration

December 18, 2024 | Wednesday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM | Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) | PICC Forum Tent 1

2024 MOF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	DATE	ORGANIZER	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
MIGRANT FAIR IN TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE	September 19, 2024	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Region VIII and City Government of Tacloban	446
MIGRANT FAIR IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL	October 24, 2024	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Region X and Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental	1,237
INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA	December 1, 2024	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, South Korea	Approximately 230
INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION IN TORONTO, CANADA	December 8, 2024	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Approximately 200
PHILIPPINE-CANADA POLICY DIALOGUE	December 11, 2024	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada	Approximately 50
SSS OFW DAY, SSS, QUEZON CITY	December 13, 2024	Social Security System	Approximately 200
FILM SHOWING OF NEVER NOT LOVE YOU	December 15, 2024	Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA)	368
NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY	December 18, 2024	Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)	502



1ST 2024 MIGRANT FAIR



MIGRANT FAIR IN TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE

More than 500 overseas Filipinos and their families from Leyte and Samar were honored and provided various services during the 2024 Month of Overseas Filipinos (MOF) Migrant Fair held at Tacloban City Convention Center on September 19, 2024.

The pre-MOF event was organized by the Inter-Agency Committee for the Celebration of Month of Overseas Filipino (IAC-MOF), co-chaired by the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), in partnership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Region 8, and the City Government of Tacloban. It was graced by Mayor Alfred S. Romualdez, who thanked overseas Filipinos for their significant contributions to local development, especially during the challenging times when Leyte was hit and badly devastated by Typhoon Haiyan/ Yolanda. The bayanihan spirit was evident during that time as overseas Filipinos sent donations and financial aid to affected families and survivors during the province's recovery and rehabilitation period.





The Migrant Fair offered participants health and wellness services, a mini-trade fair, jobs fair, and booth and mobile services by participating agencies, which include the Bureau of Immigration (BI), CFO, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP), OWWA, Pag-IBIG Fund, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Presidential Communications Office (PCO), Social Security System (SSS), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The CFO gave away BaLinkBayan merchandise, anti-trafficking information materials, and local food items from participating trade exhibitors.



Agencies also presented and promoted their migrant-related programs and services for the awareness of the participants. Dir. Apattad shared CFO programs and services, highlighting the BaLinkBayan Project and Anti-Human Trafficking initiative of the government.

About 20 private companies and employers also participated in the jobs fair, some of which were able to hire on the spot qualified job-seekers.



Former OFW from Dubai, Ms. Helen Balirete, winner of the 2023 Model OFW Family of the Year (MOFYA) Region 8, also shared her success story through a video presentation. Her hard work and dedication as an OFW allowed her to venture into business when she returned to the Philippines. She was able to establish several gas stations in the province and put up other lucrative businesses.

Participants expressed their joy for mounting an activity dedicated to them, and in honor of their sacrifices and contributions. Lucky winners of the raffle prizes went home with bags of rice, agency tokens, giveaways, and home appliances.

The event was hosted by Ms. Katrina Obejera and Mr. Joshua Badilla of OWWA Region 8.

The Migrant Fair is the first pre-MOF activity, organized by the IAC-MOF for this year. The event is also in line with the “Bagong Pilipinas” governance under the strong leadership of President Marcos, who assured that the welfare of OFs and OFWs is among his top priorities, including their reintegration back to the Philippines.



2ND 2024 MIGRANT FAIR



MIGRANT FAIR IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL

The Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF) led by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW), successfully organized a Migrant Fair for more than 1,200 overseas Filipinos and their families in Misamis Oriental on October 24, 2024.

The pre-MOF event, hosted by the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Region 10, was held at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, Cagayan de Oro. It was the second activity of the IAC-MOF for this year, which honored overseas Filipinos and their families, following a successful fair in Tacloban City, Leyte held last month.

The event was graced by Misamis Oriental Governor Peter Unabia who hailed overseas Filipinos for their sacrifices, referring to them as the unsung heroes of the Philippines due to their vital role as a significant force driving the economy.





Heartfelt messages to participants were also delivered by Ms. Carmelita G. Nuqui of the PMRW, Mr. Frenzel Tingga of the CFO, Admin. Arnell Ignacio of OWWA, Mr. William O. Chavez of PhilHealth, Ms. Jesusa M. Abear of the Department of Trade and Industry, Dr. Shirley Mosende of the Department of Health, and Engr. Yusoph Admain of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).



The DMW and Department of Social Welfare and Development Region 10 awarded financial assistance to distressed OFW returnees based in Misamis Oriental. Former OFWs turned successful entrepreneurs - Mr. Kent S. Lamparas from Cagayan de Oro, Mr. Edilbert V. Cabunoc from Villanueva, and Ms. Anatista Perez from Claveria - also shared their success stories to inspire participants.



The Migrant Fair offered participants free health and wellness services, consultations, massage and haircut, trade fair, job fair, mini-concert, and various booth and mobile services provided by the following IAC-MOF members and partners: Bureau of Immigration, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Migrant Workers, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, International Organization for Migration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Pag-IBIG Fund, PhilHealth, Presidential Communications Office, Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental, Social Security System, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.



The event concluded with raffle draws of agency tokens, giveaways, and home appliances, and all participants taking home bags of rice. The event was hosted by Ms. Shellany V. Nava of OWWA and Cagayan de Oro City Councilor Malvern Esparcia. The Migrant Fair is a convergence activity from the government, civil society, and private organizations, in honor of the invaluable contributions to Philippine development of overseas Filipinos and migrant families.

SSS OFW DAY

December 13, 2024 | Quezon City



The Social Security System (SSS) organized its Celebration of OFW Day on December 13, 2024, at SSS Ramon Magsaysay Hall, attended by approximately 200 individuals. The annual event promotes government programs and updates on SSS benefits for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

The event was graced by SSS President and CEO Robert Joseph M. De Claro, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Secretary Hans Cacdac, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Secretary Dante 'Klink' Ang II, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Deputy Administrator Mary Melanie Quiño, and other guests from government agencies.

The OFW Day celebration allowed attendees to engage with various migrant-serving agencies, such as CFO, SSS, DMW, OFBank, PhilHealth, TESDA, Palawan Express, and BDO, among others, who set up their respective booths to promote programs and services designed for overseas Filipinos and their families.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

December 1, 2024 | Seoul, South Korea



This year, the IAC-MOF conducted two (2) International Forums on Migration. The first is the International Forum on Migration in Seoul on December 1, 2024 at the Dongdaemun Shared Space in Seoul, South Korea. This was organized in partnership with the DFA and the Philippine Embassy in Seoul. South Korea has a substantial number of OFWs working under the Employment Permit System (EPS) and spouses of Korean nationals. Around 250 Filipino community leaders from South Korea participated in this forum.

This event was graced by Ambassador Ma. Theresa Dizon-De Vega of the Philippine Embassy in Seoul and PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair Carmelita Nuqui. CFO Secretary Dante Francis Ang II and DFA Undersecretary Eduardo Jose De Vega gave their recorded video greetings to the participants.



The first session is on the Patterns of Filipino Migration to South Korea. Consul General Victor Romulo Israel, Jr., Deputy Chief of Mission of the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, presented on the profile of the Filipino community and patterns of Filipino migration in South Korea. A panel discussion followed composed of the following: Labor Attaché Ma. Celeste Valderrama of the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Seoul shared about the Philippine government's response to labor-related concerns of Filipino migrants in South Korea; Ms. Jasmine Lee, former representative of the National Assembly, talked about South Korea's interventions in addressing the pressing issues of Filipino migrants in the country; and Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW shared about experiences and other issues raised by Filipino migrants in Korea and members of their families and how these may be addressed.





The second session was on reintegration programs and services for Overseas Filipinos and members of their families. Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW shared about the holistic approach to reintegration by the Development Action for Women Network (DAWN). Director Marita Apattad of the CFO presented CFO's programs and services for the youth and second-generation Filipinos and Welfare Officer and Attaché Cornelia Chanco discussed OWWA's programs and services of their members. There were open forums conducted for both sessions, which were facilitated by Vice Consul Jilliane Joyce De Dumo-Cornista.



Labor Attaché Valderrama facilitated a session that celebrated the resilience and achievements of Filipino migrants from Korea. Among them were testimonials from Hon. Avon Domalaon, a former EPS and incumbent Vice Mayor of the town of Prieto Diaz in Sorsogon; and Mr. Wilfredo Rosal, Jr., a budding entrepreneur preparing for his reintegration to the Philippines. This was followed by a session to address reintegration challenges in the context of financial planning and investment opportunities in the Philippines. Mr. Leover Loyola of OFBank presented via Zoom ways to prevent falling into investment scams and protecting ones finances, and Agriculture Attaché Lev Nikko Macalintal presented the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Agribusiness Opportunities and Support Services for migrant returnees.



The next session featured other programs and services as well as policy updates for OFWs and members of their families. Ms. Theody Jean Amador of Pag-IBIG Fund shared about their benefits and services for OF members. Ms. Lenliegh Hope Luces of DOH presented their Medical Repatriation Assistance Program for Overseas Filipinos. Ms. Frances Paula Libo-on of the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) talked about the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program. Philhealth Vice President Lemuel Untalan shared about their Overseas Filipinos Program, while SSS-Taiwan representative Bernardo Roman presented their membership benefits, loan programs, savings and investment options.

After the forum was the launch of the book, "Dayo: Stories of Migration." This is a collection of stories of migration among Filipinos and Koreans to commemorate the 75 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and South Korea. This was followed by the fellowship dinner and Christmas party of the Filipino community in Korea. The forum was hosted by Professor Sherro Lee Arellano.



VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY AND MWO-OWWA OFFICES IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | DECEMBER 2, 2024

After the conduct of the forum, the delegates from the Philippines visited the Philippine Embassy in Seoul on December 2, 2024. They visited the various frontline services provided by the embassy for OFs and foreign nationals as well as talked with some of the embassy staff.

Afterwards, the delegates visited the MWO-OWWA Offices which are across the embassy. During the visit, Labor Attaché Valderrama and Welfare Officer Chanco provided a walkthrough to their facilities, including the visit to their Training Center for Skills Trainings and other short courses for OFWs. They shared the programs and services they have been providing, including the Assistance to Nationals. The group also had a brief discussion on the pressing issues and concerns of OFWs in Korea and how the various agencies present may address them. There was also a brief interaction with some of the OFWs present at the MWO-OWWA Offices.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION

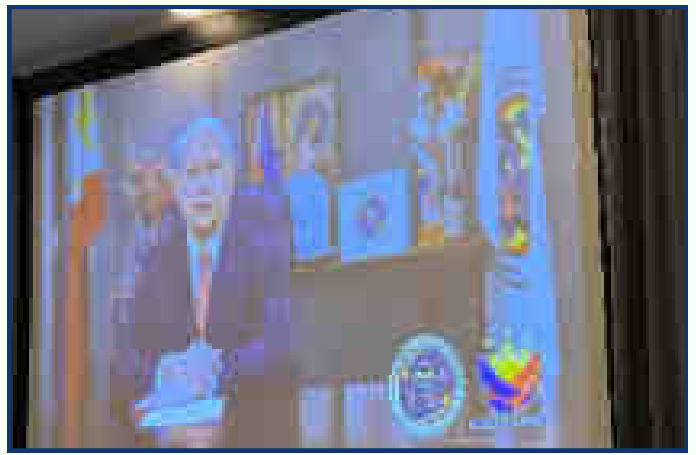
December 8, 2024 | Toronto, Canada



The second International Forum on Migration was conducted in Toronto, Canada on December 8, 2024 at the Chelsea Hotel. This was organized in partnership with the DFA, the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa and the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto. Canada has the second most number of Overseas Filipinos, which is composed of permanent residents, foreign spouses, OFWs and a growing number of students. Around 200 Filipino community leaders and other stakeholders from Canada participated in this forum.

The event opened with a prayer by Ms. Cielito Drapeza of the Philippine Teachers Association-Canada. This was followed by messages from Ambassador Maria Andrelita Austria of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa and PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair Carmelita Nuqui. CFO Secretary Dante Francis Ang II and DFA Undersecretary Eduardo Jose De Vega also gave their recorded video greetings to the participants.





The first session was on the presentation of various programs and services for migrants. Welfare Officer Benny Reyes of MWO-Toronto shared the messages of DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac and OWWA Administrator Arnell Ignacio. He also presented the programs and services of DMW for OFWs and members of their families as well as OWWA's welfare and reintegration programs for its members. Tourism Attaché Francisco Lardizabal presented the Department of Tourism's (DOT) programs for Filipino returnees such as the "Bisita Be My Guest" tourism incentive program and the Philippine Experience Program. Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW also shared in this forum DAWN's holistic approach to reintegration through psychosocial and economic interventions for women migrant returnees, survivors of gender-based violence and trafficking and members of their families. This was followed by an Open Forum where the panel included Ambassador Austria and the speakers of the first session. This was facilitated by PMRW President and IAC-MOF Chair Carmelita Nuqui.



The next session was the sharing of success stories of Overseas Filipinos in Canada: Dr. Patrick Alcedo, an award-winning scholar and filmmaker; Mr. Nelson Rodriguez, a businessman who owns Potato Corner Canada among other enterprises; and Ms. Judith Gonzales, a successful caregiver and community leader. This was followed by an Open Forum to clarify on issues and concerns raised by the participants. This session was facilitated by Consul General Rea Oreta of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa.



The next part of the forum were updates on programs and services for OFWs and members of their families. Vice President Jack Jacinto of Pag-IBIG presented their benefits and services for OF members; Philhealth Regional Vice President William Chavez shared about their Overseas Filipinos Programs and other services their loved ones in the Philippines may avail; SSS Toronto representative Lucille Blesilda Simbol presented their membership benefits, savings and loan programs for OFs; and Ms. Chayenne Sy of PCO discussed about the FOI Program. An open forum followed which was facilitated by Welfare Officer Benny Reyes.



Simultaneous to the forum were consultative sessions with representatives of PCG-Toronto, MWO-OWWA, Philhealth, PCO, DOT, Philhealth, Pag-IBIG and other partner organizations at their respective booths outside the forum venue. Aside from consultations, freebies were also provided to the participants.



In between sessions, energizers were conducted where giveaways from IAC-MOF member organizations composed of limited-edition items and other prizes were provided to the participants. The forum was capped by a recorded message from Deputy Assistant Secretary and Executive Director Bryan Dexter Lao of the DFA. The forum was hosted by Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW.

VISIT TO CONESTOGA MEATS

After the conduct of the forum, the delegates from the Philippines visited two Filipino communities. The first was Conestoga Meats in Kitchener, Ontario. Conestoga Meats is one of the leading production facilities in the Canadian pork industry. They have approximately 500 Filipino workers in the said meat processing plant. The delegates had a brief meeting with key officials of the meat processing facility followed by a walkthrough of the facilities. There was also fellowship with some of the Filipino employees who shared their migration experiences to Canada.



December 9, 2024
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

VISIT TO THE PROPOSED JOSE RIZAL MEMORIAL SITE



December 9, 2024
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

The second visit was at the site of the proposed Jose Rizal Memorial in Niagara Falls City. This initiative is spearheaded by the Filipino Community in Niagara. The construction of the said monument was recently approved by the Niagara Falls City and Niagara Parks Authority after years of advocacy efforts of the Filipino community. The approved site directly overlooks Niagara Falls. After the visit to the site was a brief meeting and refreshment at the J&B Filipino-Asian Store and Restaurant in Niagara Falls. During the meeting, participants learned of other proposed activities and initiatives after the construction of Rizal's monument, such as a mini-museum, cultural programs and heritage tours.

PMRW was invited to be part of the panelist at the Track 1.5 Dialogue on Philippine-Canada Relations: Towards a Strategic Partnership. This was conducted on December 11, 2024 at the Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre in Ottawa as part of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Canada. This was organized by the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Around 50 key officials and stakeholders from the Philippines and Canada participated in this dialogue.

PHILIPPINE-CANADA POLICY DIALOGUE

11 December 2024
Delta Hotel, Ottawa, Canada



The dialogue opened with messages from Ambassador Austria of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Mr. Jeff Nankivell of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and Hon. Rob Oliphant, Canada's Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament.

The first session tackled on Maritime Security and Laws of the Sea which was facilitated by Mr. Jonathan Miller of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. The panelists were the following: Undersecretary Angelito De Leon of the Department of National Defense, Commodore Jay Tarriela of the Philippine Coast Guard, Assistant Deputy Minister Scott Milar of Canada's Department of National Defence, Director Brent Napier of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Dr. Aaron Jed Rabena of the University of the Philippines, and Mr. David Perry of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

The second session was on Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence, which was facilitated by Ms. Vina Nadjibulla of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. The panelists for this session were Director Jose Carlos Reyes of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Mr. Sami Khoury of Canada's Office for Cyber Security, Director Greg Bunghardt of the Department of Public Safety Canada and Prof. Wesley Wark of the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

There was also a brief discussion on the role of parliamentarians in strengthening Canada-Philippines relations by Hon. Marco Mendicino, Member of Parliament and Member of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and Hon. Dan Mazier, Member of Parliament and Member of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

The third session was on Economic Development Cooperation which was facilitated by Dr. Kai Ostwald. The panelists for this session were Amb. Maria Andrelita Austria of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Ms. Patricia Peña and Ms. Mary-Catherine Speirs of Global Affairs Canada, Mr. Alexander Escucha of the Institute for Development and Econometric Analysis, Mr. Bart Édes of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and Ms. Motria Savaryn-Roy of Sun Life.

The final session was on Labor Migration which was facilitated by Dr. Erik Kuhonta of the McGill University. For this session, the panelists were Consul General Rea Oreta of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Hon. Marco Mendicino MP, and Ms. Carmelita Nuqui of PMRW. Usec. Eduardo Jose De Vega of the DFA provided his insights in a recorded message. Joining the delegation are Director Lorenz Fernand D. Dantes, Ms. Yasmine P. Monterey, Ms. Astrud D. Montana and Mr. AR Pacasum of DFA; and Mr. Lance Velasco of PMRW.

After the sessions was the launch of the "75 Faces of Migration" Exhibit. This is a collection of stories from 75 Filipino migrants in Canada. A reception followed where some of those featured at the exhibit were present, including prominent Filipino community leaders, Members of Parliament, such as Senator Flordeliz Osler and Hon. Rechie Valdez, MP; and others.



CINE FORUM: NEVER NOT LOVE YOU

December 15, 2024 | Metropolitan Theater



As part of the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and Mga Hiyas ng Sineng Filipino, the Inter-Agency Committee for the Month of Overseas Filipinos (IAC-MOF), led by the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) and National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) organized the 2024 Cine Forum featuring Antoinette Jadaone's "Never Not Love You," on December 15, 2024, at the Metropolitan Theater.

The movie follows two young lovers who try to build a life together until career opportunities send them to a different country where their relationship will be tested.

After the screening, an insightful talkback session featured the film's Director of Photography, Mycko David, and Editor, Benjamin Tolentino, who answered questions from the audience about the story development, filmmaking techniques, cinematography, and migration of Filipinos, among others.



NATIONAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

December 18, 2024 | PICC, Manila



With more than 500 attendees composed of migrant returnees, families, government and non-government organizations, the culminating activity of the 2024 Month of Overseas Filipinos was held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent 3, Pasay City, in celebration of the International Migrants Day. The event was successfully conducted by the Inter-Agency Committee for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day (IAC-MOF), with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) being the lead organizers of said event.

This year's theme, "Empowering Overseas Filipinos/OFWs Towards Sustainable Reintegration," delved into the multi-faceted challenges faced by migrants who have chosen to return to the Philippines.

The event kicked off with remarks by Ms. Carmelita Nuqui, President of the PMRW and Chair of the IAC-MOF, who welcomed the participants and discussed the relevance of the forum for pushing migrants' rights and welfare. The keynote speech was delivered by Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac of the DMW who extensively discussed the programs and services of the DMW for overseas Filipino workers. He also mentioned the importance of collaborating with other migrant serving agencies like the CFO to streamline the services of the Philippine Government.



This was followed by the Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the BaLinkBayan project between the CFO and the DMW, truly encapsulating the essence of streamlining the country's migrant services. Secretary Dante "Klink" Ang II of the CFO delivered his Message of Commitment to the partnership, emphasizing the relevance of the BaLinkBayan project and discussing the delineation of the constituents of the DMW and CFO. Informing the attendees of the Project's ability to be inclusive of both permanent and temporary migrants, Sec. Ang lauded the partnership's goal of making all Filipinos feel that they are included in the government's efforts wherever they are in the world.



The first of the Forum's sessions, "Psychosocial Support and Community Integration for OFWs," addressed the country's psychosocial reintegration initiatives. DMW Assistant Secretary Regina Gallas outlined the various psychosocial support services offered by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).

The first panel discussion was composed of Asec. Regina Galias from the DMW, Labor Attaché Delmar Cruz, also from the DMW, Ms. Ilova Lorenzo of IOM, Ms. Djohanna Delia G. Ravelo from Quezon City LGU, Dr. Aleli Sudiagal of the DOH, and Mr. Frank Anthony Barros Puno, representing the community of overseas Filipino workers. Prof. Stella Go of the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN) moderated the session. The discussion stressed the crucial role that different migrant-serving agencies play in facilitating the smooth reintegration of overseas Filipinos into their communities. They provided insights into how various programs are designed to address the emotional and psychological challenges that returning workers may face, ensuring that they receive the necessary support during their transition back home. They also emphasized the importance of fostering community connections and engaging local resources to aid in the successful reintegration process, ultimately promoting a sense of belonging and stability for returning citizens.



After the first session, Congresswoman Marissa "Del Mar" Magsino, Representative of OFW Party-List, delivered heartfelt greetings to OFWs and took part in the awarding ceremony for livelihood assistance under NRCO in support of returning migrants and their families. It was followed by a performance by Sparkle artist Zonia Mejia.



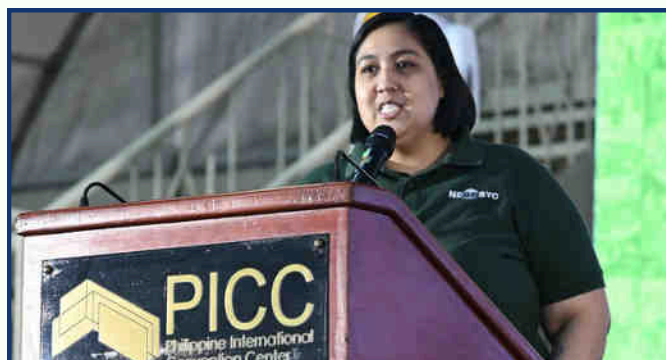
The second session featured Chief Emigrant Services Officer Ms. Marita Del Rosario-Apattad of the CFO presenting the importance of financial literacy and the Commission's programs geared towards the timely and much-needed education of Filipinos overseas and their families regarding financial independence and ways to achieve this. Ms. Apattad extensively discussed the CFO's PESO Sense and how the program has helped Filipinos both here and abroad handle their finances better.

Following her presentation, the session transitioned into a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Jeremaiah Opiniano from the PMRN. Among the panelists were Ms. Apattad, LandBank's Executive Vice President Leila Martin, TESDA's Ms. Gemma Lorena A. Reyes, Oweavers Mill Woven Fabrics Manufacturing Owner Ms. Ronalin Adolfo, and Ms. Cheryll Gomez-Alaceda, an inspiring graduate of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Elementary who shared her personal journey and offered insights into the challenges she faced, and the skills she gained, which have ultimately shaped her path towards success. This session provided attendees with valuable knowledge and real-life examples of how financial literacy can transform lives, encouraging greater participation and engagement in discussions surrounding economic empowerment for Filipinos globally.



The last session, “Building Livelihoods: Sustainable Employment and Entrepreneurship for Returning OFWs,” focused on Livelihood and Employment opportunities.

The discussion on Entrepreneurship was presented by Ms. Thermina Ann Akram of Go Negosyo who discussed how entrepreneurship and livelihood programs can support overseas Filipinos. This was followed by a discussion on employment by Director Patrick Patriwirawan, Jr. from DOLE’s Bureau of Local Employment, who discussed the challenges and possible solutions to the labor market for OFWs. This was followed by another panel discussion including Ms. Akram, Dir. Patriwirawan, Jr., Ms. Soledad Cabangis of NATCCO, and Ms. Grace U. Valencia, a successful OFW entrepreneur, shared her journey of establishing her business in the Philippines. The session was facilitated by Dr. Marla Asis of PMRN.



In his closing remarks, DMW Assistant Secretary for Reintegration Services Francis Ron C. De Guzman thanked the entire IAC-MOF for the successful event. He also discussed the programs and services that the DMW had in store for overseas Filipinos and their families for the coming year.



Aside from the very meaningful discussions on multiple topics relevant to all types of migrants, the Forum served as a fun and exciting event with raffle prizes, games, and booths where overseas Filipinos and their families can enjoy the services of the different organizations and agencies present.



V. ACTIVITY EVALUATION

2024 MOF MIGRANT FAIR IN TACLOBAN CITY: POST-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

- Not boring to attend
- *Okey! Ray kami daog. (Okey, we won.)*
- *Hoping may kape naman po kasi galing pa po kami sa malalayong lugar. Wala po kaming almusal kasi po maaga kami bumyahe. (I hope there was free coffee because we've come from a long way. We were not able to breakfast because we left early.)*
- *Nag-enjoy at maraming natutunan at very satisfied. (Enjoyed and learned a lot and very satisfied.)*
- Need more prizes to make us happy. We are travelling far. Make us all happy. God bless.
- Next time need to have more prizes. Thank you.
- More knowledge imparted by the resource persons and agencies.

EXHIBITORS' FEEDBACK

- *Sana na-post sa social media platforms para mas marami nakapag-join sa job fair. (I hope it was announced on social media platforms so that more people could join the job fair.)*
- Provide free coffee for the service providers.
- Advanced floor planning so we can set up earlier.
- Floor plan should be available day before the event to facilitate smooth set-up of the participating agencies.
- For time management, include booth markers.
- Flash AVPs full time in LED wall.
- Wifi access in the future.
- Next time, invite DICT to provide internet connection for everyone.

V. ACTIVITY EVALUATION

2024 MOF MIGRANT FAIR IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL: POST-IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

- *Very nice kaayo. Lusog busog ang tanan.* Thank you and more blessings! (Very nice. Everyone is well fed. Thank you and more blessings!)
- The event and food are very satisfactory.
- Perfect program.
- Keep up the good work.
- Nice, full of awareness for all. Satisfactory!
- *Sana lahat nakatanggap ng pa-raffle.* Thank you OWWA and USTP! (I hope everyone was able to win raffle prizes. Thank you OWWA and USTP!)
- *Sa food kailangan na patas at hindi OFW lang ang meron. Kung ilan dala mo dapat meron.* (The distribution of food should be fair and not just for OFWs.)
- *Hindi lahat nakakain.* (Not everyone was given food.)
- No prizes and picture.

RATINGS FROM 60 PARTICIPANTS

Overall Assessment - 4.65
Program - 4.6
Food - 4.42
Venue - 4.42
Secretariat/Organizers - 4.55





THANK YOU!

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