

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

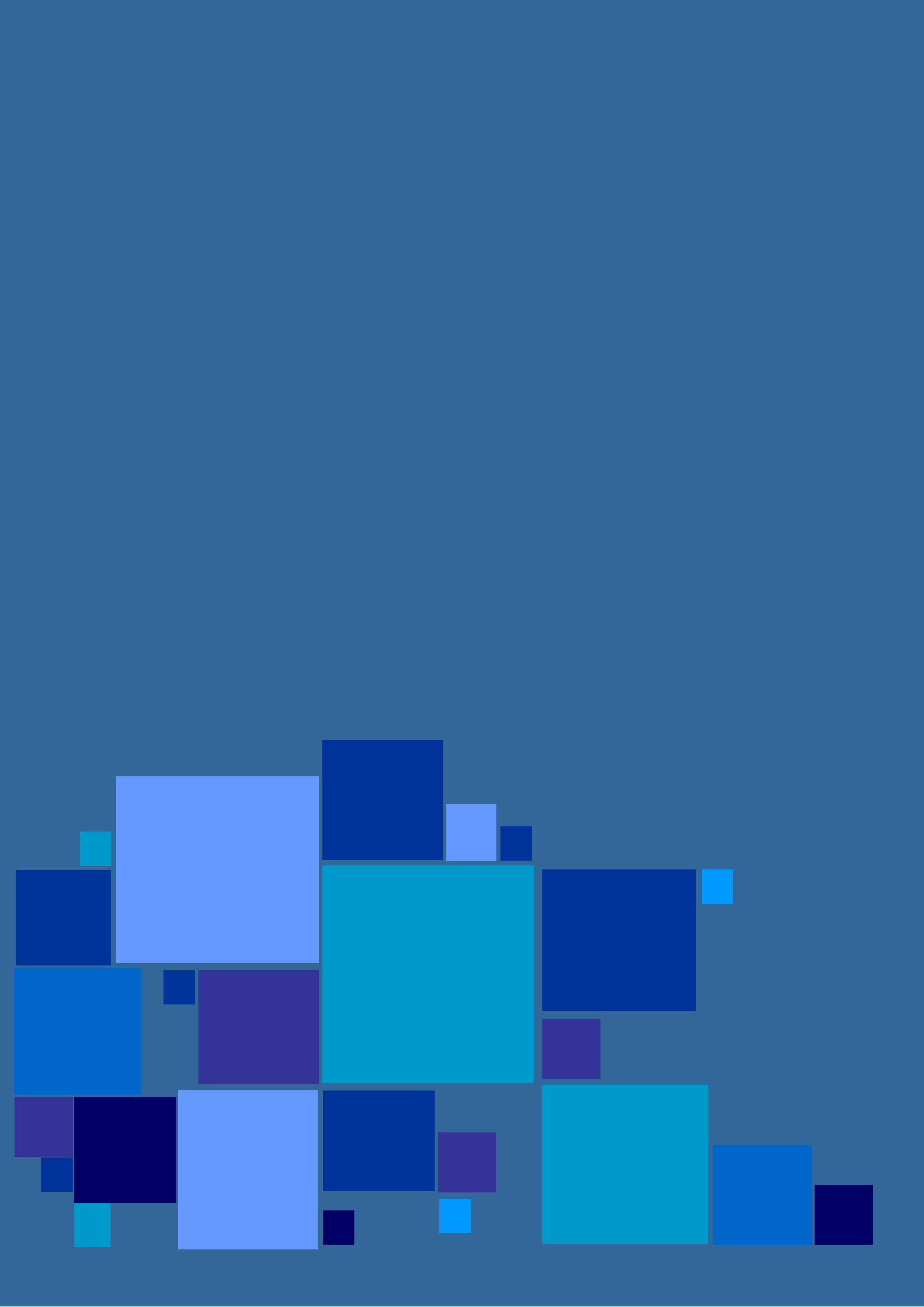


DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE



OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION





Department of Foreign Affairs 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination
Department of Foreign Affairs
Manila, January 2015

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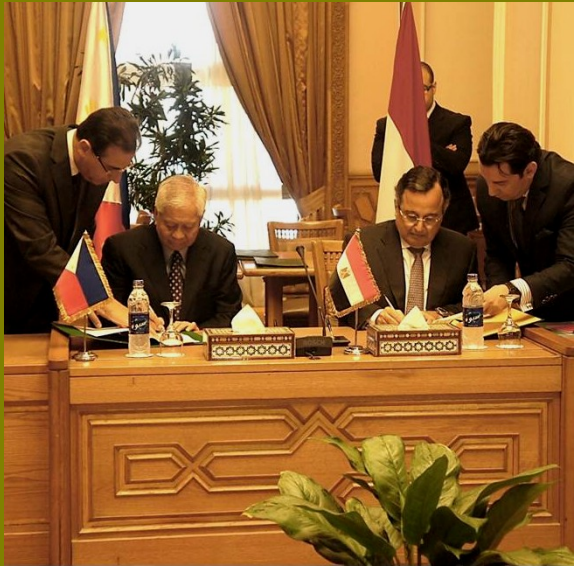
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CHAPTER 1:

DFA Overview







OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



OUR ORGANIZATION

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is entrusted with crafting, coordinating and implementing Philippine foreign policy to advance the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino people in the world community. It discharges its duties through the following fundamental policy planks:

- ✓ Contribution to the preservation and enhancement of national security, including the protection of territorial integrity and national sovereignty;
- ✓ Promotion of economic security, while ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development; and
- ✓ Protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interest of Filipinos overseas, recognizing them as partners in national development.

VISION

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the prime agency of government responsible for the pursuit of the State's foreign policy and the nerve center for a Foreign Service worthy of the trust and pride of every Filipino.

We are an organization of competent, dedicated and highly motivated personnel, who devote their energies to the benefit of the Filipino people.

We implement foreign policy with the highest standards of professionalism and commitment.

We pursue bilateral, regional and multilateral relations to advance the interest of the Philippines and the Filipinos.

We build partnerships with national security and development agencies, think-tanks and the academe, the private sector, the media and civil society in the interest of the nation and the people.

We endeavor to promote regional and global cooperation in order to achieve peace, prosperity and stability.

In the global arena, we work for social justice especially for the poor, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and a democratic way of life.

We are committed to secure a world free from serious environmental degradation, transnational crime and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Our missions abroad are the partners of Filipinos overseas in the pursuit of the national interest and in the promotion and protection of their rights and well-being.

We have a highly responsive system, which ensures effective delivery of services.

Our personnel are our greatest asset. We are committed to the personal, professional and career development of each employee.

In pursuit of our goals, we strive for and live by the principles of excellence, integrity and patriotism.

MISSION

To advance the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino People in the world community.

OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to the enhancement of national security and the protection of territorial integrity and national sovereignty;
- Participate in the national endeavor to sustain development and to enhance the Philippines' competitive edge in a global milieu;
- Protect the rights and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas and to mobilize them as partners in national development;
- Project a positive image of the Philippines;
- Increase international understanding of Philippine culture for mutually-beneficial relations with other countries; and
- Increase and maximize human, financial, technological and other resources to optimize the performance of the Department.

OUR ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

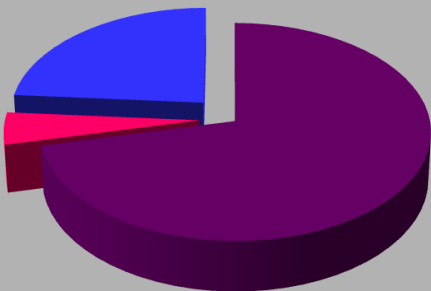
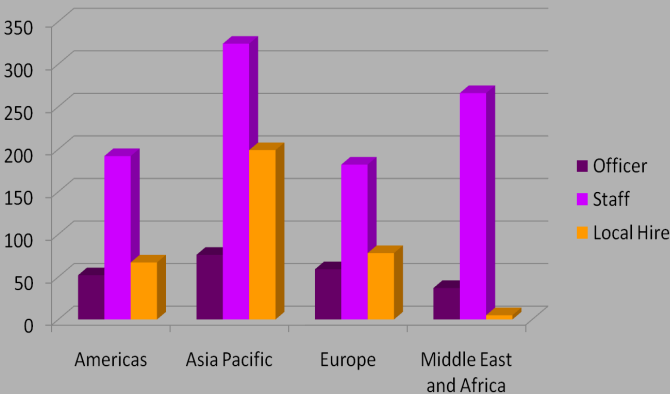


Foreign Service Personnel

- 1,128** Home Office Personnel
- 271** Staff in Regional Consular and Satellite Offices
- 1,779** Employees on Foreign Assignment
- 303** Service Attaches (from other Departments/Agencies)
- 481** Locally-Hired Staff
- 179** Honorary Consular Officers

Personnel Distribution by Region

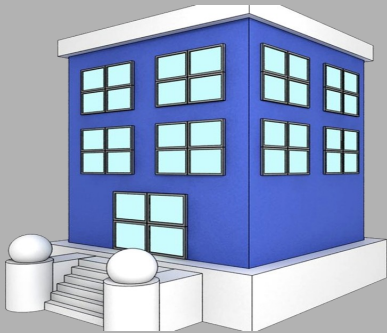
- 325** Americas
- 625** Asia-Pacific
- 368** Europe
- 458** Middle East and Africa



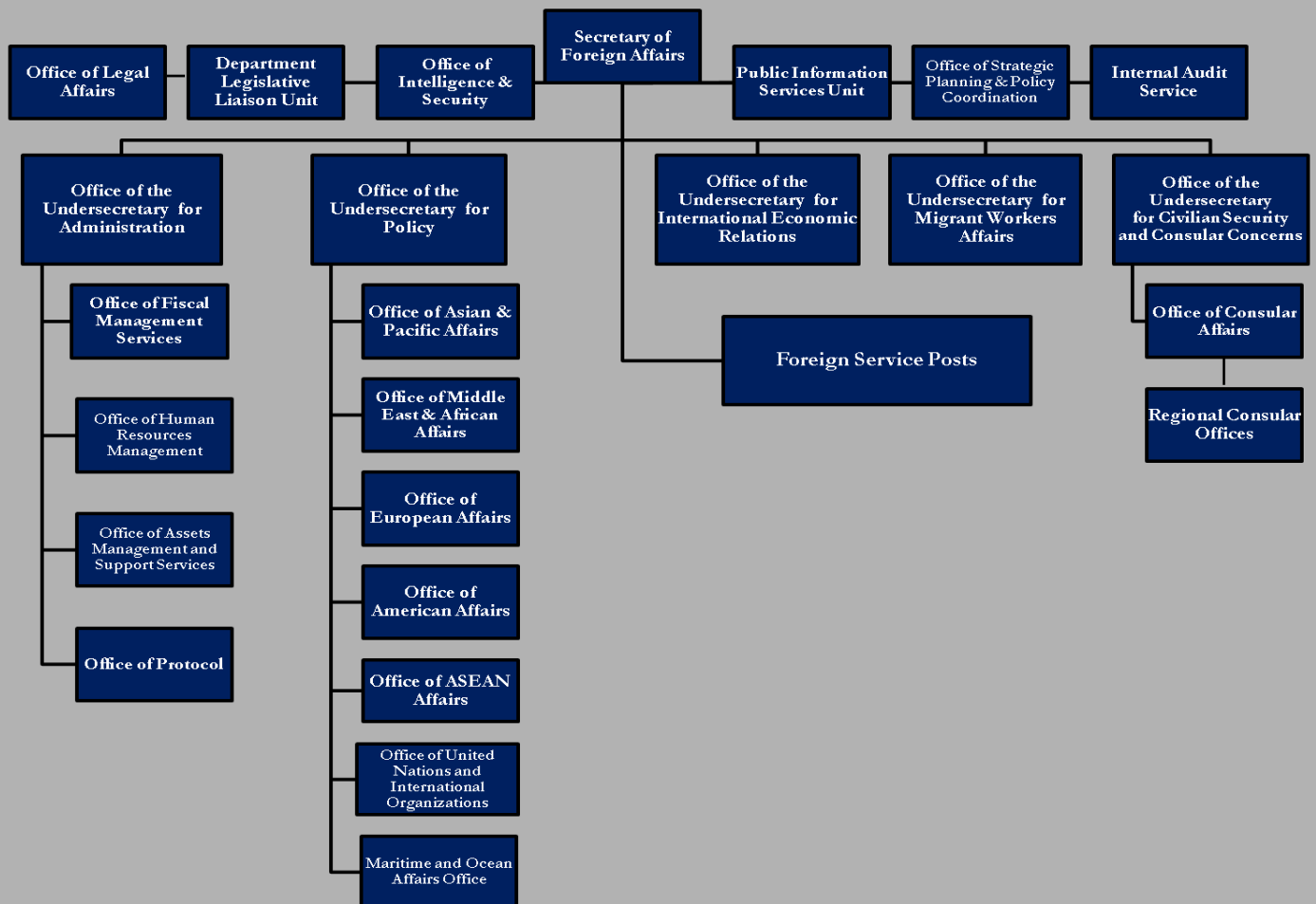
- Embassy
 - Permanent Missions
 - Consulates General
- ### Total Number of Foreign Service Posts
- 60** Embassies
 - 4** Permanent Missions
 - 20** Consulates General

Management of Government-Owned and Leased Properties Abroad

- 56** Properties owned
- 103** Chanceries/Consulates and Official Residences leased



Our Organizational Structure



Number of Consular Offices

19 Regional Consular Offices
5 Satellite Offices



Mall-based Consular Offices

NCR East—SM Megamall
 NCR Central—Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City
 NCR Central—Ali Mall, Quezon City
 NCR West—SM City Manila
 NCR South—Metro Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City
 Pampanga—Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando, Pampanga
 Pampanga—Marquee Mall, Angeles City, Pampanga
 Baguio—SM City Baguio
 Cebu—Pacific Mall, Mandaue City, Cebu
 Davao—SM City, Davao
 General Santos—Robinsons Place, General Santos City
 Legazpi—Pacific Mall, Legazpi City
 Batangas—Robinsons Place, Lipa City, Batangas
 Lucena—Pacific Mall, Lucena City, Quezon
 Bacolod—Robinsons Place, Bacolod City

CHAPTER 2:

Foreign Policy

Priorities and Outcomes







From left: President Benigno S. Aquino III, with Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario, welcomes UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Hon. William Hague; President Aquino and Secretary del Rosario with the Papal Nuncio to the Philippines and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H.E. Archbishop Giuseppe Pinto; and President Aquino and Secretary del Rosario at the courtesy call of Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in Malacanang. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)

The DFA takes its cue from the President, the chief architect of Philippine foreign policy.

In 2014, it further strengthened its contribution to the President's *Social Contract with the Filipino People*, and the societal goal of reducing poverty in multiple dimensions and generating massive quality employment.

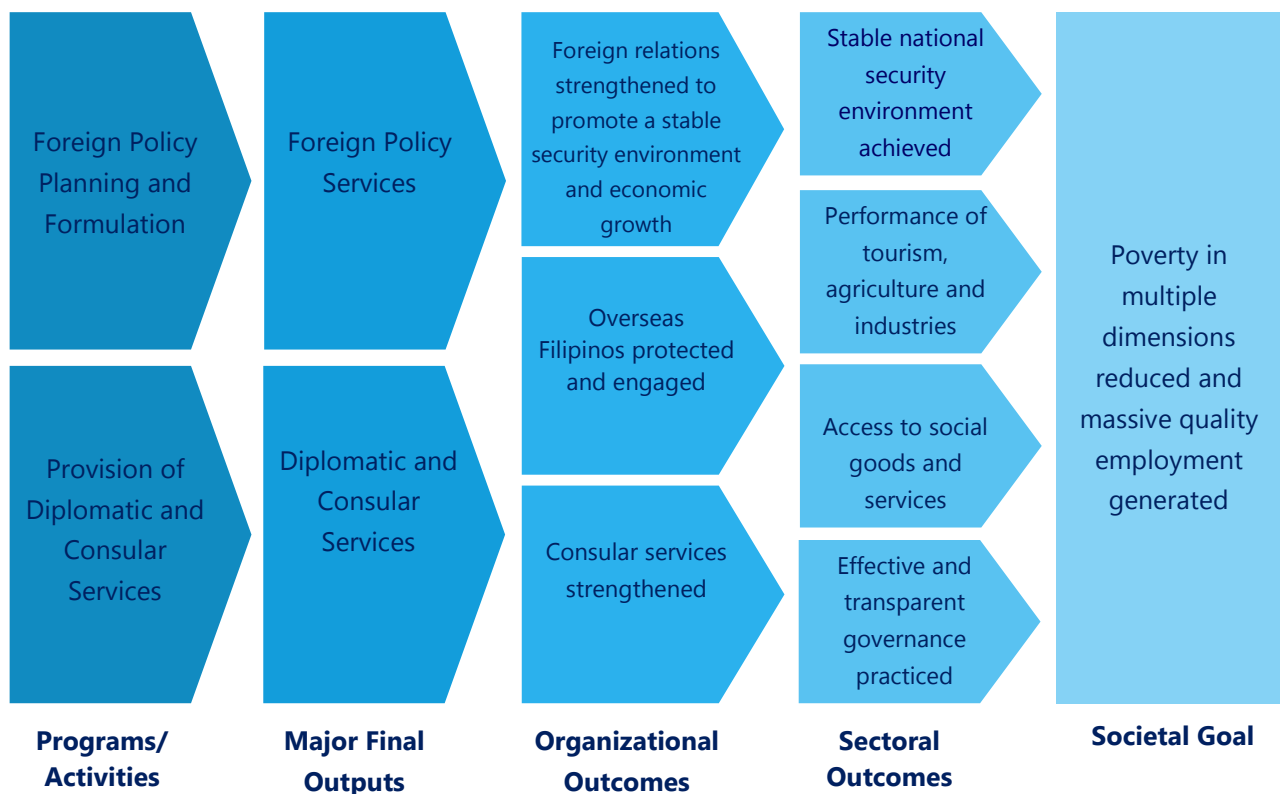
Guided by the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) being mainstreamed across the Philippine bureaucracy, it uses its Major Final Outputs--Foreign Policy Services and Diplomatic and Consular Services--to deliver the following Organizational Outcomes:

- Foreign relations strengthened to promote a stable security environment and economic growth;
- Overseas Filipinos protected and engaged; and
- Consular services strengthened.

The Planning Tool of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the DFA Strategic Plan 2012-2016 contain the strategies and actions the Department has been and is pursuing toward these ends.

The DFA Logical Framework encapsulates the Department's functions and how they contribute to and influence sectoral and Whole-of-Government objectives.

DFA Logical Framework



DFA OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE

In 2014, the DFA endeavored to realize its organizational goals by responding to emerging foreign policy issues as well as enduring ones. It sought to put in place a more proactive, forward-looking and purposive foreign policy to meet the challenges posed, and opportunities presented, by a constantly evolving regional and global architecture.

The interplay between domestic and international realities, and the expanding scope of national security, also demanded heightened efforts by the Department in both its foreign policy and frontline services.

2014 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

Increased engagement with bilateral partners through **22** incoming high-level visits and **45** outgoing travels of the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs



64

Bilateral/Multilateral Agreements on political, economic, consular and labor matters signed and/or ratified



25

Bilateral Consultations Convened



Php 17.2B

Foreign assistance coordinated and received for relief and rehabilitation of Yolanda-affected areas



Deepened economic engagements with bilateral partners through **3,635** Economic Diplomacy programs and activities



20,955

Overseas Filipinos assisted through
the Assistance to Nationals and
Legal Assistance Funds



6,806

Overseas Filipinos
repatriated from conflict
and strife-torn areas



256,913

New Overseas Voters
registered



3,050,675 Passports and
369,213* Visas issued



Raised the
international profile
of the Philippines
abroad through

610 cultural
programs organized
both here and
abroad



**January to November 2014 data*

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1:

Foreign relations strengthened to promote a stable security environment and economic growth

The conduct and promotion of relations with foreign partners is a central function of the DFA. This includes building bilateral and multilateral alliances, articulating Philippine interests in the international arena, and cultivating a positive image of the Philippines abroad. Such representation and engagement are also vital in helping shape a regional and world order that is conducive to the achievement of domestic objectives.

As with other foreign ministries around the world, the DFA is seeing an expanded role as the range of foreign parties it deals with broadens to include more non-state actors, and as the boundaries between foreign and domestic issues continue to blur.



From left: President Benigno S. Aquino III shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the joint press conference in Tokyo; President Aquino meets U.S. President Barack Obama upon the latter's arrival at the Malacanang Palace Grounds; and President Aquino is welcomed by French President Francois Hollande upon arrival at the Palais de l'Elysee in Paris. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)

STRENGTHENING AND ENHANCING EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

A large part of Philippine diplomacy continued to unfold in official halls with exchanges of high-level visits to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones.

President Benigno S. Aquino III embarked on thirteen (13) overseas travels in 2014, including a swing through Europe to press Philippine interests with key bilateral partners and the European Union. Meanwhile, the Philippines welcomed seven (7) visiting Heads of State/Government, including U.S. President Barack Obama.

On the other hand, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs embarked on thirty-two (32) official travels and hosted fifteen (15) visiting Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high-level dignitaries and representatives.

The growing number of formal bilateral consultation mechanisms, with twenty-five (25) such meetings convened in 2014, is further evidence of the progression of the Philippines' relations with various States.

These high-level encounters were instrumental in raising the country's visibility and standing in the international community; enhancing its overall relations with external partners; contributing to the protection of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its advocacy on the importance of adherence to the rule of law; securing major trade and investment deals to generate domestic jobs; and ensuring that overseas Filipinos are treated justly and with dignity by their host countries.

Official Travels of President Benigno S. Aquino III in 2014

1. Malaysia - 27 to 28 February
2. Myanmar (24th ASEAN Summit) - 10 to 11 May
3. Japan - 24 June
4. Spain - 14 to 15 September
5. France - 16 to 17 September
6. Belgium - 17 to 19 September
7. Germany - 19 to 20 September
8. United States - 20 to 24 September
9. Indonesia - 9 to 10 October
10. China (22nd APEC Leaders' Summit) - 9 to 11 November
11. Myanmar (25th ASEAN Summit) - 11 to 13 November
12. Singapore - 18 to 19 November
13. South Korea (ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit) - 11 to 12 December

*(Refer to **Annex A** for details/highlights of Outgoing Travels of the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Incoming Visits of Heads of States/Governments, Foreign Ministers and other High Level Representatives/Dignitaries)*

Incoming Heads of States/Governments

1. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden - 24 to 26 January
2. Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia- 27 March
3. President Tony Tan Keng Yam of Singapore - 2 to 5 April
4. President Barack Obama of the United States - 28 to 29 April
5. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam - 21 to 23 May
6. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia - 22 to 23 May
7. Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu of Turkey- 17 November

Incoming Ministers and other High-Level Representatives

1. Foreign Minister Børge Brende of Norway- 7 to 9 January
2. U.S. Senator Marco Rubio - 22 January
3. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Hague of the United Kingdom - 30 January
4. Premier Barry Robert O'Farrell of New South Wales, Australia - 19 to 20 February

Below: President Benigno S. Aquino III with (from left): South Korean President Park Geun-Hye during the 2014 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit in Busan; German Chancellor Angela Merkel during his visit to Berlin. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)



5. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb of Australia - 20 to 21 February
6. U.S. Representative Ed Royce and other U.S. Congressional Representatives - 20 to 21 February
7. Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo of Spain - 24 to 25 March
8. Minister of State Maria Böhmer of Germany - 26 to 28 March
9. Parliamentary Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya of Japan - 8 May
10. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and the US-ASEAN Business Council CEO Delegation - 3 to 4 June
11. Minister of Trade Tim Groser of New Zealand - 5 June
12. Acting Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow of Thailand - 18 July
13. EU High Representative for Foreign Policy and European Commission Vice President (HRVP) Catherine Ashton - 28 to 29 July
14. U.S. Senator Robert Corker, Senator Ronald Wyden, and a congressional delegation (CODEL) led by Republican Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen - 8 August
15. Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Hans-Joachim Fuchtel of Germany - 28 October

Below: Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak during his visit to the country in March.; President Aquino with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu in Malacanang. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)



2014 Outgoing Travels of Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario

1. Myanmar - 15 to 17 January
2. Indonesia - 24 to 25 February
3. Malaysia - 27 to 28 February
4. Japan - 11 to 12 April
5. Myanmar - 10 to 11 May
6. Egypt - 17 to 20 May
7. Libya - 27 to 30 May
8. Japan - 24 June
9. Israel - 25 to 29 June
10. Vietnam - 2 to 3 July
11. Indonesia - 7 to 8 July
12. Brunei - 9 to 10 July
13. Indonesia - 15 to 16 July
14. Belgium - 21 to 24 July
15. Tunisia - 31 July to 3 August
16. Myanmar - 7 to 11 August
17. Vatican - 1 to 3 September
18. Spain - 14 to 15 September
19. France - 16 to 17 September
20. Belgium - 17 to 19 September
21. Germany - 19 to 20 September
22. United States - 20 to 30 September
23. Indonesia - 9 to 10 October
24. Italy - 14 to 18 October
25. Indonesia - 19 to 21 October
26. China - 6 to 11 November
27. Myanmar - 11 to 13 November
28. Japan - 16 to 17 November
29. Singapore - 18 to 19 November
30. Poland - 4 to 8 December
31. United States - 9 to 13 December
32. Vatican - 17 to 19 December

Secretary del Rosario receives the warm greetings of Pope Francis during a general audience with the Pope on 3 September 2014. Secretary del Rosario undertook a visit to the Vatican to meet with the Vatican Foreign Minister.



2014 Bilateral Commissions/Consultations

Americas:

1. 2nd Philippines-Argentina Bilateral Consultation Meeting - 19 February; Manila
2. 4th Philippines-U.S. Bilateral Strategic Dialogue - 6 to 7 March; Washington DC
3. Philippines-U.S. Defense Talks - 10-11 April; Manila

Asia and the Pacific:

1. 6th Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation - 24 February; Jakarta)
2. 4th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting - 20 to 21 February; Manila
3. 7th Philippines-Japan Political-Military Meeting - 16 April; Manila
4. Philippines-Indonesia 3rd Preparatory Meeting for Boundary Delimitation Talks - 6 May; Jakarta
8. 5th Philippines-ROK Policy Consultations - 27 May; Manila
9. Philippines-Timor Leste Inaugural Policy Consultations - 26 June; Manila
10. Philippines-Singapore 2nd Informal Consultations on Bilateral Action Plan - 4 July; Manila
11. 4th Philippines-New Zealand Bilateral Consultation - 5 August; Manila
12. 3rd Joint Consular Consultations Meeting - 23 September; Seoul
13. 1st Philippines-Kazakhstan Political Consultations - 1 October; Manila

Europe:

1. 1st Philippines-Norway Bilateral Consultations - 9 January; Manila
2. 6th Philippines-Switzerland Bilateral Consultations - 27 February; Manila
3. Philippines-Spain High-Level Political Consultations - 24 March; Manila
4. 5th Philippines-Romania Political Consultations - 5 May; Bucharest
5. 3rd Philippines – Poland Political Consultations - 6 May; Warsaw
6. 5th Philippines-Hungary Political Consultations - 9 May; Budapest
7. 5th Philippines-Finland Political Consultations - 19 May; Helsinki
8. 9th Philippines-Russia Political Consultations - 22 May; Moscow

Middle East and Africa:

1. 5th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Consultation Meeting - 29 to 30 January; Manila
2. 8th Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting - 11 to 12 February; Manila
3. 2nd Philippines-Oman Informal Bilateral Consultations - 4 February; Manila
4. 2nd Philippines-South Africa Bilateral Consultative Forum - 10 February; Manila

*(Refer to **Annex B** for details/highlights of Bilateral Commissions/Consultations convened in 2014)*



Secretary del Rosario and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa after the signing of the Philippines-Indonesia Agreement Concerning the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary. Behind them, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President Benigno Aquino III witness the signing. Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau

PROMOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The definition and scope of national security continues to expand, with the following seven (7) elements identified in the National Security Plan 2011-2016:

- Socio-Political Stability;
- Territorial Integrity;
- Economic Solidarity;
- Cultural Cohesiveness;
- Ecological Balance;
- Moral-Spiritual Consensus; and
- Peace and Harmony.

Where international relations affect the Philippines in terms of these elements, the DFA takes the lead in ensuring that the national interest receives paramount consideration.

A major continuing challenge in 2014 was that of securing and safeguarding the country's territorial integrity, particularly its maritime boundaries in the West Philippine Sea. The Philippines' archipelagic nature is a fundamental reality that will continue to define the way it deals with other States, especially those in its immediate neighborhood.

A. PURSUIT OF A RULES-BASED REGIME IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

The Philippines carried on espousing a rules-based approach as the only legitimate and viable means to address the West Philippine Sea (WPS)/South China Sea (SCS) issue.

Efforts to promote a rules-based regime

The DFA strengthened its advocacy for the peaceful and rules-based settlement of disputes in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law. From the Philippines' standpoint, the rules-based resolution and management of disputes in the South China Sea (SCS) can be realized through the following twin tracks:

1. A final and enduring resolution of maritime disputes through arbitration under Part XV and Annex VII of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and
2. The expeditious conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

The Philippines' resort to third-party arbitration under UNCLOS to clarify maritime entitlements in the South China Sea upholds the primacy of the rule of law in inter-state relations. It does not constitute abandonment of diplomatic avenues, as signified by the Philippines' continued efforts to enhance and advance its relations with China on the basis of mutual respect and sovereign equality. Nor does the case diminish the Philippine Government's zeal in pushing for a legally binding Code of Conduct.

Secretary del Rosario, with Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza, answers questions from the members of the DFA press corps on the submission of Philippine Memorial to the arbitral tribunal under UNCLOS.



Submission of Philippine Memorial to the Arbitral Tribunal under UNCLOS

The initiation in January 2013 of arbitral proceedings, under UNCLOS, by the Philippines against China on the WPS seeks to promote stability through an open, friendly, enduring and rules-based settlement of maritime disputes. A Social Weather Station (SWS) survey conducted last December 2013 showed that 9 out of 10 Filipinos supported the move.

On 30 March 2014, the Philippines submitted its Memorial to the Arbitral Tribunal, presenting its case on the jurisdiction of the Arbitral Tribunal and the merits of the Philippines' claims. The Arbitral Tribunal set 15 December 2014 as the deadline for China to submit its Counter-Memorial, which lapsed with the latter opting not to comply with the Tribunal's order.

Expeditious conclusion of a substantive and legally-binding Code of Conduct in the SCS

The Philippines kept up its engagement with the other ASEAN members and China toward the expeditious conclusion of a legally binding Code of Conduct to peacefully manage tensions in the region.

In the interim, it continued to push for the full and effective implementation of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The full and effective implementation of the DOC does not only refer to the realization of joint cooperative activities but more importantly the implementation of Paragraph 5, which calls for the exercise of self-restraint and the avoidance of activities that further complicate the situation or escalate tension in the region. These include activities such as massive reclamation on occupied features; inhabiting of, and/or undertaking of reclamation activities at, uninhabited features; and other unilateral actions that force a change in the status quo in the SCS.

On 08 August 2014, at the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, the Philippines presented the Triple Action Plan (TAP) to address provocative and destabilizing activities in the SCS.

Positive, comprehensive and constructive, the TAP ties together various initiatives that the Philippines and other countries have been advocating on the SCS issue over the past years. It puts forward 1) immediate; 2) intermediate; and 3) final approaches to address provocative and destabilizing activities in the region without prejudice to existing territorial claims.

This proposal was reiterated by the Philippines at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly on 29 September 2014, with the circulation to all Member States of the TAP as a document of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a) on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea.



Secretary del Rosario with Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. at the Development Communication Coordinating Network (DEVCOMNET) Special Assembly on the West Philippine Sea.

Other initiatives to ensure protection and promotion of Philippine interests in the WPS

The DFA broadened the discourse, both domestically and internationally, on the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea issue, including the case brought by the Philippines against China over maritime entitlements in the region. It organized an array of activities to ensure that the issue, particularly the principled position taken by the Philippines in pursuing the arbitral case against China, continues to register on the public radar.

In April, the Department partnered with the Philippine Information Agency in organizing a *Development Communication Coordinating Network (DEVCOMNET) Special Assembly on the West Philippine Sea*. The special assembly provided DEVCOMNET partners a comprehensive briefing on the Philippine policy on the SCS/WPS issue. It also served as a platform for the government to coordinate its messaging on the issue for the next two to three years.

Meanwhile, the Department's Foreign Service Posts sustained their advocacy on the issue, keeping the international community abreast of developments in the SCS/WPS.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES' ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES

Negotiations to delimit the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia

After twenty (20) years of negotiations, the Philippines and Indonesia signed the "Agreement Concerning the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary" on 23 May 2014 during the State Visit of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Annexed to the Agreement are charts showing the EEZ Boundary of the Philippines and Indonesia in the Mindanao Sea and Celebes Sea in the Southern Philippines and in the Philippine Sea on the southern section of the Pacific Ocean. The Agreement is a landmark in Philippines-Indonesia relations, which will open up opportunities for closer cooperation in the preservation and protection of the rich marine environment in the area, increased trade, and enhanced maritime security.

It is also a milestone in terms of being the first agreement entered into by the Philippines on maritime boundary delimitation. The EEZ boundary line defines the limits of the sea space in the southern Philippines thereby giving our fishermen and other stakeholders a clear extent of the area where they can exercise the sovereign rights over the waters as provided for by national laws and treaties including the 1982 UNCLOS. The EEZ boundary will also enhance the efforts of government agencies to enforce Philippine fishing, maritime and security laws.

The Agreement sets an example for peaceful, rules-based negotiation on maritime boundaries between two archipelagic States.

Support for initiatives to formally establish Philippine archipelagic sea lanes and maritime zones

In line with its role in upholding the country's territorial integrity and national security, the DFA participated in deliberations in the House of Representatives on two (2) important legislative bills, which are included in the President's 29-item Priority Legislative Agenda for the 16th Congress, namely:

1. Philippine Maritime Zones (House Bill No. 4889); and
2. Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes (House Bill No. 4888)

The DFA provided, and continues to provide, technical and substantive support to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as it considers these legislative measures.

C. DEFENSE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

The DFA intensified diplomatic initiatives to enhance the country's capacity for self- and collective defense, strengthen maritime security and maritime domain awareness, and improve humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) capacities.

It continued to engage key regional players such as Japan, South Korea and Australia in security dialogues, while at the same time broadening its enduring defense partnership with the United States. In 2014, the Department actively pursued and facilitated inter-agency consultations that resulted in the conclusion and/or signing of eleven (11) bilateral and multilateral agreements on political and security/defense matters.

United States

The landmark visit of United States President Barack Obama (28-29 April) reaffirmed the excellent ties and reservoir of goodwill between the two countries. President Obama acknowledged the strategic value of the Philippines-U.S. alliance and confirmed its ironclad commitment to defend its allies in the region, including the Philippines. He likewise reiterated the United States' support for the arbitration process filed by the Philippines against China.

Secretary Albert del Rosario links arms with Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador Philip Goldberg at the Opening Ceremony of the Philippines-US Balikatan Exercise 2014.



The visit of President Obama saw the signing of the PHL-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), which is envisioned to advance the implementation of the Mutual Defense Treaty through interoperability, capacity building towards modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and strengthening of the AFP for external defense, maritime security, maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR). The agreement also provides for cooperation through construction of facilities and infrastructure upgrades, and storage and preposition of defense and HADR equipment, supplies and materiel.

At the 4th Philippines-United States Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (6 to 7 March) the two countries agreed to:

- Strengthen joint cooperation and training in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime domain awareness, disaster response preparedness, and non-proliferation;
- Call for the expeditious conclusion of a legally-binding Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea China, including opposition to unilateral measures that aim to alter the status quo and escalate tensions in the region and a call on all parties to exercise self-restraint; and
- Further explore cooperative activities in the area of law enforcement, including combating money laundering and cybercrime, anti-corruption, and the rule of law in the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and US Ambassador Philip Goldberg sign the PHL-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).



Japan

The Philippines and Japan continued to work closely through the latter's development assistance programs, especially those geared at enhancing the capabilities of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with the acquisition of ten (10) multi-role response vessels (MRRVs). The Philippines also received assistance from Japan for its maritime security capacity building efforts, including support for strategic deployment and visibility through the Asset Acquisition Program and Human Resource Program, maritime monitoring and surveillance, and management of maritime traffic in critical areas for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The DFA also initiated and coordinated Japan's grant aid for the second phase of the Project for Enhancement of Coastal Communications Systems worth JP¥1.152 billion (approximately PHP 507 million) to be implemented by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to improve the communications systems of the PCG and enhance its search-and-rescue and counterterrorism capabilities.

Australia

Philippine-Australia defense cooperation is anchored on the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA), which entered into force in 2012. The Philippines benefitted from the

Secretary Albert del Rosario and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, with Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo and Australian Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb at a joint press conference in Manila.



implementation of the SOVFA through the deployment of Australian Defense Forces assets and personnel to support Typhoon Yolanda relief operations.

Further headway was made in bilateral security and defense relations with the convening of the 4th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (20 February) where Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop made the following commitments:

- Convene annual meetings of the Philippines-Australia Joint Defense Cooperation Committee, wherein the two countries regularly undertake joint land and maritime training exercises and periodic consultations on counter-terrorism cooperation.
- Enhance the capabilities of the AFP through the bilateral defense cooperation program focusing on maritime security, counter-terrorism, bilateral and multilateral exercises, and education and training.
- Maintain the excellent level of co-operation between Australian and Philippine agencies on counter-terrorism issues, and develop new areas of collaboration to support Philippine capabilities.

In addition, the DFA facilitated Australia's two-part offer to donate five decommissioned Australian Landing Craft Heavy (LCH) vessels to the Philippine Navy.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea supported the AFP modernization program through its pledge to donate a landing craft utility and sixteen (16) rubber boats to the Philippine Navy. In March, a contract was signed with the Korean Aerospace Incorporated (KAI), paving the way for the Department of National Defense's acquisition of FA-50 jets from KAI.

D. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

Beyond the Philippines' bilateral relations, the DFA reinforced its commitments and engagement with regional and multilateral partners to support the achievement of the country's broader foreign policy objectives.

The DFA ramped up its representation of the Philippines in global governance and cooperation efforts on pressing international issues that affect the country, among them non-traditional security issues such as transnational crime, terrorism and arms proliferation, promotion and protection of human rights, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management.



MYANMAR, 2014

24th ASEAN SUMMIT

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 10 -11 May 2014



*President Aquino with his ASEAN counterparts at the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
(Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)*

Counter-Terrorism

In ASEAN, the Philippines hosted the first Symposium of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), which came a few days after the historic signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). It was meant to give the AIPR Governing Council an overview of the peace and reconciliation initiatives being undertaken in the region and throughout the world, and to allow them to network with various think-tanks and organizations involved in peace and reconciliation initiatives.

In the UN, the Philippines co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 2178 on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), together with 103 other States, and committed to implement its provisions. The Department is currently part of an interagency working group composed of the country's defense, law enforcement, transport, intelligence, diplomatic, legal and peace process institutions tasked to craft a national coordinated response to the phenomenon of FTFs.

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

The DFA ensured a strong Philippine voice in international debates on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the establishment of standards for the transfer of conventional arms, the curbing the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, and the elimination of chemical and biological weapons as well as landmines and cluster munitions.

Philippine Participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations

The Philippines' close involvement in UN peacekeeping operations manifests the country's firm commitment to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, as enshrined in the UN Charter. At the same time, Filipino troops deployed to UN peacekeeping operations bring back improved capacities and capabilities, best practices, and valuable skill sets and policy frameworks gleaned during their foreign stint, which can be harnessed for the improvement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

The UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Philippine participation in UNDOF began in April 2009 when the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO) requested the Philippines to consider deployment to the UNDOF to replace a Polish Infantry Contingent. Since the first deployment, Philippine troops have made significant contributions to UNDOF in the maintenance of peace and security in the Golan Heights.

At the 8th Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) Ministerial Meeting held in Hiroshima, Japan—the first city to experience the terrible consequences of the atomic bomb, the Philippines reiterated its support for a world free of nuclear weapons. It subscribed to the Joint Ministerial Declaration, which reaffirmed the view that the only guarantee against the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons is their total elimination, and committed to make a meaningful contribution to the success of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

At the Regional Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in the Middle East and North Africa held on 28-29 October 2014 in Rabat, Morocco, the Philippines presented the “No Military Action Zone” initiative aimed at protecting civilians from conflict and ensuring that their daily lives are not disrupted by violence.

The Philippines also hosted, with the Government of Canada, a Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. The workshop, held on 24-25 July 2014, attracted participants from all ASEAN States, regional partners such as the United States, Australia, Japan and the European Union, and international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament (RCPD), the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Institute (ICJI), and the UNSCR 1540 Committee Panel of Experts.

As chair of the National Council for UN Peace Operations (NCUNPO), the DFA dispatched an assessment team, together with officials from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Office of the Executive Secretary to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights in order to review the country's continued participation in the peacekeeping mission.

Through constant coordination and communication with the UN, bilateral partners, and other government agencies, the DFA played an instrumental role in the safe extraction and eventual repatriation of Filipino peacekeepers in UNDOF who were involved in a standoff and firefight with armed groups in the Golan Heights on August 2014.



*Members of the 7th Philippine Contingent to the Golan Heights receive a hero's welcome in Malacanang.
(Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)*

Human Rights

In the UN, the DFA continued to uphold the Philippines' standing as a responsible State Party to relevant international legal instruments on human rights by facilitating the submission of the following national reports:

- 3rd Periodic Report on the Convention against Torture (CAT);
- Initial report on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and
- 5th and 6th Report on Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The Philippines also hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Review Conference of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence (GDAV) on 8-9 October 2014, drawing government representatives and other stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region. The conference reviewed progress in the implementation of the principles of GDAV, and discussed the links between development and armed violence reduction and prevention, with a view to incorporating the issue in the global framework that will succeed the MDGs.

Secretary Teresita Deles, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, with Ambassador Rosario Manalo, leads the Philippine delegation to the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. (Photo Credit: OPAPP)



On women's rights, the Philippines joined the initial 113 UN member states at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence. The Philippine delegation, headed by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Secretary Teresita Quinto Deles, underscored the leadership role of women in the country's peacebuilding efforts and initiatives. The Philippines participated in various activities and sessions that presented the country as a model for strong women participation in peace building. Secretary Deles shared the Philippines' own experience in drafting and implementing its own National Action Plan (NAP), which was the first ever signed in Asia and is a product of collaboration of national government agencies and civil society, especially peace and women advocates. It also endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, a UK-led initiative launched during the 2013 UNGA. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam were the other members of ASEAN that supported the Declaration.

Further on the promotion of women's rights, the DFA formed part of the Philippine delegation to the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) held on 10-21 March 2014 in New York on the theme "Challenges and achievement in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls." CSW58 led to the successful negotiation of agreed conclusions, with nearly all the Philippine proposals adopted, particularly those on macroeconomic policies, disaster and climate change, and migrant women. The Philippines also gave important inputs on the following areas that were reflected in the agreed conclusions:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- HIV and AIDS
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Gender-based violence
- Prostitution and trafficking
- Peace and security
- Root causes of poverty
- Feminization of poverty
- Paid and unpaid work
- Formal and informal economy
- Access to productive resources
- Rural women
- Adolescent girls and young women
- CSO participation
- Women's human rights
- Women human rights defenders
- Information and communications technology, and
- Data disaggregated by age, sex, and other variables.

On migrant workers' rights, the DFA facilitated the preparation, submission, and presentation of the country's 2nd Periodic Report to the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families (3-4 April 2014). After the Philippines' written and oral presentations, the UN Committee on Migrant Workers noted the

substantial progress made by the country in protecting the rights of its migrant workers abroad, and the country's extensive and advanced legal and policy framework in implementing the Convention.

In ASEAN, the Philippines renewed its commitment to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals by calling for the sustained implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and existing provisions of the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). Faithful to its advocacy on women and children's issues, the DFA recommended the conduct of a regional study on the impact of ASEAN economic integration on the human rights of women and children.

Climate Change

The Philippines accords utmost importance to Climate Change, which it considers a core foreign policy concern. In various forums, the Philippines endorsed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and continued to undertake voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With the Philippines taking a leadership role in the Vienna and Geneva chapters of G77 and China, the Philippines has positioned itself as a bridge between developed and developing countries, leveraging its strong relations and close ties with ASEAN members and other partners.

The DFA coordinated the country's participation in the landmark UN Climate Summit in September, where President Benigno S. Aquino III, together with more than 120 other Heads of State/Government, and business and civil society leaders, agreed to limit global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees C, committed to a meaningful and universal climate change agreement at the 20th COP in Lima, Peru and 21st COP in Paris, France, and pledged ambitious action that would increase resilience and cut greenhouse emissions.

At the 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held on 1-12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru, the DFA was instrumental in the Philippines' emergence as a leading voice for climate-vulnerable countries, with the country accepting Chairmanship of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). The Philippine delegation pledged to submit the Philippines' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) for 2015, one of the first developing nations to do so, and called on fellow developing nations to pledge to cut emissions as well. The delegation also pushed hard for climate finance and adaptation, loss and damage, strengthening of reducing emissions through deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) safeguards, and the referencing of climate change as a human rights issue.

At the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the DFA negotiated and successfully led the passage of UNHRC Resolution 26/L.33 on Human Rights and Climate Change, which brought back discussions on the adverse effects of climate change on the effective enjoyment of human rights of peoples and communities.

In ASEAN, the DFA continually underscored the need for a regional approach toward managing the effects of climate change and extreme weather disturbances, and promoting better disaster preparedness and mitigation, rehabilitation and recovery.

At the 24th ASEAN Summit, the Philippines urged developed countries to follow through on their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to assist developing countries in climate change adaptation, particularly and primarily through assistance in capacity building, technology transfer, and finance.

President Aquino addresses the UN Climate Summit in New York. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)



Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)

As a country particularly prone to natural disasters, including those wrought by climate change, the Philippines attaches tremendous importance to the work being done by regional and international bodies in advancing natural disaster risk reduction and management. The onslaught of Super Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013 highlighted the importance of global and regional cooperation in increasing resilience and strengthening the international humanitarian and emergency response system. The Philippines has made significant contributions toward this end, sharing the lessons and best practices gained from Yolanda and earlier disasters.

In ASEAN, the Philippines continued to espouse its advocacy for a disaster-resilient community and called for the full implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the strengthening of the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA). The Philippines fully supports the full realization of AADMER's aims by generating mutually productive collaboration between ASEAN institutions and civil society at regional and national levels.

At the 25th ASEAN Summit, the Philippines again highlighted the need to boost ASEAN's mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and management. It pushed for the strengthening of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and continued support and expansion of post-disaster programs, including the provision of emergency livelihood opportunities, the rehabilitation of public infrastructure, and the promotion of disaster risk financing initiatives such as micro-insurance.

In October, the DFA hosted the Southeast Asian Regional Government Consultations on the Nansen Initiative on the theme "Human Mobility in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change in Southeast Asia," which was attended by representatives from government, regional and international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders from within and beyond the region. The consultations centered on the following:

- Focus on the protection of displaced persons;
- Focus on cluster approach in disaster response;
- Provision of consular services, basic social services and safe passage of migrant workers;
- Enhancing data and scientific knowledge;
- Consider creation of an ASEAN migrant relief network that can be tapped by member states during disasters in the region; and
- Tapping into the protection agenda of regional and international conventions for migrant workers such as the Convention on rights of Migrant Workers, AADMER and the ASEAN Climate Change Committee.

The DFA also hosted the ARF Cross-Sectoral Security Cooperation on Bio-Preparedness and Disaster Response Workshop in Manila on 26-28 August 2014, which produced a draft template for national guidelines on bio-preparedness to aid members in the crafting or improvement of their own national bio-preparedness plans.

Response to Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)

Following the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in Central Visayas, the DFA spearheaded the extensive coordination of offers and delivery of international assistance with Foreign Service Posts, foreign Embassies in Manila, and the domestic agencies engaged in disaster response operations; facilitated the entry of medical/disaster relief teams from over fifteen (15) countries and international organizations, as well as relief goods and medicines from various sources; and processed diplomatic clearances for foreign naval and air assets.

Pledges of assistance from foreign governments and international organizations were monitored, compiled and transmitted by the DFA to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for processing and uploading to the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub (FAiTH), an online interagency platform that shows a transparent and an up-to-date accounting of foreign assistance, commitments and pledges.

The DFA also spearheaded the Philippines' hosting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management "Post-Haiyan/Yolanda—A Way Forward" (4 to 6 June 2014). The conference reviewed the global state of play in DRRM, proposed improvements, introduced ideas drawn from lessons learned from mega disasters, particularly from Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, and formulated recommendations for ASEM DRRM cooperation in the post-Haiyan/Yolanda context.

Secretary Panfilo Lacson, Presidential Assistant for Recovery and Rehabilitation, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, and DFA Assistant Secretary Maria Zeneida Angara-Collinson at the ASEM Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management held in Manila in June.





Above: Participants of the ASEM Manila Conference visit Tacloban; and President Aquino delivers his keynote address at the ASEM Manila Conference. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)

The Conference adopted the Post-Haiyan Tacloban Declaration, which secured the commitment of the Conference's participants to advance DRRM cooperation and collaboration. It aims to:

1. Support the Philippines' proposal to host a conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and underlined the need to strengthen collective preparedness and response to disaster and to reduce losses caused by disasters;
2. Forge greater collaboration and coordination in disaster risk reduction and management;
3. Continue the full implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 on "Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters"; and
4. Contribute actively in the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction by, inter alia, introducing new elements to the global discourse and filling gaps left by other DRRM platforms.

The Conference endorsed, through the ASEM Senior Officials Meeting, the Post-Haiyan Tacloban Declaration to the 10th ASEM Leaders Summit in Milan in October 2014. The Summit endorsed the Declaration as an ASEM contribution to the post-2015 framework for DRRM. The Conference further agreed to endorse the Declaration and invited other ASEM Partners to consider advocating the Post-Haiyan Tacloban Declaration in upcoming international, regional, national and local DRRM meetings and events, especially during the discussions on the post-2015 framework for DRR.

Meanwhile, ASEAN reaffirmed its readiness to support the Philippines in its recovery efforts through the proposed ASEAN Strategic Assistance for Recovery and Rehabilitation of Typhoon Haiyan-affected Areas in the Philippines. Its four components/activities imple-



Above: Secretary del Rosario with ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh and Secretary Panfilo Lacson co-host the ASEAN High-Level Conference on Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Area (ARYA); and Secretary del Rosario joins the participants of the ARYA.

mented in 2014 include the following:

1. ASEAN High-Level Conference for Haiyan Rehabilitation and Reconstruction – In August, the Department co-convened the ASEAN High-Level Conference on Assistance for the Recovery of Yolanda-Affected Areas (ARYA) with ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and Presidential Assistant for Recovery and Rehabilitation Secretary Panfilo Lacson. The conference encouraged partners to pledge concrete assistance to the Philippine Government to implement its national and local recovery and rehabilitation plans for the Yolanda Corridor. This was spurred by the Philippine Government's call for the support and sustained interest of the international community as it addresses critical post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation needs of affected areas.
2. ASEAN Community Rebuilding Technical Workshop – The Workshop shared knowledge and experience of ASEAN Member States, which have experienced major disasters in the past, with discussions focused on sustainable practices in building back better, smarter, safer communities.
3. ASEAN Community Rebuilding Stakeholders Meeting – The Meeting brought together stakeholders from local communities in the Haiyan Corridor and supporters/partners who can help develop specific proposals for recovery and rehabilitation based on the outcome of the conference.
4. Adopt-a-Municipality for Resilient Recovery Project – The Project represents ASEAN's lasting contribution in the area of post-disaster rebuilding and reconstruction.



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



APEC
CHINA 2014

亚太经合组织第二十二次领导人非正式会议 THE 22ND APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

中国 北京

2014年11月11日

BEIJING, CHINA

11 NOVEMBER 2014



*President Aquino (front row, 4th from right) and other APEC leaders at the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Summit in Beijing.
(Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)*

PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

With its unparalleled presence and leadership of the Country Team abroad, the DFA steers the Philippines' economic diplomacy efforts. Its network of 84 Foreign Service Posts seek prospective bilateral, regional and global partners, and cement existing partnerships, with the goal of reducing poverty and generating large-scale, high-quality employment for Filipinos.

In 2014, the DFA sharpened its focus on attracting foreign investments and creating new opportunities, as well as expanding existing ones, for trade and tourism. Under the Country Team Approach, it continued to work closely with the private sector, as well as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Tourism (DOT), and other relevant government agencies, in investigating opportunities in new and non-traditional markets, particularly in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and Latin America.

Cultural Diplomacy also played a vital role in advancing the country's economic interests, by stimulating heightened interest in the Philippines and its products and destinations.

A. ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

For 2014, the DFA and its 84 Embassies and Consulates General conducted a total of 3,635 economic diplomacy programs and activities to open new markets, entice foreign investment, raise awareness of the Philippines as a business and tourism destination, encourage and facilitate development assistance, and spur knowledge and technology transfer, among others.

The DFA spearheaded the conclusion and/or signing of thirty-eight (38) economic and cultural agreements, and held dialogues and negotiations with bilateral and multilateral partners on a broad range of economic and related issues.

B. BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

United States

President Aquino held a roundtable meeting with 29 CEOs and Senior Management from top US corporations and senior executives affiliated with three (3) organizations during his visit to the United States on 20-24 September 2014. Discussions focused on the Philippine economy and growth opportunities, possible Philippine participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, and the Philippines' hosting of APEC. He urged prospective investors to take advantage of new business opportunities offered by the Philippines in light of its improved economy and the expectation that it would hit the so-called 'demographic sweet spot' by 2015. The meeting allowed individual companies to raise specific concerns on their current or planned operations in the Philippines.

President Aquino at a business roundtable with CEOs and senior officials of the US Chamber of Commerce, the US-ASEAN Business Council, and the US-Philippine Society. (Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)



Resolution of Trade-Related Issues

In April, the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restored the Category 1 Rating of the Philippines after finding it compliant with international aviation safety standards. With the Category 1 rating, Philippine carriers are now allowed to expand operations in the U.S., and enter into code-share arrangements with American airlines.

The U.S. likewise removed the Philippines from the Special 301 Watch List on account of the significant legislative and regulatory reforms undertaken by the Government to promote, protect, and enforce Intellectual Property Rights. The removal from the list is expected to enhance U.S. confidence in the Philippines' business environment, especially in Intellectual Property-intensive industries, and encourage more U.S. investments in emerging and high-technology sectors, as well as high value-added, knowledge-based, and skill-intensive industries.

In May, the U.S. closed the General System of Preferences (GSP) review without any change to the Philippines' GSP trade benefits based on the considerable progress demonstrated by the Government on workers' rights issues. This would allow the Philippines to continue enjoying preferential trade benefits from the GSP.

In October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture lifted its previous entry prohibition on fresh mangoes grown in several regions of the Philippines after declaring the country pest-free. The U.S. government amended the list of designated pest-free areas for mango seed weevil and mango pulp weevil within the Philippines, allowing mango growers all over the Philippines to export their harvests to the U.S.

The United States also supported the Philippines' request for extension of a World Trade Organization (WTO) waiver on rice until 2017. On 19 June 2014, the WTO Council for Trade in Goods approved the rice waiver request and forwarded the draft decision to the General Council for adoption. Aside from the U.S., Australia, Indonesia, China, Vietnam and India also supported the Philippine request. This means that the Philippines can continue to impose quantitative import restrictions on rice for another three years. According to the Department of Agriculture, extension of the Special Treatment on rice under the WTO is deemed necessary to allow more investments to flow to the rice sector and infrastructure to be established to ensure the food security of the country.

9th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT)

The 9th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour, held on 28-31 July 2014 in cooperation with DOT's Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) and Rajah Tours, drew about 255 participants and generated substantial income from the earnings in the basic tour and post-tour packages, and other tour expenditures such as shopping, dining, and entertainment.



Secretary del Rosario is joined by DOT Assistant Secretary Benito Bengzon Jr., PCOO Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr., Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia Jr., and the organizers of the 9th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour.

3rd Filipino American Youth Leadership Program (FYLPro)

In cooperation with the Ayala Foundation, the third run of the Filipino American Youth Leadership Program (FYLPro) in Manila was held on 24-28 July 2014. The immersion program afforded the participants the chance to meet and dialogue with Filipino public sector officials and policymakers, legislators, industry leaders, media, artists and cultural experts, traditional and social entrepreneurs, as well as innovators in different fields. The participants itinerary also included hands-on activities with organizations handling social causes, such as visiting the H. Bautista Elementary School in Marikina where they helped repair broken chairs and put up new chalkboards as part of the Teach for the Philippines' (TftP) Renovate to Educate program; visiting informal settlers in Rosario, Cavite to personally witness their living conditions; and viewing a successful community development project at the nearby Gawad Kalinga village.

Canada

The inaugural Winter Escapade—It's More Fun in the Philippines Tour was organized by Foreign Service Posts in Canada in January. Winter Escapade 1 is a spin-off from the successful Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) which invites Filipino-Canadians to deepen their appreciation of the beauty of the Philippines, and its rich history, heritage and culture; and foreign tourists to discover the Philippines' beautiful attractions, especially its world-class beaches and eco-tourism and adventure sites, while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Filipinos. It also aims to promote the Philippines as a safe place to travel.

In June, Canada announced the expansion of Canada's Development Countries of Focus (from 20 to 25), and increased the proportion of bilateral assistance to be allocated to these countries from 80% to 90% of Canada's total budget for bilateral assistance. The Philippines was one of seven (7) countries elevated to the expanded list.

In September 2014, Canada designated the Philippines as a priority emerging market under its Global Markets Action Plan. As a priority market for trade and investments, the Philippines can expect Canada's facilitation of foreign direct investment, and partnerships in technology and talent by the government of Canada in working with various Canadian enterprises.

Secretary del Rosario receives New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser during the latter's courtesy call at the DFA.



Australia

The Philippines and Australia convened the 4th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (20 February) and agreed to:

- Encourage the private sector to explore new opportunities for trade and investment;
- Provide an enabling environment for trade and investment by streamlining business regulations, boosting productivity and competitiveness, promoting greater utilization of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA), and ensuring frequent government dialogue to address trade and investment concerns;
- Share Australian experience to assist the Philippine Government deliver on its major infrastructure agenda and assist in post-typhoon recovery and reconstruction;
- Build on strong cooperation in agriculture and market access; and
- Continue Australia's support for the Philippines' development of its Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) framework.

Japan

The Philippines and Japan signed and exchanged notes on three (3) grant aid projects in the amount of JP¥ 6.917 billion or approximately PhP 3.041 billion namely:

- 1) Project for Enhancement of Coastal Communications Systems;
- 2) Project for Improvement of Water Supply of the Metro Cebu Water District; and
- 3) Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda.

Further, in March 2014, the Philippines and Japan exchanged notes on a non-project grant aid worth JPY 500M or approximately PhP 215M which will provide hybrid and electric police patrol cars and ambulances to Yolanda-affected areas as well as other "Next-Generation" vehicles to be used in promoting alternative fuel-fed vehicles.

New Zealand

New Zealand Minister for Trade Tim Groser headed a three-day business mission to the Philippines (5 June) accompanied by a business delegation representing the ICT, aviation, education, geothermal energy, food and dairy, logistics, and manufacturing sectors.

European Region

The DFA coordinated the Government's negotiation for the lifting of the aviation ban by the EU on Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific. It took an active role in the consolidation of efforts for the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) to continue to recruit, train and retain qualified technical personnel in performing necessary safety, surveillance and oversight functions, in addition to fulfilling requirements set forth by the EU-ASC/

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Recognizing the general improvement in the Philippines' aviation safety standards and efforts exerted by the CAAP, the EU lifted the air ban on Philippine Airlines in July 2013 and on Cebu Pacific Air in April 2014. The lifting of the ban creates an opportunity to attract more European investors and tourists to the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the Department successfully negotiated a six-month extension within which to institute corrective measures based on the findings of an audit in October 2013 by the European Maritime Safety Administration (EMSA) of the Philippines' regulatory framework on maritime education and training required by the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention. The six-month reprieve allowed the country to consolidate improvements its maritime regulatory framework to avoid being delisted as a country that adheres to international standards for the education and training of seafarers. The Philippines is currently awaiting the result of the EMSA audit conducted in September-October 2014.

C. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES INITIATED BY THE DFA

In 2014, the DFA coordinated and assisted in the conduct of the following business and investment missions to the Philippines:

- **Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDAF)** – Representing the French Business Confederation, the MEDAF international business delegation was composed of 24 business executives from various industries and sectors, ranging from power and energy, real estate development, infrastructure and construction, communications, transportation, banking, and logistics.
- **Huhu Studios/ TooBoom Investment Mission** – Mr. Trevor Yaxley, Chief Operating Officer of Huhu Studios, visited the Philippines last 14 April 2014 and presented a proposal to Education Secretary Armin A. Luistro and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario for a digital media training program for Philippine animation practitioners and trainers; an animation curriculum for the envisioned Creative Industry Track for Grades 11 and 12 of the K to 12 Basic Education Program; and the establishment of a partnership between the Philippine Government, through the Department of Education, and ToonBoom/Huhu Studios International.
- **Energia Asset Management AS Investment Mission** – EAM's business model is to invest and operate Solar PV power plants under long term Private-Public Partnerships. Its business delegation met with officials of the Board of Investments, Department of Energy, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC), National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), Philippine Stock Exchange, San Carlos Solar Energy Inc., and Cagayan Electric Power and Light Company Inc.



President Aquino and Secretary del Rosario, with US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and members of the US-ASEAN Business Council.

- US-ASEAN Business Council Business Mission – Members of the U.S. delegation met with heads of government agencies (i.e., DTI, DOF, Speaker of the House, and the Senate President) and with private business associations (i.e., PCCI and the Makati Business Club), and discussed ways of strengthening Philippines-U.S. economic and trade relations.
- Botswana Trade and Investment Mission – The Mission visited Manila to investigate trade and investments opportunities in the country. The visit highlighted possible cooperation in the health, tourism, agriculture and Business Process Outsourcing/ Information and Communication Technology (BPO-ICT) sectors.
- Polish Chamber of Tourism Familiarization Tour – Through the initiative of Philippine Ambassador to Poland Patricia Ann V. Paez, members of the Polish Chamber of Tourism undertook familiarization tours of selected Philippine tourist attractions and held business-to-business meetings with Philippine tour operators/ travel agency owners/managers.

To further enhance the skills and strengthen the capacity of Heads of Posts to effectively and efficiently conduct economic diplomacy in their places of assignment, the DFA part-

nered with the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) to organize an Economic Diplomacy Strategic Management Workshop for twenty-five (25) Heads of Posts, including eleven (11) Ambassadors, two (2) Consuls General, and twelve (12) prospective Heads of Posts. The training workshop refreshed the participants on economic theories and analytical models applied in business management and leadership, vis-à-vis foreign policy theories and analytical models.

A cultural and economic familiarization tour of Central Luzon was organized for nine (9) ambassadors and 30 members of the diplomatic corps from Asia Pacific countries. Participants viewed the world-class home décor and furniture of Betis Crafts Factory in Guagua, Pampanga. The Asia-Pacific diplomats were also briefed by the heads of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Clark Development Corporation (CDC), Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (SCAD), and Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) on the economic developments and promising investment opportunities for the Asia Pacific countries. To get a first-hand look at major developments in Clark, Pampanga, the diplomats toured the Clark International Airport and the Global Gateway Logistics City (GGLC).

In partnership with the UN Institute on Training and Research (UNITAR) and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the DFA organized a meeting and workshop to address the need for a Post-2015 Development Agenda that incorporates three central concerns for developing countries: migration, resilience for development, and re-



Diplomats from the Asia-Pacific Region at the (from top) Betis Crafts Factory in Guagua; the Clark International Airport; and at the Nayong Pilipino in Clark as part of the program of the Cultural and Economic Familiarization Tour of Central Luzon.

form of the international economic system. The meeting identified measures that need to be considered in order to ensure that the Post-2015 Global Development agenda will deliver real and meaningful results to realize prosperity for all. The meeting was organized in line with the Philippines' preparations for negotiations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Philippines' chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China in Geneva in 2015.

D. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

World Economic Forum (WEF)

The World Economic Forum on East Asia, hosted by the Philippines from 21 to 23 May 2014, revolved around the theme "Leveraging Growth for Equitable Progress" and featured dynamic sessions geared toward the thematic pillars of (i) growth sustainability; (ii) the role of and opportunities for the ASEAN community in shaping the global growth agenda; and (iii) the Philippines' soft power and its imprint on the world.

The Forum, which brought together senior/high-level decision-makers from government, industry and civil society, was built on three pillars:

- Achieving Equitable Progress;
- Advancing Models for Sustainable Growth; and
- Realizing Regional Connectivity.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The DFA employed the Philippines' participation in the WTO in 2014 for the following:

- Provision of inputs for the Philippines' third-party participation in the dispute of several WTO members with Australia on its plain packaging requirements for cigarettes (DS 434 – Australia – Certain Measures Concerning Trademarks and other Plain Packaging Requirements Applicable to Tobacco products and Packaging). Participating as a third party gave the Philippines a chance to build the legal capacity of its government officials on WTO Dispute Settlement, while also allowing them to help ensure that settlements in the case are consistent with WTO Rules.
- Monitoring of Thailand's compliance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Body's series of rulings and recommendations on Thailand – Customs and Fiscal Measures on Cigarettes for the Philippines (DS 371) case.
- Monitoring of the implementation of RA No. 10351, entitled "Act of Restructuring the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco Products," which adopts a uniform tax on

all distilled spirits. The adoption of the new tax system is in response to the rulings and recommendations of the WTO Panel and Appellate Body on DS 396/403 Philippine Excise Taxes on Distilled Spirits, a case filed by the European Union and the United States against the Philippines in the WTO.

- Continued support for the implementation of the Bali package and the post-Bali work program in the WTO.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The Philippines participated in the 2014 OECD Southeast Asia Regional Forum in Bali, Indonesia, which assembled experts on tax, investment, regulatory reform, SMEs, connectivity, public-private partnerships, education, trade, innovation, and gender. At the sidelines of the Forum, OECD Secretary General William Danvers invited the Philippines to co-chair one of the six (6) regional policy networks to be established in 2015.

At the 2014 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo launched the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Program (SEARP), which aims to strengthen the OECD's engagement with Southeast Asia to support the regional integration process and the forging of an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

Preparations for the ASEAN Economic Community 2015

The ASEAN integration process presents vast opportunities for the Philippines to further its economic growth. It has a combined population that is young and exceeds 600 million, including a rising middle class; its trade level ranks fourth in the world, trailing only the European Union, North America, and China; and its economy, taken as a whole, is the seventh or eighth largest in the world, with a combined GDP of US\$ 2.3 Trillion.

To tap these opportunities, the Philippine Government faces the challenge of harnessing the potential of its industries and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to manufacture

*Left: Undersecretary Laura Del Rosario delivers her remarks at the Forum on ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements
Right: Philippine Ambassadors participate at the Strategic Planning Workshop for ASEAN Community Integration 2015 held in Manila.*



Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

In 2015, the Philippines assumes the Chairmanship of APEC, the premier economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region, which provides a platform for deeper economic engagement with its 21 member-economies. APEC is a major avenue to advance our interests in accelerating regional economic integration, improving the regulatory environment, expanding connectivity, strengthening economic and technical cooperation, mainstreaming SMMs, investing in human capital development, and advancing sustainability and resilience.

The Philippines' second APEC hosting is expected to bolster tourist arrivals, revenue, business activity, private investment, production, and domestic consumption. One of the thrusts of its hosting is to bring government and private sector together in creating better infrastructure and services for longterm use after the APEC hosting. APEC 2015 will likewise serve as an opportunity for the country to showcase the extensive governance reforms implemented by the Aquino administration; take the lead in fostering collective action on global issues; and help steer APEC toward the direction of inclusive growth and common prosperity for the entire Asia-Pacific region.

more, and to trade more in the area of services. Recognizing the need to equip companies and the labor sector to compete within ASEAN as well as in other markets, the Philippine Government has taken a more proactive stance in enhancing the competitiveness of domestic industries and professionals. Relevant initiatives include operationalizing the Philippine National Single Window; leading ASEAN maritime transport measures with the ASEAN Roll On-Roll Off (RoRo); signing of framework agreements to facilitate the entry of goods to our country and Mutual Recognition Agreements to have our professionals recognized in other ASEAN countries; and similar programs to build the capacities of our industries, both small and large, to meet the challenges of regional integration.

The DFA, for its part, focused on the following initiatives:

- Conducting local conferences on ASEAN Community Building to engage national stakeholders in development cooperation projects with ASEAN-wide application;
- Facilitating the ratification of various ASEAN Agreements and Protocols relating to the creation of the AEC;
- Promoting ASEAN awareness among the general public through social networking (internet), radio and television, ASEAN quiz contests and painting competitions, school debates, and the publication of primers, among others; and
- Coordinating with other government agencies in articulating Philippine interests in the ASEAN Summit, through various advocacies such as those in the areas of maritime security, SMEs, human rights, and migrant workers.

The DFA, as Chair of the APEC 2015 Committee on Host Economy Priorities, continued to lead and coordinate the formulation of APEC 2015 priorities through:

- Engagement with line agencies to spur more active participation in APEC meetings (working group, committee, senior officials, and ministerial level) and advance PH interests through substantive inputs to regional policy initiatives on various trade and sectoral issues discussed in APEC;
- Commissioning of research studies to provide the analytical framework needed for the substantive priorities that the Philippines will push for as APEC Host Economy for 2015 and which will be used as inputs to the Philippine government's future development planning, strategizing, and visioning exercises on a post-2015 scenario;
- Conduct and co-organization of workshops to determine the elements of various high-level meetings to be hosted by the Philippines, which shall serve as forums to engender collective action on important sectoral issues such as human capacity building, food security and education;
- Collaborative consultation with different stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector and the academe, as well as APEC counterparts, in order to ensure a comprehensive view and holistic treatment of issues and areas of interest; and,
- Monitoring of developments on and provision of inputs for the formulation of the substantive agenda of various working group meetings, high-level policy dialogues, and ministerial meetings to be hosted by the Philippines in 2015 through a whole-of-government approach, including various consultations and technical meetings with line agencies.

The DFA, as Co-Chair of the APEC 2015 National Organizing Council (APEC-NOC), closely coordinated with the Office of the Director General (ODG) and gave inputs to various APEC 2015 working committees, particularly those relating to conference management, operations, and strategic communications, based on its experience in handling both the substantive and administrative requirements of the Philippine delegation to APEC meetings since the Philippines last hosted APEC in 1996.

As APEC National Secretariat, the DFA likewise liaised with the APEC Secretariat in Singapore in aligning APEC's overall work program for 2015, which the Philippines is expected to steer during its hosting. The DFA closely monitored the discussions and developments in all of APEC's more than 30 fora and sub-fora, and across issues including customs, services, competition policy, business mobility, food security, energy, emergency preparedness, women, anti-corruption and health. The DFA also shepherded the approval of four out of nine Philippine-initiated APEC projects which are due for implementation in 2015.

22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting 2014

At the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Beijing, China, the President highlighted the reform initiatives that the Philippines has put in place in the areas of customs facilitation, competition policy, SME development and services liberalization. He showcased the Philippines' turn-around story, highlighting that good governance is good economics, where reforms spur momentum and sustain, beyond the near-term, growth that is inclusive and, thus, empowering.

The President called on his fellow Leaders to intensify people-to-people connectivity especially in tourism, science and technology, gender and development, women empowerment, and cross-border education, acknowledging the need to invest in human capital development. He highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships, especially in building infrastructure that will promote greater connectivity in terms of the freer movement of goods, services, people and capital. During the Summit, the President announced the Philippines' hosting of the 2nd Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting, which will be an opportunity for the Philippines to provide leadership in shaping the post-2015 structural reform agenda of APEC.

*President Benigno S. Aquino III answers questions during the panel discussion in the APEC CEO Summit 2014 in Beijing.
(Photo Credit: Malacanang Photo Bureau)*





DFA Undersecretary and APEC SOM Leader Laura Del Rosario joins other senior officials of APEC member economies at the APEC ISOM held in Manila in December.

Informal Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) 2014

The DFA hosted the Informal Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM), featuring a Symposium and Consultative Dialogue, last 8-9 December 2014. ISOM has traditionally been a venue for Senior Officials to discuss the incoming host's agenda in pursuit of APEC's broader goals of trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH).

The Symposium brought together international experts from different fields, who shared insights on the latest developments in the global economy as well as APEC-fit policy recommendations and possible areas of cooperation, particularly those on regional economic integration, SMEs, human capital development, and sustainability and resilience, all in the context of inclusive growth.

The Consultative Dialogue, on the other hand, generated broad support for the APEC 2015 priorities under the theme, "Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World." The theme of inclusive growth resonated among the APEC economies, who saw the relevance to their needs of the APEC 2015 Priorities, as follows:

- Investing in Human Capital Development;
- Fostering SMEs' Participation in Regional and Global Markets;
- Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities; and
- Enhancing the Regional Economic Integration Agenda.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The DFA's cultural diplomacy in 2014 centered on cultural promotion missions that brought cultural/creative products such as Philippine textiles, food and beverage, and artisanal goods, among others to global consumers and audiences. The DFA continued to support the initiatives of its 84 Foreign Service Posts by partnering and coordinating with concerned domestic and foreign agencies/organizations, such as the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA), in promoting the Philippines as a preferred cultural destination.

Filipino dancers perform the 'tinikling' before Ambassadors and other diplomats from the Asia-Pacific region during the Cultural and Economic Familiarization Tour of Central Luzon





DFA Undersecretary Laura Del Rosario at the "Habi" Exhibit held at the DFA lobby.

In February, the DFA organized "Lifting Philippine Spirits," a reception showcasing the best Philippine wines and liquors. Attended by foreign diplomats in the Philippines, among other guests, the event sought to help Philippine wine and liquor producers have access a broader market base through a product sampling activity. The guests had the opportunity to sample a wide array of drinks, ranging from the famous Philippine *lambanog* to tropical fruit- or barako coffee-flavored liqueurs.

In partnership with the Philippine Textile Research Insititute (PTRI), the DFA organized a selling exhibit entitled "*Habi*" to evoke a sense of pride among its employees for the country's rich heritage in traditional hand-woven textiles, as well as to help sustain the livelihood of ethnic and weaving communities through the promotion and sale of Philippine traditional weaves and neo-ethnic textiles. The exhibit was timed toward the Christmas season to allow the Department's employees to pick up new Filipiniana apparel, through which they help showcase Philippine culture during their overseas assignment.

In December, the DFA organized "*Pagkain*, a Philippine Food Exhibit," based on the book *Kulinarya: A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine*. The event was part of the exhibit tour organized by the Department and NCCA, which shall also be mounted in seven (7) Philippine Foreign Service Posts in China. The traveling exhibit aims to shine the spotlight

on Philippine society and culture to inspire greater mutual understanding and encourage more people-to-people exchanges between the Philippines and China.

Annotated by writer Michaela Fenix and visually presented by photographer Neal Oshima, *Pagkain* introduces viewers to Filipino food, traces the influences that have helped shape Philippine cuisine, and celebrates quintessential Filipino cooking.

In addition to organizing its own cultural activities, the DFA extended assistance to the following international events:

- “After the Storm” – The Philippines was represented by six (6) local contemporary artists in the international fund raising exhibit for Typhoon Haiyan victims. The Cultural Diplomacy Unit (CDU) of the Department and the Philippine Embassy in Hanoi assisted in the logistical requirements of the artists.
- “Canada Philippine Fashion Week” (CPFW) – The Canada Philippine Fashion Week was a series of high-impact shows spread over six days in Toronto. The CDU worked with the Philippine Consulate in Toronto to help meet the logistical requirements of the production team. The CDU also supported the CPFW as the highlight of this year’s Philippine Independence Day celebration in Toronto.

DFA Assistant Secretary for Asia and Pacific Affairs Minda Calaguian-Cruz, with Philippine Ambassador to China Erlinda Basilio and NCCA Chairman Felipe De Leon Jr., lead the opening ceremony of the “Pagkain” Exhibit.



- “Time Space Existence” – In coordination with the Philippine Consulate General in Milan, the DFA facilitated the maiden participation of the Philippines in the Architecture Biennale. The exhibition is an official part of the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, and drew more than 100 architects from over forty (40) countries. It is a collateral event of the larger, world-renowned art event, Venice Biennale, where the Philippines will be marking its return in 2016.
- With the theme “Time Space Existence,” the Philippines’ official entry in the Architecture Biennale was an exhibit of structures that adapt to their natural surroundings. The Philippine delegation was led by Professor Jose Danilo Silvestre of the University of the Philippines.

The DFA also took advantage of regional and multilateral cultural platforms to ensure that the Philippines’ presence is felt more strongly on the world stage.

In ASEAN, the DFA co-organized with the NCCA and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information Sub-Committee on Culture (15th ASEAN-COCI SCC), and the 10th Senior Officials Meeting for Culture and Arts (SOMCA). The meetings discussed the status of cultural projects of ASEAN, including those with its Dialogue Partners, and deliberated on 14 new project proposals. Some of the cultural projects lined up for 2015 include Philippine proposals, such as the ASEAN Performance Arts Market, the ASEAN Youth Camp: Gongs and Bamboo Music Camp and Festival, and the ASEAN eBook Phase I. Another Philippine-proposed cultural project, Rama Plus Festival: ASEAN Epics and Legends for Modern Audiences, which was originally lined up for 2015, has been deferred for budget allocation and implementation in 2016.

Representatives of ASEAN Member States at the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information Sub-Committee on Culture (15th ASEAN-COCI SCC) in Manila.





Venice Biennale art exhibit (Photo Credit: La Biennale website)

Philippine Participation in the 2015 Venice Biennale

To put the Philippines squarely back on the global arts map, the DFA and the NCCA, in partnership with the Office of Senator Loren B. Legarda, pushed for a Philippine comeback during the 56th Venice Biennale, which will run from May to November 2015. Through its return to the Venice Biennale, after an absence of half a century, the Philippines hopes to signal an unequivocal commitment toward heightening the international art community's appreciation of Philippine art, while at the same time giving Filipino artists a platform to be recognized for their talents.

The Philippines' exhibit, "Tie A String Around the World," to be curated by Mr Patrick Flores, is intended as a poetic and political reflection on the history of world-making, the links between geography and politics, and the notions of nation, territory, and archipelago. It foregrounds the extensities of the Philippines, a foil perhaps to the more aggressive instincts of expansion around us—in the past and in "present passing."

"Tie A String Around the World" revolves around Manuel Conde's 1950 film *Genghis Khan*, co-written and designed by Carlos Francisco, screened at the Museum of Modern Art and at the Venice Film Festival in 1952, where it competed with the films of Chaplin, Clement, Fellini, Bergman, and Mizoguchi. The film tells the story of the young Genghis Khan, his passage into the life of a warrior. It ends with the conqueror, perched on a mountain, casting his magisterial gaze over his dominion and promising his woman to "tie a string around the world" and lay it at her feet. This is a tale of the "king of kings" and the formation of empires that have strung the islands of the world. Genghis Khan's empire stretched from the Pacific to Europe, the largest contiguous realm ever.

The newly restored film will be exhibited at the Pavilion and will be positioned in conversation with the contemporary art projects of intermedia artist Jose Tence Ruiz and filmmaker Mariano Montelibano III. The Pavilion seeks to initiate discussion on the history of the sea and its relationship with the current world, claims to patrimony, and the struggle of nation-states over vast and intensely contested nature. It locates the Philippines in the world through its deep ties to ancient cultures, its precocious modern art, and the critical responses of contemporary art to present predicaments. Through the work of artists across generations, this history is told as a history of art and a history of the world.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Public diplomacy is a key instrument in the DFA's efforts to develop effective policy responses to international issues and challenges, and secure international and domestic support for the Philippines' foreign policy priorities and objectives. In 2014, the Department continued its robust engagement with domestic and international audiences on diverse subjects relevant to the country's foreign policy.

Secretary del Rosario answers questions from members of the media after welcoming some 300 Filipino repatriates from Libya.





DFA Spokesperson Charles Jose leads discussions at the Special Kapihan at U.P. Diliman on the West Philippine Sea.

In March, the DFA published "A Principled Foreign Policy: A Collection of Speeches 2011-2013," featuring selected addresses of Secretary Albert F. del Rosario that center on the Three Pillars of Philippine foreign policy and the core values that guide the conduct of our foreign relations. The book offers a good reference material for students, researchers, diplomats and foreign policy analysts who wish to see international events and issues from a Philippine perspective. Copies of the publication were donated to major universities and libraries across the Philippines, and distributed among the DFA Regional Consular Offices, Philippine Foreign Service Posts abroad, and Foreign Embassies and Missions based in Manila.

Mindful of the importance of active civic involvement in the effective promotion of our national advocacies, particularly with respect to the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea issue, the DFA partnered with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) in undertaking a one-year, nationwide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign to increase the level of public awareness and fundamental understanding of the WPS/SCS issue. The campaign will harness the power of the tri-media in informing and educating the grassroots about the Philippine Government's positions and initiatives on this core national interest.

The DFA and the PIA also worked together in organizing "Special Kapihans" on the West Philippine Sea issue for local media, local government units and local communities. Special Kapihans were held in Olongapo City, Puerto Princesa, and Iloilo City.

A total of fourteen (14) lectures/trainings on Philippine foreign policy, public diplomacy, crisis communications, and media relations management for DFA personnel, other government agencies, and academic institutions were also conducted during the year.

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2: Overseas Filipinos protected and engaged

The DFA is at the forefront of safeguarding overseas Filipinos and engaging them in the national development enterprise.

It extends assistance to Filipinos in distress through the conduct of prison and hospital visits, provision of temporary shelter to Filipino migrant workers facing abuse, and the grant of legal advice or assistance to those embroiled in labor disputes or facing criminal charges, among others. These initiatives require near constant DFA attention and vigilance.

Furthermore, the dramatic rise in the number of conflicts, disasters and other emergency situations in various parts of the world continue to stretch the Department's resources and expertise in the provision of services to Filipinos abroad. In 2014, for example, the DFA closely monitored the security situation in seventeen (17) countries, periodically updating alert levels in response to developments. Rapid Response Teams were deployed to crisis-stricken areas to oversee the implementation of contingency plans, including the conduct of mass repatriation as needed.

Below Left: Secretary del Rosario welcomes Filipino repatriates from Libya; and Right: DFA Executive Director Ricardo Endaya welcomes Filipino seafarers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.



A. ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

In 2014, the DFA extended assistance to a total of 20,955 Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and members of their families. Of this number, 20,703 OFWs were assisted with funds to cover temporary shelter, basic necessities, emergency medical treatment, and repatriation sourced from the Assistance to Nationals Fund (ATN) in the amount of Php410,292,467.93 out of a total ATN 2014 budget of Php461,919,793.00.

On the other hand, 252 OFWs were provided lawyers and other legal services funded through the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) in the amount of Php50,062,705.89 out of a total LAF 2014 budget of Php50,562,677.86.

The DFA continued to monitor pending death penalty cases and extended appropriate legal and consular assistance to eighty (80) OFs. Eighteen (18) former death penalty convicts were spared from execution in 2014 through high-level negotiations with host governments and the provision of competent legal assistance to OFs.

In addition to its unrelenting efforts to prevent more OFs from falling prey to drug trafficking syndicates recruiting couriers, or “drug mules,” the DFA extended legal assistance to OFWs who fell victim to these syndicates. In 2014, a total of 1,288 drug smuggling cases involving OFWs worldwide were monitored. The Department coordinated closely with Task Force Drug Couriers and other law enforcement agencies in the Philippines and abroad to thwart transnational drug syndicates from enlisting OFW couriers. The DFA is also a member of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Drugs, which is one of the functional sub-committees of the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (NALECC).

B. MASS REPATRIATION

The DFA closely monitored the security situation in seventeen (17) countries. Rapid Response Teams composed of DFA, DOLE, POEA, OWWA, DILG-PNP and DND-AFP were dispatched to crisis-stricken areas to monitor and oversee the implementation of contingency plans.

In 2014, the DFA repatriated nearly 7,000 Overseas Filipinos in countries torn by civil strife or visited by natural calamities.

Country	Number of Overseas Filipinos Repatriated
Libya	4,029
Gaza Strip	33
Iraq	28
Yemen	27
Syria	430
South Sudan	91
Egypt	168
Lebanon	2,000
TOTAL	6,806

DFA Response to the Libyan Crisis

In light of the worsening political and security situation, the DFA raised Alert Level 4 (mandatory evacuation) over Libya in July 2014. Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) composed of members from both the Home Office and Philippine Foreign Service Posts in surrounding, and representatives from other agencies such as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), were dispatched to the country. The Philippine Embassy in Tripoli remained open to oversee the Government's repatriation program.

In September 2014, a Philippine Temporary Mission was set up in Tunis, Tunisia, to assist in the repatriation of Filipinos from Libya to the Philippines via Tunisia, to perform consular functions for persons outside Libya, as well as to manage the Philippines' bilateral relations with countries under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli (i.e. Algeria, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia).

Response to ISIS/ISIL Threats

The widespread, systematic, and increasing violation of international human rights and humanitarian laws perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL/ISIS) and associated groups against innocent civilians, including women and children, non-combatants, and religious and ethnic minorities was a cause for concern to the Philippines in 2014.

The DFA has constantly provided security and intelligence agencies with updates on ISIS/ISIL, as reported by its network of Foreign Service Posts. Lest they fall prey to ISIS/ISIL, the DFA organized the repatriation of overseas Filipinos from Syria and Iraq through the Philippine Government's Mandatory Repatriation Program, which is automatically enforced for countries under Alert Level 4.

C. POLICY INITIATIVES

The DFA recognizes the need for policy interventions to complement frontline ATN services for the long-term and systematic alleviation of the plight of Overseas Filipinos, and their greater engagement in Philippine nation-building. In 2014, it continued its advocacies with respect to international migration, in order to ensure a better quality of life for Filipinos in their countries of destination.

In the regional and multilateral front, the DFA sustained its efforts to address migration issues, such as trafficking in persons and the exploitation of women and children. Within the framework of international and regional bodies, the DFA intensified dialogue and cooperation toward the development of norms that will protect not only overseas Filipinos but migrants from all nations.

Right Photo: DFA Undersecretary Jesus Yabes is received by Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi in Sanaa, Yemen. Also with him is Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ezzedin Tago.

Response to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome - Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Following the spread of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Middle East and the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa, the DFA , in close touch with other agencies, particularly the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), monitored the situation in countries affected by the two viruses.

In the Middle East, the DFA briefed its Foreign Service Posts in the region on the Philippine Government's response to the threats posed by MERS-CoV. This included a briefing on the virus, a survey of the public health landscape in the host countries and possible effects of the viruses on overseas Filipinos, and a review of individual and regional contingency plans in the event of a pandemic situation.

In West Africa, the DFA, after an extensive review of the prevailing situation, raised the alert levels in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, so that newly hired Filipino workers could not be deployed to these countries, and only those currently in the Philippines before the implementation of the modified alert level and who have existing contracts may return there.

In November, the DFA also facilitated the repatriation of 133 peacekeepers from Liberia due to the worsening situation regarding the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in the country.

While there is no Filipino reported to be infected with the Ebola Virus Disease to date, the Department, through the Philippine Embassy in Abuja, continues to engage with private companies employing Filipinos and discuss their contingency plans should the Ebola situation worsen. An RRT was also deployed to West Africa to monitor the situation.





DFA Undersecretary Jesus Yabes joins the organizers, resource persons and participants of the DFA Regional Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons for FSPs in the Americas held in September in Mexico City.

In the UN, the DFA continued to participate in the Meetings of the Colombo Process, a Regional Consultative Process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origins in Asia, and Meetings on the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

The DFA also endeavored to strengthen cooperation with key labor migrant-receiving countries by enhancing the enforcement of the rights of workers to a safe and healthy working environment. It spearheaded this year the conclusion and/or signing of 14 labor agreements to achieve this objective.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

In 2014, the DFA assisted a total of 3,676 victims of Trafficking in Persons. Assistance rendered to trafficking victims included representations with foreign government authorities, and the extension of legal assistance as well as temporary shelter, basic living allowances, and plane tickets. The DFA likewise referred trafficking cases to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) for the provision of aid to victims upon their return to the country.

The DFA remained active in regional and multilateral discussions on Trafficking in Persons to seek enhanced mechanisms for the protection of Filipinos who are vulnerable to or have been victimized by such modus operandi.

Within the organization, the Department continuously upskills its Foreign Service personnel to enable them to effectively handle Trafficking in Persons cases. In partnership

with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the DFA organized regional workshops on trafficking in persons in 2014 for Assistance to Nationals officers from Philippine Embassies and Consulates General in the Middle East and Africa (April), the Americas (September), and Asia and the Pacific (December). The Workshop sought to enhance the institutional capacity of Foreign Service Posts to assist Filipinos who are victims of or vulnerable to human trafficking. The program was designed to provide ATN Officers with adequate legal, psychological and practical training to enable them to properly identify situations of trafficking, and render appropriate assistance with due regard to the victims' rights, safety and special needs.

D. OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING

As part of the preparation for overseas voter registration for the 2016 National Elections, the Overseas Voting Secretariat planned, organized and assisted the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) in conducting onsite regional overseas voter registration training in Doha, Macau, Singapore, New York, and Rome for more than 250 Foreign Service personnel.

With the registration period for overseas voters commencing on 06 May 2014, the number of registered overseas voters had breached the one million mark by July 2014, a first in the eleven-year electoral history of Philippine overseas voting.

In order to attract even more registrants, the DFA, in coordination with COMELEC and other partner agencies, launched the Overseas Voters Registration Center (OVRC) at the Office of Consular Affairs as well as in offices of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). Also in the pipeline are OVRCs at the Ninoy



An Overseas Filipino registers at the Overseas Voter Registration Center in the DFA Consular Office.

Aquino International Airport (NAIA), as well as in the various Passport Satellite Offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) and at Regional Consular Offices in Cebu and Davao.

In November, the Overseas Voting Secretariat launched the iRehistro Project of the COMELEC at the Philippine Embassy in Madrid. The iRehistro Project is an internet-enabled system for overseas voter registration. It allows qualified Filipino voters to fill out the registration form online and to select a date and time of appointment for biometrics capturing.

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3: Consular Services strengthened

The DFA strives for a fast, accessible, citizen-oriented, and efficient delivery of consular services, knowing full well that its consular services constitute its face for the Filipino public. It remained unrelenting in 2014 in its efforts to enhance its frontline services both domestically and abroad.

Passport applicants at the newly-opened DFA Consular Office at Ali Mall, Quezon City.



A. EXPANDING FRONTLINE SERVICES

For the greater convenience and accessibility to the public of its passport services, the DFA continued to enter into hosting agreements with mall owners, such as SM, Ayala, and Robinson's, for the construction of new DFA consular offices in their establishments under a rent-free arrangement.

As of December 2014, thirteen (13) of the nineteen (19) Regional Consular Offices are now mall-based. Two Regional Consular Offices, namely DFA Cagayan de Oro and DFA Puerto Princesa, transferred to mall establishments this year.

In addition, the DFA brought its consular services closer to the people by conducting a total of fifty-nine (59) mobile passport services throughout the Philippines and __ consular outreach missions abroad through our Embassies and Consulates General. These outreach activities helped Filipinos at home and abroad to minimize the costs they would incur in renewing their passports, or applying for the legalization of documents or other consular services.

B. POLICY INITIATIVES

- In March, the Philippines, through the DFA, became the 44th country to join the International Civil Aviation Organization Public Key Directory (ICAO PKD). The Philippines' participation in the ICAO PKD Program will enhance the security and strengthen the integrity of the Philippine e-Passport as an ICAO-compliant travel document. It will also enable Filipino travelers to use automated border checks for faster arrival procedures as well as faster detection of fraudulent holders of travel documents.
- To strengthen the Philippines' bilateral relations, the DFA successfully convened two (2) Joint Consular Consultation Meetings (JCCM), namely, the Philippines-Iran JCCM in Manila in January 2014 and the 3rd Philippines-Republic of Korea JCCM in Seoul in September 2014.
- In April, nationals of seven (7) countries were granted visa-free entry to the Philippines. These countries are Belize, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The privilege is geared at promoting tourism and investments from these countries, all of which are emerging players in the international economic community and have growing bilateral ties with the Philippines.
- Effective January 2014, Filipino nationals holding ordinary passports could now enter Myanmar without a visa for stays of up to fourteen (14) days, pursuant to the Agreement signed during the State Visit to the Philippines of Myanmar President U Thein Sein on 5 December 2013.

- The Philippines signed visa waiver agreements for holders of diplomatic and official passports with Bangladesh and Egypt.
- The Office of Consular Affairs is currently undertaking the following in line with the Department's aim to enhance the integrity of the Philippine visa and to streamline the process of visa application:
 1. The design of the new Machine-Readable Ready Visa (MRRV) stickers intended to be issued in 2015; and
 2. The Visa Management Information System (VMIS) which is expected to collate relevant information on visa issuances in a single electronic platform for the use of all Foreign Service Posts.
- To meet the country's obligations under the 1951 Convention for Refugees and the 1954 Convention for Stateless Persons and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the modification of the travel document issued to refugees and stateless persons from a one-page Travel Document to a 44-page Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) in booklet form has been finalized.

DFA Undersecretary Rafael Seguis and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Ghasgavi after signing the Agreed Minutes of the 5th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Consultation Meeting (JCCM) held in Manila.



C. CONSULAR SERVICES

Passport Services

In 2014, a total of 3,050,675 were issued by the DFA.

As part of the Department's continuing commitment to reach out to as many Filipinos as possible, a total of fifty-nine (59) Mobile Passport Services (MPS) missions were conducted in nearby and remote cities, municipalities, and provinces in the country, benefiting around 35,000 Filipinos.

Visa Services

A total of 369,213* visas were issued by the Department's Office of Consular Affairs as well as various Foreign Service Posts this year.

The Department continued to support various government programs, such as tourism promotion, by coordinating with relevant government agencies and the release of relevant Foreign Service Circulars pertaining to the issuance of visas to foreign nationals.

Moreover, the Office of Consular Affairs will launch in August (2015) the Visa Management Information System (VMIS), an online visa system that will allow for greater connectivity between the Home Office, FSPs and other concerned agencies such as Bureau of Immigration (BI) and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) with regard to visa issuances. This will be an initial step toward a paperless environment and streamlined visa verifications. A library of all visa policies and regulation will also be incorporated to facilitate visa issuances.

Authentication Services

In 2014, the Office of Consular Affairs expanded its services during the year by offering authentication services in the consular offices in Ali Mall, SM Manila, SM Megamall, Metro Gaisano Alabang and RCO Pampanga.

Furthermore, in December 2014, the Department's Authentication Division rolled out two IT systems, namely, the Document Management System and e-Registry System, which are expected to modernize current authentication processes.

With the two new IT systems in place, the DFA plans to open more authentication units at selected Regional Consular Offices so that Filipinos residing in the provinces need not come all the way to Manila to have their documents authenticated for use abroad, resulting in greater savings and convenience for the public.

**January to November 2014 data*

CHAPTER 3:

Organizational

Development and

Institution Building







“MAP Management Man of the Year 2014”

Secretary del ROSARIO

11.5



Secretary del Rosario receives the “MAP Management of the Year 2014” award from the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) President Gregorio S. Navarro.

Ministries of Foreign Affairs across the world, more than other government departments, have to contend with rapidly changing realities because of the dynamic nature of operating in an international environment. The vastly altered global landscape, including economic and political globalization, demand that they evolve and adapt themselves to handle new, more complex challenges in order to effectively deliver their mandate to represent and advance the interests of their country in the world stage.

Institutional changes that have been resolutely pursued in the past three (3) years paved the way for improvements in the delivery of services. A survey of the Makati Business Club (MBC) ranked the DFA as among the six (6) top-ranking government agencies out of sixty-two (62), while the Social Weather Station (SWS) Survey validated the DFA's organizational performance as 'Very Good' in terms of "defending territorial rights" and in "foreign relations;" and 'Good' in terms of "helping OFWs." The DFA also maintained positive ratings from the Filipino public in the 2014 second quarter SWS survey released in August, in terms of "defending the country's territorial rights," "helping OFWs" and "foreign relations."

MAP Management Man of the Year Award

In November, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) conferred on Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario the “MAP Management Man of the Year.” MAP conferred the prestigious award on the Secretary for raising the standards of economic diplomacy; for enhancing the country’s bilateral partnerships; for transforming the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) into a strong, professional, and highly competent organization; for restoring morale in the DFA by limiting the number of political appointees and recognizing merit in the career advancement process for foreign service personnel; for rationalizing Philippine presence overseas; and for proactively ensuring the safety and security of overseas Filipinos around the world.

MAP likewise cited the Secretary’s “contribution to re-shaping national values by setting an example that Filipino professional managers can emulate through his track record of integrity, professional competence, and strong leadership in his management career in both public and private sectors.

A. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

The Department’s Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement (ISPI) initiative aims to strengthen the DFA’s focus on its vital and core functions under the conceptual and operational framework provided by the Results Based Performance Management System (RBPMS), with an eye on the significant changes in the global landscape that have taken place over the last two to three decades, and that are expected to take place in the next few ones.

In 2014, the Department’s Change Management Team ramped up discussions with the Department of Budget and Management commenced in 2014 to update and streamline the DFA’s organizational structure to make it more responsive to evolving realities.

Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS)

The DFA continued its adherence to and support for the Aquino Administration’s good governance agenda by further embracing the Results-Based Performance Management System (RBPMS) being mainstreamed across the Philippine bureaucracy. In 2014, it enhanced the performance planning and evaluation tools prescribed under the Civil Service Commission’s Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), and refined the rating and ranking system employed by the Department for the Performance Based Incentive System (PBIS).

It also made headway in implementing the Organizational Performance Indicator Framework (OPIF) and cascading it to its corporate planning process with the conduct of the inaugural Planning and Review Conference on 4-6 December 2014 at the First Pacific



DFA Undersecretary Linglingay Lacanlale, with Undersecretary Laura Del Rosario and DFA Assistant Secretary Joselito Jimeno, leads DFA participants from the Home Office and Asia-Pacific Posts at the Inaugural DFA Planning and Review Conference held in Antipolo City.

Leadership Academy in Antipolo City. The Conference provided the Planning Officers of 29 Foreign Service Posts in the Asia-Pacific and 24 Home Office units the opportunity to refine and align their 2015 work plans to the President's Social Contract, the Secretary's Planning Tool, and the DFA's Organizational Outcomes and Major Final Outputs.

The year also witnessed the strengthening of the Department's Performance Management Team (PMT) which shall be continued in 2015 and beyond.

Quality Management System

In cooperation with the Development Academy of the Philippines, two (2) training courses for selected officers and staff were conducted in 2014 to prepare the Department to embark on a Quality Management System (QMS) aligned with ISO 9001:2008. From among these personnel, the members of the QMS Core Team were selected. This team was tasked to undertake QMS process, beginning with creating an awareness on the QMS process among the Department's employees. It is also envisioned that the core team will jumpstart efforts to have even one of the Department's frontline services ISO-certified in line with the directives of Executive Order 605.

B. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Department, through its Office of Personnel and Administrative Services (OPAS) and the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, conducted the following retooling courses and workshops to further improve the capacities of its personnel and enable them to effectively contribute in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Department:

1. Retooling Course for Administrative Officers and Property Officers of all Foreign Service Posts

The Department undertook a Retooling Course for Administrative Officers and Property Officers of all Foreign Service Posts between August and September 2014. At the end of the three-and-a-half day seminar-workshop, the Administrative Officers and Property Officers were able to register their Posts online in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS). They also acquired a better understanding of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) system, administrative rules on property acquisition, management and disposition, records-keeping, leaves, local hires, the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI), and the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service (RRACS), among other topics.

Moving forward, the Department shall devise a system of certification for Administrative Officers and Property Officers and develop more intensive training modules before they are deployed abroad.

2. Fiscal Training and Workshop

The DFA, together with the Commission on Audit, conducted the Training Workshop on Strengthening DFA's Financial Management held on 04-05 September 2014. The Training Workshop was conducted to promote an understanding of the principles and requirements for government financial transactions.

Further, the Department and the Public Financial Management Team of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) conducted the UACS Seminar held at Traders Hotel Manila on 23-25 September 2014. The purpose of the training was to orient OFMS personnel on the adoption of the Unified Accounts Code Structure (UACS) in the financial transactions of the national government, as well as the reflection of UACS codes in all financial documents.

Lastly, the DFA, together with COA, conducted the Finance Officers' (FOs) Training Workshop on Financial Management Reporting in Foreign Service Posts to ensure the smooth implementation in the DFA of the Unified Accounts Code System

(UACS) in its financial reporting transactions and to orient FOs on the accounting guidelines on the receipt and accountabilities by agencies of Disaster Risk Reduction Management Funds.

2. Economic Diplomacy Training Course for Ambassadors and Career Ministers

In cooperation with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), an intensive 2-week economic diplomacy training course was given to incoming Ambassadors in March 2014 and a 3-week course for incoming Career Ministers in August 2014.

The AEP Course deepened the participants' knowledge and appreciation of the nuances of business and economic developments, partnerships (with business and local governments), and exposure to export product companies and possibilities for investments (Cebu). Meanwhile, the Course for Career Ministers equipped mid-level officers with a better grasp of concepts and skills related to business and economic projects/partnerships.

Philippine Ambassadors/Heads of Posts attending the Economic Diplomacy Training Course conducted by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).



Other Development Programs

- *Education Program.* The DFA implemented its Education Program, offering grants to selected officers and staff for masteral programs sourced from the DFA's budget, in addition to the scholarship grants provided by foreign governments and organizations.
- *Study of Language On-Site.* The DFA continued to promote the study of language on-site with about 80% of Foreign Services Posts now engaged in learning the language of their host countries.
- *Debriefing and "Helping Dialogues" Support.* Realizing that the Department's personnel, especially those returning from assignment in hardship and ATN-heavy posts, needed debriefing and "helping dialogues" support (e.g. counseling),
- The DFA partnered with Ateneo's Ugat Foundation to hold individual and group debriefing sessions for personnel reassigned in the Home Office, especially those coming from hardship and ATN-heavy Posts. Debriefing and preparedness/welfare seminars were likewise offered to mid-level-officers and staff returnees.

Gender and Development

In line with its revitalization of its Gender and Development (GAD) Program, the Department commissioned a Participatory Gender Audit conducted by a team of facilitators organized by the International Labor Organization (ILO) between July and September 2014. Among the activities conducted in relation to the audit were the Gender Audit Workshops participated by DFA personnel in all levels (Technical, Administrative and Support Staff). Interviews of Heads of Offices were also conducted in the overall assessment of the Department's gender responsiveness in terms of procedures, policies and structures.

The audit also covered the Regional Consular Offices and Foreign Service Posts. Among the RCOs selected as participants to the workshops are: RCO Cebu and RCO Cotabato. For the Foreign Service Posts, Administrative Officers and Property Officers from Asia and the Pacific Region were among the participants during the workshops.

Aside from this, the Department's GAD programs and activities were aimed at strengthening the capacities of DFA personnel and GAD Focal Point Officers in addressing pertinent gender issues and raising awareness among clients, particularly migrant women, on laws and rights relevant to GAD.

GAD activities included gender sensitivity seminars for its personnel in Foreign Service Posts and in the Home Office (e.g., sexual harassment, violence against women, human trafficking, among others), such as those conducted for officers and staff during inspection trips to Foreign Service Posts in the Middle East in 2014.

GAD focal point officers were likewise given training on Strategic Planning, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Audit, and Trainer's Training.

Management Audit

The Department continued its audit of operations in selected Middle East Posts, focusing on their ATN operations and management of shelters for distressed Overseas Filipinos, aside from personnel-related concerns and general Post operations. These audits resulted in the drafting of an operations manual on the running of Shelters in collaboration with partner agencies, which is now in its final review.

Implementation of the Individual Performance and Commitment Review Form (IPCRF)

OPAS continued the pilot implementation of the IPCRF, in line with the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Strategic Performance Management System, paving the way for a more meaningful assessment of employee performance than was possible using the old Performance Appraisal Report.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTING AND AUDIT INITIATIVES

Cash Management

In support of the Department's thrust to institutionalize financial efficiency and transparency, OFMS entered into a pricing agreement with the Landbank of the Philippines and Citibank to adopt their WorldLink Payment Services for cross-border, cross-currency payments.

Further, the Department also undertook the full implementation of the Expanded Modified Direct Payment Scheme (ExMDPS) for Accounts Payable Due to Creditors/ Payees of all National Government Agencies as required by DBM Circular Letter 2013-16 dated 13 December 2013.

Financial Reporting

Due to the timely submission of the Department's 2013 Financial Reports on 13 February 2014 and the implementation of public financial management initiatives, the Department's Office of Fiscal Management Services was awarded as one of the ten Outstanding Accounting Offices for CY 2013 during the 2014 AGAP National Convention

HON. FLORENCIO B. ABAD

Secretary of Budget and Management



DFA Undersecretary Linglingay Lacanlale receives the award of the Office of Fiscal Management Services as one of the ten Most Outstanding Accounting Offices by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines (AGAP).

held at the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, Baguio City on 21-24 October 2014.

Budget Preparation

The DFA was chosen as a pilot agency for the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) for the FY 2016 Budget together with five other national government agencies. The PREXC serves as a budget policy and management tool that helps in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of an agency budget in comparison with the societal goals of the Aquino Administration as embodied in the Philippine Development Plan.

Foreign Service Allowances

For 2014, the Department, through its Office of Fiscal Management Services, undertook the following initiatives concerning the allowances of its foreign service personnel:

- In line with the signing of the revised rates of foreign service allowances under Executive Order (EO) No. 156, s. 2013, OFMS crafted the implementing rules and regulations (Department Order No. 02-2014) of the said EO in February 2014.
- Full implementation of the revised system of allowances under Executive Order (EO) No. 156, s. 2013. It may be recalled that the last adjustment of the foreign service allowances prior to EO 156, s. 2013, was done in 2005.

- The DBM and DFA team conducted a joint review and validation of the allowances of foreign service personnel in New York, U.S.A on 22-27 November 2014. The team also met with the Cost-of-Living Division of the United Nations International Civil Service Commission to discuss the methodology of the allowances of Philippine foreign service personnel.
- Harmonization of the guidelines on the grant of Home Adjustment Allowance and the Home Leave entitlements of personnel assigned in hardship posts.

DFA Provident Fund

This year, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs approved the increase in the employer's share in the DFA Provident Fund from 5% to 10% of each member's basic monthly salary effective 01 November 2014.

Internal Audit

Consistent with calls for heightened accountability and good governance practices across all its delivery units, the Department conducted compliance and management audit in four (4) Foreign Service Posts and four (4) Regional Consular Offices, as well as follow-up audits in one (1) Foreign Service Post, three (3) Satellite Offices, and three (3) Regional Consular Offices.

The audits determined the degree of compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations, and evaluated the existence and effectiveness of internal controls in the following systems:

- a. Passport and notarial services
- b. Collections and deposits
- c. Administrative management
- d. Property and inventory management

In line with the directive to develop and maintain effective and efficient internal controls in the bureaucracy, two (2) seminars attended by one hundred forty (140) participants were organized by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) *on Internal Control System for Top Management, Middle Management, and Accountable Officers*, with Deputy Executive Secretary for Internal Audit Alberto A. Bernardo of the Internal Audit Office in the Office of the President as resource person.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE, SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

The Department undertook the following projects to optimize the use of information and communications technology in enhancing its operations and services:

- Customization of Foreign Service Posts' websites using the prescribed template for government agencies, and their migration to the Government Webhosting Service pursuant to Office of the President's Administrative Order no. 39 dated 12 July 2013;
- Establishment of the DFA Coordination Center, a facility that enables the Department to better monitor crisis situations and supervise the activities of Foreign Service Posts, Regional Consular Offices, and other satellite units; and
- Customization of the following Information Systems:
 1. Digital archive for minutes and outcome documents of bilateral conferences/meetings; and
 2. Centralized web portal for all administrative and personnel matters.
- Launching of the DFA Knowledge Management System, a secure online platform for the sharing and management of knowledge and information among Offices and Foreign Service Posts developed using existing resources.

ANNEXES





ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
27 to 28 February	Malaysia	<p>The President's State Visit to Malaysia was undertaken upon the invitation of His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang-Di Pertuan Agong, the Head of State of Malaysia, and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President and Prime Minister Najib discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to bilateral relations, including the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. • The President spoke at the <i>Business Opportunities Forum</i> where he highlighted the Philippines' positive economic growth, and invited members of the Malaysian business community to invest in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao; • The President met with the Filipino community in Kuala Lumpur, and encouraged them to promote Philippine interests and help raise the country's profile as a resilient country and a viable investment and tourism destination.
10 to 11 May	Myanmar (24th ASEAN Summit)	<p>The President pushed for the following major Philippine advocacies at the Summit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace and reconciliation and gender mainstreaming; • Rule of law and maritime security and cooperation; • Promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers; • Enhancement of participation of MSMEs in ASEAN Integration; and • Disaster management and climate change adaptation.
24 June	Japan	<p>In bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the President discussed with his counterpart ways to enhance the Philippines-Japan Strategic Partnership, as well as exchanged views on recent developments in the region.</p> <p>The President delivered the keynote address at <i>The Consolidation for Peace for Mindanao Conference</i> in Hiroshima organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Research and Education for Peace of the Universiti Sains Malaysia.</p>
14 to 15 September	Spain	<p>In his bilateral meeting with Spanish counterpart, President Mariano Rajoy, at the Palacio de la Moncloa, the President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed gratitude to the people and government of Spain for their assistance to the victims of typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan, as well as for their donations to the victims of the Zamboanga siege and the earthquake in the Visayas; • Acknowledged Spain's strong support for the Mindanao Peace Process and informed that the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law, which will be the basis for the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement, had been submitted to Congress;

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmed the Philippines' commitment to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF); • Vowed closer cooperation with Spain in combating transnational crime; • Looked forward to the finalization of the Air Transport Agreement that could lead to direct flights between Manila and Madrid; • Briefed President Rajoy on developments in the West Philippine Sea and reiterated the Philippines' commitment to resolve the dispute in the context of international law. <p>The President also met with the Spanish Head of State, His Majesty King Felipe VI, and the Honorable Jose Maria Aznar, the former President of the Government of Spain.</p>
16 to 17 September	France	<p>The President and his French counterpart, President François Hollande, agreed to intensify cooperation on issues of mutual interest, including in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management, and health.</p> <p>The President also held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Manuel Valls on issues involving the Filipino community in France and developments in the Philippine economy.</p>
17 to 19 September	Belgium	<p>The President met separately with His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium and Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo, where he conveyed the Philippines' desire to further expand bilateral cooperation with Belgium, particularly in the areas of trade and investments and tourism, within the framework of the 2013 PH-Belgium Joint Plan of Action.</p> <p>The President met separately with European Union President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, and discussed the Philippines' compliance with the Standards Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, the Philippines' conformance with EU regulations to combat illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF), the Philippines' application with the EU Generalized System of Preferences and the EU's proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Philippines.</p>
19 to 20 September	Germany	<p>The President held separate bilateral meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Federal President Joachim Gauck where a broad ranges of bilateral issues were discussed, including maritime cooperation, hiring of nurses, and technical and vocational education and training.</p>

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DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
		<p>The President delivered a major speech at a forum organized by the Körber-Stiftung and the Asia Pacific Association in Germany.</p> <p>In summary, the President's first trip to Europe and his meetings with key European leaders advanced core Philippine interests with the region, particularly in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing the support of all the Leaders he met for the Philippine approach to the WPS/SCS (peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS); • Securing Php2.38 billion in investment pledges and an agreement to increase trade as well as strengthen cooperation in tourism; • Presenting the Philippines' case on General System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) application, Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing (IUUF), and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW); • Securing agreement to strengthen cooperation in said area while personally conveying gratitude for European assistance at the wake of Typhoon Yolanda; • Receiving assurance of support for peace and development in Mindanao while being congratulated for the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro (CAB) and the submission of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to Congress.
20 to 24 September	USA	<p>The President attended the UN Climate Change Summit Plenary 2014 which served as a public platform for leaders to catalyze action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and mobilize political will for a universal climate agreement by 2015.</p> <p>In his visits to the States of Massachusetts, New York and California, the President addressed two prestigious institutions in Boston and spoke about the Philippines' economic development built on the back of good governance principles; met influential American policy makers, including Representative Joseph Kennedy III, and former Ambassador Stephen Bosworth; addressed a group of major American companies in New York who are expanding their investments in the Philippines; met with major American businesses in San Francisco to convince them to either invest or expand their investments in the Philippines.</p>
09 to 10 October	Indonesia	<p>President Aquino co-chaired the 7th Bali Democracy Forum with his Indonesian counterpart, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.</p> <p>The President witnessed the signing of the Joint Statement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia Concerning the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary by</p>

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
		Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa. The Joint Statement expresses the full intention of both countries to pursue discussions on a possible negotiation regarding the overlapping continental shelves of the Philippines and Indonesia.
09 to 11 November	China (22nd APEC Leaders' Summit)	<p>The President highlighted the reform initiatives that the Philippines has achieved in the areas of customs facilitation, competition policy, SME development and services liberalization. He showcased the Philippines' turn-around story which has proven that good governance is good economics – where reforms spur momentum and sustain growth beyond the near-term; a growth that is inclusive and thus empowering.</p> <p>The President called on his fellow APEC Leaders to intensify people-to-people connectivity especially in tourism, science and technology, gender development, women empowerment as well as cross-border education in acknowledgement of the need to invest in human capital development. He highlighted the need for public-private partnerships especially in infrastructure development that will promote greater connectivity in the context of the freer movement of goods, services, people and capital.</p> <p>The President announced the Philippines' hosting of the 2nd Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting, which will be an opportunity for the Philippines to provide leadership in the shaping the post-2015 structural reform agenda of the APEC region.</p>
11 to 13 November	Myanmar	<p>The President attended the 25th ASEAN Summit. He is the second Philippine President to have visited Myanmar since then-President Fidel V. Ramos' State Visit in October 1997.</p> <p>The President stressed that ASEAN Community efforts should focus on three parts: 1) strengthening the foundations of regional cooperation and integration beyond the near-term, 2) developing and implementing the economic strategies vital to our common vision, and 3) one that encourages growth through positive engagement among ASEAN Member States and Dialogue and Development Partners. These Philippine advocacies were included in the Chairman's Statement.</p>
18 to 19 November	Singapore	The President was keynote speaker at The Economist's The World in 2015 Gala Dinner, a first since the Gala Dinner's inception in 2009. The President generated goodwill and support for sustaining the Government's reform agenda and plans and programs for sustainable

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
		<p>economic growth, his vision for the Southeast Asian region and the Mindanao peace process as a core element of the government's program for inclusive growth.</p> <p>The President likewise held separate meetings with other high officials of the Singaporean government and business leaders.</p>
11 to 12 December	South Korea	<p>The President visited Busan to attend the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) 25th Anniversary Commemorative Summit . Two Commemorative Summit Sessions on December 12 at the Busan Exhibition Convention Centre (BEXCO) covered the review of the ASEAN-ROK cooperation and its future direction, and the cooperation on non-traditional security issues with emphasis on climate change and disaster risk management. ROK has engaged ASEAN in various areas of cooperation of mutual interest, including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), labor and migration, trade and investment, development cooperation and people-to-people exchange. In 2013, about five million Koreans visited ASEAN, one million of whom went to the Philippines.</p> <p>The President also had a bilateral meeting with ROK President Park Geun-hye.</p> <p>The President attended the side events including an exhibition on Korean traditional arts and crafts, a special exhibition on public governance, and a meet-and-greet with the CEO of Korea Aerospace Industries and ROK officials.</p> <p>The President met with Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) President and Chief Executive Officer Sung Yong-ha and several Korean Air Force officials at the Gimhae Airbase to check one of the 12 FA-50 fighter jets. He said two of the fighter jets are scheduled to be delivered in December 2015, and the rest will be completed by 2017. He said it would enhance the capability of Filipino pilots to fly such type of airplanes for military operations.</p>

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INCOMING VISITS OF HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT

DATE	HEAD OF STATE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
24 to 26 January	King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden	During his three-day visit, King Carl XVI traveled to Tacloban to visit the projects of the Boys Scouts of the Philippines and other humanitarian assistance projects implemented by the Swedish Government through the UN-OCHA in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda. He called on the President and was the Guest of Honor at the Invitational Peace Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in its centenary year.
27 March	Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak	Upon the invitation of the President, Prime Minister Najib Razak held a Working Visit to witness the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. Prior to the signing ceremony, the President and Prime Minister Najib held bilateral talks to discuss bilateral matters of mutual concern.
02 to 05 April	Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam	<p>Upon the invitation of President Aquino, Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam undertook his first State Visit to the Philippines to reciprocate the President's visit to Singapore on 9 to 11 March 2011.</p> <p>In their bilateral talks, the two Leaders discussed bilateral matters of mutual concern, including cooperative activities in defense, trade and investment, and the Filipino community in Singapore, among others;</p> <p>President Tan met with the Philippine-Singapore Business Council, and also handed over donations, contributed by the people of Singapore, to the partners of the Singapore Red Cross involved in the post-Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) rehabilitation projects. He flew to Basey, Western Samar, where he presented medical supplies to the Basey District Hospital – a joint rehabilitation project between the Singapore Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.</p>
28 to 29 April	US President Barack Obama	President Barack Obama's State Visit to the Philippines underscored the US' policy of rebalance to Asia; reaffirmed the enduring treaty alliance between our two countries; and enhanced bilateral economic ties and people-to-people exchanges. It sent a strong signal to the region on the growing strength of Philippines-United States treaty alliance, which has been a cornerstone of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.
21 to 23 May	Prime Minister H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung of Vietnam	In their bilateral talks, President Aquino and President Dung agreed to intensify cooperative activities and initiatives in line with the Philippines-Vietnam Action Plan 2011-2016; strengthen bilateral cooperation on maritime issues and promote mutual trust and regional cooperation.

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INCOMING VISITS OF HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT

DATE	HEAD OF STATE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF VISIT
22 to 23 May	President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of the Republic of Indonesia	<p>President Aquino and President Yudhoyono agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of defense and security. Both leaders also exchanged views on the role of Indonesia in the Mindanao Peace Process.</p> <p>During the State Visit, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of the PHL-Indonesia Agreement Concerning the Delimitation of Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary, the MOU on Higher Education Cooperation and the MOU on Combating International Terrorism.</p>
17 November	Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu of Turkey	<p>President Aquino and Prime Minister Davutoğlu held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern, with the latter pledging Turkey's support to the Philippines' peace process as well as to its rules-based approach to the South China Sea issue.</p> <p>Prime Minister Davutoğlu brought along a business delegation and held meetings with captains of key Philippine industries. He also delivered a Speech on Turkish Foreign Policy at a Seminar organized by the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs, with former President Fidel V. Ramos as part of the audience.</p>

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
15 to 17 January	Myanmar (ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat)	<p>The Secretary enumerated the Philippines' priorities in ASEAN under Myanmar's chairmanship, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pursuit of a rules-based ASEAN Community of shared values and norms;• Support for the development of ASEAN's Post-2015 Vision;• Review and assessment of regional disaster management mechanisms;• Early conclusion of ASEAN instruments to combat trafficking in persons;• Promotion and protection of human rights and enhancement of maritime connectivity in ASEAN. <p>The Secretary called on ASEAN to "maintain regional solidarity" amidst prevailing tensions, citing recent reports of a new Chinese fishing regulation in the South China Sea, as well as the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) established last November 2013, and adding that ASEAN's work for a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) to manage tensions might be undermined if such changes to the status quo persist.</p>
24 to 25 February	Indonesia	<p>The Secretary led the Philippine delegation to the 6th Meeting of the Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) where both countries discussed cooperation in the areas of defense, security, trade and investment, agriculture, fisheries, education, maritime cooperation, and border cooperation, among others;</p> <p>During the JCBC, the Philippines-Indonesia Plan of Action for 2014-2016 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia on Mandatory Consular Notification and Assistance were signed.</p>
27 to 28 February	Malaysia	<p>The Secretary participated in the President's State Visit to Malaysia as a member of the President's official delegation.</p>
11 to 12 April	Japan	<p>The Secretary and his Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, held bilateral talks in Hiroshima at the sidelines of the 8th Ministerial Meeting of the 12-nation Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDJ), where they held discussions on promoting Philippine-Japan Strategic Partnership, as well as discussions on global and regional security issues. The two officials also vowed to promote their bilateral maritime cooperation, which they described as an important pillar of their Strategic Partnership, with Japan pledging continued capacity-building assistance to the Philippines in this vital arena, citing ongoing initiatives to provide the Philippine Coast Guard with human resources training, communications systems and patrol vessels.</p>

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
9 to 11 May	Myanmar (24th ASEAN Summit)	The Secretary attended the 24th ASEAN Summit as a member of the President's official delegation.
17 to 20 May	Egypt	<p>The Secretary and his Egyptian counterpart, Foreign Minister Nabil Fahmy, agreed to intensify Philippines-Egypt relations in various fields of cooperation. The Secretary also briefed Minister Fahmy on the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and on regional developments, such as the West Philippine Sea Issue and the outcome of the 24th ASEAN Summit.</p> <p>Three agreements were signed during the Secretary's visit, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation;2) the Visa Waiver Agreement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports; and3) the MOU between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce.
27 to 30 May	Libya	The Secretary travelled to Tripoli to meet with Philippine Embassy officials and the Rapid Response Team in the country to implement the government's contingency plan for the repatriation of Filipino workers, in case the security situation worsens.
24 June	Japan	The Secretary participated in the President's Working Visit to Japan as a member of the President's official delegation.
25 to 29 June	Israel	<p>In this first visit by a Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary in twenty years, the Secretary met with his Israeli counterpart, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, where they agreed to heighten bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of labor cooperation and the welfare of Filipinos living and working in Israel.</p> <p>The Secretary highlighted the Philippines' contribution in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region through its active participation in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights.</p>
02 to 03 July	Vietnam	<p>In line with the agreed outcomes of the successful visit to the Philippines of Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in May 2014, the Secretary and his counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed to advance bilateral partnership to a higher level, including the establishment of a Joint Commission to formulate a road map in working towards a strategic partnership;• Discussed a wide range of issues and agreed to further promote cooperation in many areas such as fisheries, ocean and maritime, defense and security, trade and investment;

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchanged views on the rising tension in the South China Sea, and the urgent need to address escalating tensions through peaceful means and in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS; Called for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), including refraining from the use of coercive force; Agreed that the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) should be expeditiously concluded without undue delay.
07 to 08 July	Indonesia	Official visit to Jakarta, Indonesia to meet Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa
09 to 10 July	Brunei Darussalam	<p>The Secretary and his counterpart, H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed ways to further advance bilateral cooperation in areas such as labor, health, ICT and multimedia, defense and law enforcement, and trade and investment; Exchanged views on the rising tension in the South China Sea and affirmed their commitment to effectively manage the tensions and to seek a peaceful resolution of the disputes; Affirmed the positive role of ASEAN in promoting regional peace and stability.
15 to 16 July	Indonesia	<p>The Secretary and his Indonesian counterpart, Foreign Minister Dr. R.M. Marty Natalegawa, discussed actions to further deepen Philippines-Indonesia cooperation, especially in the political, economic, defense, maritime, and socio-cultural fields as well as regional and multilateral issues, including how to maintain ASEAN centrality. He also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed appreciation for Indonesia's support for the Philippine peace process, as a member of the International Monitoring Team monitoring the ceasefire between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and as the past chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference - Peace Committee for the Southern Philippines (OIC-PCSP), which reviews the implementation of the 1996 Government of the Philippines-Moro National Liberation Front Final Peace Agreement (FPA); Reiterated the Philippines' request for support for the OIC-PCSP to convene a meeting for the purpose of completing the Tripartite Review Process of the FPA; Briefed his Indonesian counterpart on the progress of the Philippine arbitration case. The two Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, the early conclusion of a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea, and the de-escalation of rising tensions in the South China Sea.

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
21 to 24 July	Belgium (20th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers' Meeting)	<p>The Secretary led the Philippine delegation to the 20th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers' Meeting, and also held separate bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany, Foreign Minister George Vella of Malta, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond of the United Kingdom, and Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo of Spain.</p> <p>The bilateral meetings at the sidelines of AEMM20 provided an opportunity for the Secretary to present the Philippine official position and promote better understanding of the developments in the South China Sea/ West Philippine Sea, and to express gratitude to European partners for their strong support in rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of Haiyan/ Yolanda, achieve peace in Mindanao, and promote greater trade and investment cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges.</p>
31 July to 03 August	Tunisia	<p>The Secretary travelled to Tunisia to oversee the government's repatriation efforts for Filipinos affected by the civil unrest in Libya.</p> <p>The Secretary met with overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and assured them of the Philippine Government's continuing assistance under the aegis of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) composed of members from various agencies, such as the DFA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Foreign Service Posts in surrounding areas.</p>
07 to 11 August	Myanmar (47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting)	<p>The Secretary underscored the priorities of the Philippines for ASEAN 2014, namely: disaster risk reduction and management, maritime security, ASEAN connectivity, regional security architecture, human rights and the rule of law.</p> <p>The Secretary likewise presented the Philippine proposal of a Triple Action Plan (TAP) to the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN member-states during the 47th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM). The TAP contains immediate, intermediate and final approaches to address the provocative and destabilizing activities in the region without prejudice to existing territorial claims.</p>
01 to 03 September	Vatican	The Secretary held talks with Vatican Foreign Minister Archbishop Dominique Memberti to discuss ways on further enhancing relations between the Catholic Church and the Philippine Government, and as part of the preparations for the papal visit to the Philippines in January 2015.
13 to 20 September	Spain	The Secretary participated in the President's first official trip to Europe as a member of the President's official delegation.
	Belgium	
	France	
	Germany	

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
20 to 30 September	United States	The Secretary participated in the President's official trip to the United States as a member of the President's official delegation.
14 to 18 October	Italy (10th ASEM Summit)	<p>The Secretary represented the President at the 10th ASEM Summit in Milan where he reiterated the importance of international law as a great equalizer and the firm foundation in the settlement of disputes; promoted the Philippine proposal of the "Triple Action Plan" that should be pursued to address provocative activities in the region without prejudice to existing territorial claims.</p> <p>The ASEM Chair's Statement included, for the first time, clear language on the commitment of ASEM Leaders to promote maritime security, safety and cooperation, freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded commerce, as well as the critical importance of refraining from the use or threat of force and of disputes being resolved in accordance with the principles of international law, including UNCLOS.</p>
19 to 21 October	Indonesia	Jakarta, Indonesia (to attend the Inauguration of Indonesian President -Elect Joko Widodo)
06 to 11 November	China (26th APEC Ministerial Meeting and 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting)	<p>In his interventions at the 26th APEC Ministerial Meeting, the Secretary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified human capital development with emphasis on science and technology, as the top strategy for economic growth, as well as the alignment of education and training programs with industrial requirements; • Commended the establishment of the APEC Higher Education Research Center (AHERC) and the APEC Scholarship Roadmap in advancing cross-border education; • Informed APEC Ministers of the Philippines' participation in the APEC Scholarship Program; • Underlined the importance of other connectivity initiatives, such as transportation and logistics, financial services, and professional mobility; • Thanked the APEC economies for their unwavering support that enabled the Philippines to move forward with rehabilitation and reconstruction after Typhoon Haiyan.
11 to 13 November	Myanmar (25th ASEAN Summit)	The Secretary participated at the 25th ASEAN Summit as member of the the President's official delegation.
16 to 17 November	Japan	The Secretary visited Tokyo as guest of the Japanese Government for the 60th anniversary celebration of Japan's ODA. The Secretary spoke on the subject "History of Development and Challenges of the Philippines: How Did Japan's ODA Affect the Growth of the Philippines?"

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICIAL TRAVELS

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
18 to 19 November	Singapore	The Secretary accompanied the President in the official activities of this visit, particularly the meetings with high officials of the Singaporean government and business leaders.
05 to 08 December	Poland	<p>The following are the highlights of SFA's visit to Warsaw upon the invitation of Polish FM Grzegorz Schetyna:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Secretary congratulated Poland on the assumption of former PM Donald Tusk as President of the European Council and its triple anniversary celebrations this year, i.e., 25 years of democratic transformation, 15 years of NATO membership and 10 years of EU membership, and thanked Poland for its solidarity for providing assistance to the typhoon victims in PH noting that the Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) recently turned over three typhoon-resistant school buildings in Sta. Fe High School in Bantayan Island, Cebu, and had repaired at least 900 houses there.• Both sides agreed that the 2013 signing of the MOU Defense Cooperation brought closer cooperation in the defense sector, with the Secretary citing the purchase of 8 Sokol helicopters for the AFP's modernization program. The Secretary informed the Polish side that there has been a shift in PH's defense priority from dealing with the threat of insurgency to dealing with external threat. He added that both countries' strong alliance with the US, partnership in the same "political family" and the element of interoperability would be crucial in deepening bilateral cooperation in defense.• Both sides agreed that people-to-people links hold the key in strengthening relations between PH and PL, and SFA underscored educational exchanges especially in the field of science and technology since PH has to be more competitive in light of the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in December 2015.• The Secretary provided justifications for PL to consider the reopening of the Polish Embassy in Manila such as the PH's potential as Poland's platform for Polish goods, services and capital to penetrate the ASEAN market of 600 million people and the presence of EU countries' Embassies in Manila.• The Secretary thanked PL for having been the 17th EU country to ratify the PH-European Union Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation and sought support for the PH's application for enhanced preferential trade access under the EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus.

DATE	COUNTRY	HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT
09 to 13 December	United States	Official visit to Washington, DC. USA
17-19 December	Vatican	Official visit to the Vatican

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF INCOMING MINISTERIAL AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
07 to 09 January	Foreign Minister Børge Brende of Norway	The three-day visit of Foreign Minister Brende highlighted the strength of Philippines-Norway relations – from political and economic cooperation, to people-to-people exchanges. Aside from maritime cooperation between the two countries, the Secretary and FM Brende discussed Norway's participation in the country's peace processes, given that Norway is the Third-Party Facilitator in the peace talks between the Philippine Government and CPP-NPA-NDF and also a member of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in the Mindanao Peace Process.
22 January	US Senator Marco Rubio (ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations)	<p>US Senator Marco Rubio met with President Aquino, Secretary del Rosario and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin and exchanged views on matters pertaining to the further strengthening of political and economic cooperation between the Philippines and the US.</p> <p>Senator Marco also visited Tacloban and expressed his admiration for the resilience of the Filipino people amidst the devastation.</p>
30 January	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs William Hague of the United Kingdom	In their bilateral talks, the Secretary and Secretary Hague affirmed the Philippines and the UK's strong political partnership in both bilateral and multilateral fora and agreed to further strengthen such partnership founded on the mutual interests of peace, security, democracy, human rights and rule of law.
19 to 20 February	Premier Barry Robert O'Farrell of New South Wales, Australia	Premier Barry Robert O'Farrell, head of government of the Australian state of New South Wales, met with President Aquino and Secretary del Rosario as well as key business leaders and private sector representatives and discussed ways of further advancing political and economic cooperation, as well as people-to-people exchanges, between the Philippines and Australia.
20 to 21 February	Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb of Australia	Foreign Minister for Julie Bishop and Trade and Investment Minister Robb visited the country to head the Australian delegation to the 4th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting where both countries discussed issues of mutual interest, the advancement of bilateral agenda, as well as exchange of views on political and economic developments in the region.

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
20 to 21 February	Rep. Ed Royce, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, and seven (7) CODEL members	<p>U.S. Representative Ed Royce (Republican, California), Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, led an eight-member U.S. Congressional Delegation (CODEL) that visited Manila and Tacloban. The CODEL called on the President and expressed interest in strengthening further the political, security, economic and socio-cultural ties with the Philippines. They visited Tacloban to examine the damage caused by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and to oversee the US assistance given to typhoon-affected areas.</p> <p>Other members of the CODEL are Representatives Steve Chabot (Republican, Ohio), Brad Sherman (Democrat, California), Joe Kennedy III (Democrat, Massachusetts), Randy Weber (Republican, Texas), Luke Messer (Republican, Indiana), Joe Wilson (Republican, South Carolina) and Madeleine Bordallo (Democrat, Guam).</p>
24 to 25 March	Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo of Spain	<p>The Secretary and Foreign Minister Margallo led their respective delegations to the PHL-Spain High Level Political Consultations, where both countries discussed and agreed on a wide range of bilateral cooperative activities, as well as exchange of views on regional and international developments.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Margallo called on President Benigno S. Aquino III and Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory Domingo; met with Philippine captains of industries and members of the Makati Business Club where he presented the Marca Espana initiative of the Spanish Government and various potential areas of business cooperation; visited the Bangkal High School in Makati which implements a Spanish language program in partnership with the Embassy of Spain and Instituto Cervantes; visited Tacloban City and Tolosa. While in Tacloban, he visited a regional hospital, checked the status of relief and rehabilitation efforts initiated by Spain, and made a donation of 400 boats to fisher folks from Sta Rita, Samar. He also visited an aid distribution center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development which is supported by Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) and the World Food Program. Spain donated more than US\$ 4.8 million in humanitarian assistance to hard-hit areas in Central Visayas. Finally, he flew to Pampanga with his delegation to inaugurate the Humanitarian Assistance</p>

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF INCOMING MINISTERIAL AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
		<p>Emergency Warehouse at Clark Airbase. The warehouse is the first of several facilities planned by the Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council and designed for quick response to national emergencies.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Margallo was accompanied by a sizable group of officials from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, Spanish Economic Ministry, and representatives of major Spanish business conglomerates.</p>
26 to 28 March	Minister of State Maria Böhmer of Germany	<p>The visit marked the celebration of 60 years of Philippine-Germany diplomatic relations and as the Philippines commemorated the historic signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). In their bilateral meeting, the Secretary and State Minister Böhmer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noted with satisfaction the burgeoning bilateral political and economic relations between their two countries. Germany is the Philippines' eighth top trading partner in the world and the number one in Europe with US\$ 4.5 billion or PhP 203 billion in total trade in 2013;• Reaffirmed their mutual commitment to bilateral engagement and cooperation not only in the political field but also in areas such as labor, people-to-people exchanges, investments, and the maritime sector. Germany controls more than 40% of the world market in container shipping, over 50% of which is manned by Filipino seafarers. Germany has been supportive of the Philippines' efforts to comply with the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention; and• Agreed to promote the smooth implementation of the Agreement on the Deployment of Philippine Healthcare Professionals. <p>The Secretary expressed gratitude to Germany for its humanitarian assistance of over 176 million euros (close to PhP 11 billion), noting that 144 million euros (PhP 8.7 billion) was sourced from private donations. Minister Böhmer, on the other hand, reiterated Germany's support for a rules-based approach and underscoring the importance of peaceful resolution of the disputes, with regard to the West Philippine Sea issue.</p>

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
8 May	Parliamentary Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Norio Mitsuya of Japan	<p>The Secretary and Vice-Minister Mitsuya discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues; particularly stressing: a) the important partnership between the Philippines and Japan as both countries confront similar challenges in the region while sharing common values of freedom and democracy; and b) Japan's support for the Philippines' arbitration case as it adheres to international law; and welcoming the US-PHL Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.</p> <p>The two officials agreed to further cooperate in promoting trade and investments, including exploring ways to resolve issues and improve the business environment, and to facilitate the deployment of Filipino nurses and caregivers to Japan.</p>
3 to 4 June	Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker of the U.S. and the US-ASEAN Business Council CEO Delegation	<p>United States Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and the US-ASEAN Business Council called on President Aquino and discussed the growing interest of the US in deepening economic relations with the Philippines. Recognizing the governance reforms made under the leadership of President Aquino as well as the strong and deep relations between the Philippines and the United States, Secretary Pritzker underscored the continuing confidence of American companies to do business in the Philippines and how to further their engagement in the country as part of American rebalance to the region. Several cabinet officials, including Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. Del Rosario were present during the call.</p>
05 June	Trade Minister Tim Groser of New Zealand	<p>Trade Minister Groser visited the Philippines upon the instructions of New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, whose visit to the Philippines in November 2013 was cancelled due to Typhoon Yolanda.</p>

ANNEX A:

HIGHLIGHTS OF INCOMING MINISTERIAL AND OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
		<p>The visited manifested New Zealand's continuing commitment to strengthen bilateral relations.</p> <p>Minister Groser was accompanied by a 20-man business delegation comprised of representatives from companies such as Airways New Zealand, BCS Group, Fonterra, GNS Science, Manfreight International, Orion Corp., Patton, and Prime Foods NZ.</p>
18 July	Acting Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow of Thailand	<p>The Secretary and Foreign Minister Sihasak discussed the steady progress of bilateral relations and agreed to intensify cooperation in various areas of mutual concern.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Sihasak briefed the Secretary on the current political situation in Thailand and presented the three-step roadmap for the restoration of democracy in Thailand. The two officials also exchanged views on the situation in the West Philippine Sea and reaffirmed their commitment for the expeditious conclusion of a code of conduct and a peaceful resolution of the disputes.</p>
28 to 29 July	EU High Representative for Foreign Policy and European Commission Vice President (HRVP) Catherine Ashton	<p>The first visit to Manila of HRVP Ashton coincided with the 50th Anniversary of Philippines-EU diplomatic ties, reaffirming the importance of bilateral relations.</p> <p>The Secretary and HRVP Ashton discussed wide-ranging issues, including the further expansion of the Philippines-EU economic cooperation, the Mindanao peace process and regional security. The Secretary expressed appreciation for the outpouring of support that EU countries have extended to the Philippines in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan, as well as the substantial assistance the EU has provided to the Mindanao Peace Process.</p>

DATE	MINISTER/ HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS/OUTCOMES OF THE VISIT
8 August	Senator Robert Corker, Senator Ronald Wyden, and Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen of the U.S.	<p>The visit of Senator Robert Corker (Republican, Tennessee) and Senator Ronald Wyden (Democrat, Oregon) and a congressional delegation (CODEL) led by Republican Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen served to reinforce the bilateral relations between the Philippines and the United States. Major aspects of PH-US ties were discussed including the recently signed Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), strategic security collaboration, economic partnership, among others. This visit was an opportunity to share information on developments in the Philippines, discuss matters beneficial to the Philippines now pending with the US Congress such as the benefits for veterans and encourage the visiting members of the House of Representatives to join the US Philippines Friendship Caucus.</p> <p>Other members of the CODEL were: Representatives Kay Granger (Republican, Texas), Ken Calvert (Republican, South California), and Jim Moran (Democrat, Virginia).</p>
28 October	Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Hans-Joachim Fuchtel of Germany	Secretary del Rosario and State Secretary Fuchtel discussed a broad range of bilateral issues including a) the two technical and vocational education and training agreements - a framework for cooperation and an institutional arrangement with the federal institute for vocational education and training (BIBB) on research signed during the visit of President Aquino in Germany; b) the proposed creation of a Philippine-German Center for Natural Hazards Research and Early Warning for climate change mitigation and disaster management; and c) the Triple Win Project which supports the recruitment of Filipino nurses to Germany.

ANNEX B:

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL COMMISSIONS/ BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

Americas	
2nd Philippines-Argentina Bilateral Consultation Meeting (19 February; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and Argentina reviewed a broad range of bilateral issues and concerns; agreed to capitalize on their close historic-cultural affinities and transform them into solid opportunities for cooperation; and expand bilateral trade, increase trade missions and business meetings to take advantage of economic complementarities in both countries.</p> <p>The meeting afforded the opportunity for the Philippines to brief the Argentine delegation of the successes in the Philippine Government's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, developments in ASEAN including maritime issues, and the progress in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of areas severely damaged by Typhoon Yolanda.</p>
4th Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (6 to 7 March; Washington DC)	<p>The Dialogue sustained the momentum for close consultations and exchange of views on a broad range of bilateral, regional, and global issues that reflect common values, mutual respect, and converging interests. Both delegations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirmed their commitment to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, discussed actions that would further invigorate and expand their partnership in the spirit of the November 2011 Manila Declaration, and decided to expand cooperation in the areas of maritime domain awareness, disaster response preparedness, law enforcement, and nonproliferation; • Welcomed the current negotiations on the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and expressed optimism for a successful conclusion; • Expressed concern over recent developments in the area covering the WPS/SCS, and emphasized the importance of upholding peace and stability, respect for international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, and freedom of navigation and overflight; • Reiterated that international disputes in the South China Sea should be settled in accordance with international law and through diplomatic or other peaceful means, such as through the use of arbitration, and expressed hope for the expeditious conclusion of a meaningful Code of Conduct (COC) on the South China Sea between ASEAN and China. Both sides expressed opposition to unilateral measures that aim to alter the status quo and that escalate tensions in the region and called on all parties to exercise self-restraint; • Agreed to deepen economic ties through the Partnership for Growth, the Philippines' compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and bilateral Agreement on Scientific and Technology Cooperation including more academic and student exchanges; • Discussed cooperative activities in the area of law enforcement, including combating money laundering and cybercrime, anticorruption, and the rule of law in the Philippines.

Philippines-US Defense Talks (10-11 April; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and United States Negotiating Panels continued negotiations on the proposed agreement on Enhanced Defense Cooperation.</p> <p>The Chair of the Philippine Negotiating Panel, Defense Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino, cited further advancements on realizing the mutual commitment to strengthen their individual and collective defense capabilities achieved during the seventh round of negotiations held in Manila late March; highlighted the “vital importance” of increasing capabilities to respond to natural and man-made calamities, referring to lessons learned from most recent experiences in the country and in the region; other significant benefits from the agreement, notably critical and timely support to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, achievement of the country’s minimum credible defense posture, and, provision of jobs and other economic opportunities through the local goods and supplies procurement that will be made by the United States military.</p>
Asia Pacific	
4th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (February; Manila)	<p>Secretary del Rosario and Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo and their Australian counterparts, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb, discussed regional and global developments and priorities, areas of mutual interest, and cooperation in international relations and trade.</p> <p>They agreed to cooperate to increase bilateral trade and investment, and support the Philippine Government’s reforms to create a more resilient, vibrant and competitive economy; welcomed the participation of high-level business delegations from Australia and the Philippines at PAMM-related business events, and noted the importance of private sector engagement to drive the economic relationship forward; recognized the important role of the business chambers in promoting the expansion of trade and investment; the importance of development cooperation between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to pursue shared national interests of greater economic growth, stability and security for the region; agreed that the Philippines and Australia would maintain and deepen bilateral co-operation on defence and security matters, following the entry into force of the Philippines-Australia Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) in 2012 and that the Philippines and Australia would support efforts to increase co-operation in ASEAN, EAS, ARF, ADMM+, and APEC.</p> <p>The Ministers also met with high-level business delegations from Australia and the Philippines and expressed the importance of private sector engagement in moving the relations forward.</p>

ANNEX B:

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL COMMISSIONS/ BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

<p>6th Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (24 February; Jakarta)</p>	<p>The 6th JCBC, which was headed by the respective Foreign Ministers of the two countries, discussed/welcome/approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in political, defense and security relations, including border patrol and border crossing; economic relations, including trade and investment; and socio-cultural relations, including cooperation in health, culture, labor, sports and youth; • Philippine-Indonesia Plan of Action for 2014-2016, which provides a roadmap, concrete programs and specific timelines for cooperative initiatives between both countries; • Signing of an <i>Agreement on Mandatory Consular Notification and Assistance</i>, which provides a mechanism to facilitate the protection of the rights of nationals who are detained, arrested, deprived of freedom or undergoing judicial process before national courts, or who have died while in custody of the receiving state; • Signing of an <i>Agreement on Mandatory Consular Notification and Assistance</i>, which provides a mechanism to facilitate the protection of the rights of nationals who are detained, arrested, deprived of freedom or undergoing judicial process before national courts, or who have died while in custody of the receiving state; • Creation of three (3) Working Groups on political, security and border issues; economic issues; and socio-cultural issues and the establishment of a Senior Officials Meeting to monitor progress on these; • Historic conclusion of bilateral talks on delimitation of their exclusive economic zones. The talks, which started in 1994, are expected to lead to the signing of a maritime boundary treaty in the following months; • Regional and international issues, including the South China Sea and the evolving regional architecture in Asia, with particular emphasis on the role of ASEAN.
<p>7th Philippines-Japan Political-Military Meeting (16 April; Manila)</p>	<p>The Philippines and Japan exchanged views on their respective countries' national security policies and current regional issues. Further cooperation on maritime security as well as humanitarian assistance/disaster response were discussed.</p>
<p>Philippines-Indonesia 3rd Preparatory Meeting for Boundary Delimitation Talks (06 May; Jakarta)</p>	<p>The 3rd Preparatory Meeting of the 8th Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns (JPWG-MOC) was convened to identify an option to delimit the overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of both countries in the Mindanao/Celebes Sea.</p> <p>The Philippines and Indonesia discussed options for establishing the EEZ boundary of the Philippines and Indonesia guided by the relevant positions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and international law principles to achieve an equitable solution to their overlapping EEZs.</p>

5th Philippines-ROK Policy Consultations (27 May; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and the Republic of Korea agreed to sustain the momentum of cooperation in the areas of defense, economic and socio-cultural. The importance of ensuring the safety and well being of Filipino and Korean nationals in each other's territory was also highlighted in the meeting. Both delegations exchanged views on regional and global developments affecting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.</p>
Philippines-Timor Leste Inaugural Policy Consultations (26 June; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and Timor Leste agreed to expand cooperation in the fields of education, defense and security, marine and fisheries, agriculture, and trade.</p>
Philippines-Singapore 2nd Informal Consultations on Bilateral Action Plan (04 July; Manila)	<p>The Informal Consultations sustains the gains made following the successful State Visit to the Philippines of Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam from April 2 to 5.</p> <p>The Philippines and Singapore noted with satisfaction the significant developments in the overall implementation of the PSAP, including strengthening defense cooperation, which has seen active intelligence and education exchanges between military personnel of the two countries, as well as in education cooperation, which has seen hundreds of Filipinos availing themselves of scholarships at Singapore schools; agreed to continue existing cooperative activities, including student exchanges, exchanges of cultural artifacts and experts, and the strengthening of cooperative activities in the vocational and technical education sector, among others; and identified potential cooperative activities were identified, such as possible Singapore investments in the Philippines' infrastructure and energy sectors, and the expansion of Philippine companies in Singapore.</p> <p>More importantly, the Consultations provided a forum for the two sides to discuss labor cooperation, noting the large number of Filipinos who live and work in Singapore.</p>
4th Philippines-New Zealand Bilateral Consultation (05 August; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and New Zealand discussed a wide range of issues relating to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, disaster management and the academic fields. Both delegations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted the increasing interest of New Zealand companies who are keen on investing in the Philippines in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sectors. They took note of the potential of enhanced links in the BPO sector to complement the more than 120 New Zealand companies that have already invested in the Philippines;

ANNEX B:

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL COMMISSIONS/ BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation in the field of defense and security cooperation which will be further enhanced later this year with the holding of the 3rd round of the Philippines-New Zealand Bilateral Defense Talks (BDT) in Manila from November 12 to 14 of this year; Discussed regional developments such as the South China Sea issue and issues related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South-west Pacific Dialogue (SwPD) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).
3rd Joint Consular Consultations Meeting (23 September; Seoul, ROK)	<p>The Philippines and the Republic of Korea discussed various consular-related issues, including the protection of each country's nationals, visa-related concerns, labor and Employment Permit System matters, and cooperation initiatives in the field of education and people-to-people exchanges.</p> <p>The Philippines reiterated its commitment to further strengthen the dynamic Philippines-South Korea relations and enhance its cooperative efforts in matters of mutual interest.</p>
1st Philippines-Kazakhstan Political Consultations (1 October; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and Kazakhstan agreed to move forward cooperation in various fields, including Kazakhstan's offer to share its expertise in wind power engineering and the possible signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation. Kazakhstan expressed preparedness to cooperate with PH in enhancing tourism between the two countries and willingness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Education. An invitation for the Secretary to visit Kazakhstan in the first semester of 2015 was extended, with Filipino businessmen joining the Secretary for possible investments in energy, mining and infrastructure-related services.</p>
Europe	
1st Philippines-Norway Bilateral Consultations (09 January)	<p>The inaugural Philippines-Norway Bilateral Consultations discussed current, bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common concern. The two countries affirmed their commitment to further enhancing maritime cooperation. Norwegian-owned, -operated or -managed vessels employ some 21,000 Filipino seafarers. Norway has actively extended technical assistance to the Philippines in complying with the STCW Convention. Norway welcomed the substantial progress made in the peace talks between the Philippine Government and the MILF. Norway acts as the country facilitator for the Philippines' peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF. It is also a member of the International Monitoring Team in the Mindanao Peace Process.</p> <p>Other areas of cooperation such as in labor, renewable energy and in education were also discussed, particularly closer cooperation in areas of labor and trade and investment.</p> <p>Among the regional and multilateral issues discussed were maritime security and the settling of disputes peacefully in the context of international law, particularly UNCLOS.</p>

6th Philippines-Switzerland Bilateral Consultations (27 February)	<p>The Philippines and Switzerland exchanged views on various areas of common concern, including migration, education, finance, regional and international issues. They agreed on the importance of maritime security, freedom of navigation, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, including the UNCLOS.</p> <p>Switzerland reaffirmed its commitment to co-host the ASEM Manila Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management which will see 48 partner countries in the ASEM, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission discuss how to better cope and deal with mega disasters in the future.</p>
Philippines-Spain High-Level Political Consultations (24 March)	<p>The Secretary and his counterpart Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo headed their respective delegations, which was held within the PHL-Spain Framework Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 2000.</p> <p>The whole range and scope of Philippines-Spain bilateral relations was discussed, with the Secretary and Minister Margallo reaffirming their commitment to further advance partnership and, at the same time, explore new areas of cooperation. Six documents/agreements were signed and initialed during the meeting.</p>
5th Philippines-Romania Political Consultations (05 May; Bucharest)	<p>The Philippines and Romania discussed four key areas of cooperation, namely: agriculture and the agro-industrial sector; energy, oil and gas; disaster risk reduction; and tourism. Romania offered to host the training and exchange of engineering students and professionals wishing to pursue further studies in the energy sector through its summer programs at the Oil and Gas University of Ploiesti.</p> <p>With the Philippines hosting the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and Romania hosting the ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Development and Water Management in June, both countries agreed to support each other and to recommend experts to participate in the said conferences.</p>
3rd Philippines – Poland Political Consultations (06 May; Warsaw)	<p>The Philippines and Poland agreed to intensify cooperation in the fields of trade, defense, educational and cultural promotion, as well as technical exchanges, high-level visits of key Philippine officials to Poland in the latter half of the year, and the proposed re-opening of the Polish diplomatic mission in Manila.</p> <p>On maritime security, the two sides agreed on the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes through the adherence to, and observance of, international law, including the UNCLOS.</p>

ANNEX B:

HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL COMMISSIONS/ BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

5th Philippines-Hungary Political Consultations (09 May; Budapest)	The Philippines and Hungary agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of education, tourism, water management, agriculture, and trade, as well as high-level visits, particularly by Hungarian President JánosÁder, who has expressed his willingness to visit the Philippines in the latter part of the year. The proposed reopening of the Hungarian diplomatic mission in Manila was discussed. The importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes through the adherence to, and observance of, international law, including the UNCLOS, was also discussed under maritime security.
5th Philippines-Finland Political Consultations (19 May; Helsinki)	The Philippines and Finland agreed to advance cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, weather forecasting, and education. They also exchanged views on regional and international security issues. Finland welcomed the commitment of the Philippines to good governance, which has resulted in a more competitive and attractive business environment. Finland also agreed to cooperate in organizing trade and investment missions.
9th Philippines-Russia Political Consultations (22 May; Moscow)	The Philippines and Russia agreed to advance cooperation in trade and investments, tourism, air services, energy, security, and people-to-people exchanges. They also agreed to sustain constructive engagement in regional and multilateral fora, especially in the East Asian Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum, and Asia-Europe Meeting.
Middle East and Africa	
5th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Consultation Meeting (29 to 30 January; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and Iran agreed to strengthen consular cooperation, including consular notification, providing assistance to nationals in distress, increasing people-to-people exchange, clarifying visa and immigration matters, and following up pending agreements.</p> <p>The Philippine delegation requested that Filipinos in Iran who are detained or arrested to be allowed to contact the Philippine Embassy as soon as possible, to ensure prompt assistance.</p>
8th Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting (11 to 12 February; Manila)	The Philippines and Egypt discussed a broad range of prospective bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, agriculture, health and medical sciences, culture, and Halal certification, among others, as well as respective domestic and regional developments in the two countries.
2nd Philippines-Oman Informal Bilateral Consultations (04 February; Manila)	The Philippines and Oman discussed issues of mutual concern, such as the status of pending bilateral agreements and prospective areas of future cooperation. The IBC concluded with the signing of the Philippines-Oman Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations, which creates a formal mechanism that will convene regularly to expand bilateral cooperation in political, economic, cultural, technological, scientific and educational matters.

2nd Philippines-South Africa Bilateral Consultative Forum (10 February; Manila)	<p>The Philippines and South Africa discussed several proposed bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, medical tourism, agriculture, importation of agricultural products, such as citrus fruits, and air services agreement.</p> <p>The meeting was also an opportunity to personally thank the South African Government for sending two rescue teams that assisted in the disaster relief efforts and delivered food, medicine and other equipment to the victims of Typhoon Yolanda.</p>
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ANNEX C:

BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Political/ Defense Agreements:			
	Signed	Ratified	Effectivity
Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman	04 February 2014		04 February 2014
Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime	24 March 2014		
Philippines - United States Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)	28 April 2014	6 June 2014	25 June 2014
Philippines-Indonesia Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Combating International Terrorism	23 May 2014		
Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Concerning the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Boundary	23 May 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus on Political Consultations	11 June 2014		
Philippines-Slovak Republic Agreement on the Establishment of Political Consultation Mechanism	17 October 2014		17 October 2014
Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	29 October 2010	05 May 2014	
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of National Defense of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense of Canada and the Canadian Forces concerning the Canadian Military Training and Cooperation Program			14 February 2014
1995 UNCLOS Fish Stock Agreement	30 August 1996	15-Feb-00	24 October 2014
Economic/ Cultural Agreements:			
Memorandum of Understanding between the Aeronautical Authorities of the French Republic and the Aeronautical Authorities of the Republic of the Philippines	15 January 2014		

Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Singapore	06 February 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development – Department of Science and Technology and the Yucatan Center for Scientific Research in Mexico	13 February 2014		
Memorandum of Subsidiary Agreement between AusAID and the Philippine Department of Education on the Best Education Sector Transformation Program (BEST)	20 February 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Malaysia on Cooperation in the Field of Education	28 February 2014	17 July 2014	Upon signing
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Malaysia on Culture, Arts and Heritage Cooperation	28 February 2014	Under process	Upon signing
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Energy and U.S. Export-Import Bank	19 March 2014		
Cooperation Plan between University of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain	24 March 2014		
Cooperation Plan between Ateneo De Manila University and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain	24 March 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey	28 March 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the Republic of Korea under the Employment Permit System	08 April 2014	17 July 2014	8 April 2014
MOU for Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of DFA and the Romanian Diplomatic Institute of the Romanian MFA	06 May 2014		
PH-Spain Memorandum of Understanding on the Financing Facility for the Restructuring of the Bridge Construction/Replacement Project	13 May 2014 (Manila) 21 May 2014 (Madrid)		

ANNEX C:

BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation between the Philippines and Egypt	18 May 2014	28 October 2014	
PH-Indonesia MOU on Higher Education Cooperation	23 May 2014		
Air Services Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the State of Israel	26 May 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding on Sports Cooperation between the Ministry of Sport and Youth of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippine Sports Commission of the Philippines	31 May 2014		
PH-Japan Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan on Fostering Bilateral Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology and the Implementation of the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting – Terrestrial System for digital terrestrial television broadcasting	23 June 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Health Cooperation between the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam	26 June 2014		
Protocol on Cooperation between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for 2014-16	4 July 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute and Rio Branco Institute on the Exchange of Diplomatic Trainings PH-Brazil	25 August 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding on Community-based Education Program for Filipino Children in Sabah PH-Malaysia	26 August 2014		
Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA)	26 August 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Tourism and the Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior (ICEX) España Exportación e Inversiones for the conduct of Madrid Fusión-Manila PH-Spain	14 September 2014		
Philippines-France Air Services Agreement	17 September 2014		
Philippines-France 2014-2016 Program of the Cultural Cooperation Agreement	17 September 2014		

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France and the Development Academy of the Philippines	17 September 2014		
PH-Germany Cooperation Agreement on Technical and Vocational Education and Training between the TESDA and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training	19 September 2014		
Joint Declaration of Intent between the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany in the Field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	19 September 2014		
Philippines-Ethiopia Air Services Agreement	October 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Sports Commission of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Sports Cooperation	05 November 2014		
Philippines-Turkey Air Services Agreement	17 November 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment in the Philippines Project between the Government of Canada (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and the Government of the Philippines (Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)	26 November 2014		26 November 2014
ASEAN Agreement on Customs	30 March 2012	6 January 2014	
Protocol to Incorporate Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures into the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China	19 November 2012	14 February 2014	
Protocol to Amend Certain ASEAN Economic Agreements related to Trade in Goods	8 March 2013	22 August 2014	
Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the Procurement of Thai White Rice	12 September 2014	13 September 2014	12 Sept 2014
Philippines-New Zealand Arrangement on a Working Holiday Scheme	23 October 2012	26 November 2013	05 February 2014

ANNEX C:

BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Consular and Labor Agreements			
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Indonesia on Consular Notification and Assistance	24 February 2014		
Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	06 March 2014	08 August 2014	24 November 2014
Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippine Statistical Authority and the Consulate General of Spain on verification of civil registry documents	24 March 2014		
Chicago PCG's Alliance Agreement with U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration	08 April 2014		
Philippines-Egypt Visa Waiver Agreement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports	18 May 2014	15 December 2014	
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Gulf Coast District Office (Alabama)	31 May 2014		
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Louisville District Office (Kentucky)	05 July 2014		
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Atlanta District Office (Georgia)	19 July 2014		
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Nashville District Office (Tennessee)	19 July 2014		
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Columbia District Office (South Carolina)	02 August 2014		
Washington DC PE's Local alliance agreement with the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, Raleigh District Office (North Carolina)	02 August 2014		
Arrangement Establishing an Understanding between the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco and the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division's Southwest Regional Office	05 September 2014		

Philippines-Germany Social Security Agreement	19 September 2014		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the General Counsel of the US National Labor Relations Board on Labor Rights	22 October 2014		
Chicago PCG's MOU with National Labor Relations Board	24 November 2014		
Memorandum of Agreement on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of Papua New Guinea	26 Nov 2013	05 May 2014	

ODA Projects

Non-Project Grant Aid on the Next-Generation Vehicles Package 2013	12 March 2014
Grant Aid for the Project for Enhancement of Coastal Communication Systems	25 March 2014
Grant Aid for the Improvement of Water Supply of the Metro Cebu Water	25 March 2014
Grant Aid Program for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda	25 March 2014
EN for the Japanese Human Resource Development Scholarship Project	30 June 2014

Joint Statements

Joint statement between Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the Philippine Department of Science and Technology (DOST) on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) PH-Japan	13 January 2014
Joint Statement of the 10th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area Summit (10th BIMP-EAGA Summit)	11 May 2014
Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the Realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015	11 May 2014
Joint Declaration on Cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the Swiss Confederation)	23 June 2014
PH-JP Joint Statement on Industrial Cooperation	21 July 2014
Joint Statement on ASEAN-Norway Partnership	8 August 2014
Joint Statement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia Concerning the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary	Oct2014
Joint Plan of Action for education cooperation between the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Canadian Bureau for International Education	Nov 2014
ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change 2014	12 Nov 2014
ASEAN-U.S. Joint Statement on Climate Change	13 Nov2014
East Asia Summit (EAS) Declaration on Combating Wildlife Trafficking	13 Nov 2014
East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on the Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria	13 Nov2014
East Asia Summit (EAS) Statement on Rapid Disaster Response	13 Nov 2014
Joint Declaration of the 9th East Asia Summit (EAS) on Regional Response to Outbreak of Ebola Virus	

ANNEX D:

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Trade in Goods

Region	Processed and Fresh Food	Garments and Fashion Accessories	Health and Wellness Products	Home Decor, Furniture and Handicrafts
Asia-Pacific	365	46	40	45
Europe	177	38	30	53
Americas	256	67	22	81
Middle East and Africa	51	13	10	21
TOTAL	849	164	102	200

Region	Electronic Parts	Auto Parts	Metal and Metal Ores	Construction Materials	Chemicals
Asia-Pacific	24	14	24	17	13
Europe	10	20	7	23	10
Americas	4	4	2	2	9
Middle East and Africa	4	1	2	2	2
TOTAL	42	39	35	44	34

Investments

Region	PPP Infrastructure. Ports and Airports	Energy and Green Technology	Mining
Asia-Pacific	57	47	5
Europe	61	69	5
Americas	82	60	9
Middle East and Africa	25	14	1
TOTAL	225	190	20

Trade in Services

Region	Tourism Services	Mfg.	Logistics, Warehousing, Shipping	Shipbuilding and Maintenance	Franchising
Asia-Pacific	313	29	15	8	22
Europe	255	9	30	16	8
Americas	181	30	27	4	20
Middle East and Africa	59	3	4	1	13
TOTAL	808	71	76	29	63

Region	Financial Services	Prof. Services	Creative Services	Educ.	IT/ BPM
Asia-Pacific	23	19	16	50	43
Europe	21	22	19	28	53
Americas	32	53	27	42	96
Middle East and Africa	2	12	4	15	4
TOTAL	78	106	66	135	196

ANNEX E:

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

Breakdown of Overseas Filipinos Assisted (by Foreign Service Post)

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. Of OFs assisted using ATN Funds	No. Of OFs assisted using LAF	Total	OUMWA (walk-in and referrals)
Abu Dhabi	42	24	66	
Abuja	17		17	
Agana	7	2	9	
Amman	392		392	
Ankara	489		489	
Athens	10		10	
Baghdad	38		38	
Bangkok	76	6	82	
Beijing	20		20	
Beirut	216		216	
Berlin	3		3	
Berne	2		2	
Brasilia	31		31	
Brunei	9		9	
Buenos Aires	9		9	
Cairo	121		121	
Chicago	7		7	
Chongqing	11		11	
Damascus	461	5	466	
Dhaka	6	2	8	
Dili	1		1	
Doha	240	24	264	
Dubai	40	11	51	
Guangzhou	121		121	
Geneva	2		2	
Hanoi	36	2	38	
Hong Kong	16	5	21	
Islamabad	143	4	147	

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. Of OFs assisted using ATN Funds	No. Of OFs assisted using LAF	Total	OUMWA (walk-in and referrals)
Jakarta	22		22	
Jeddah	1,545	8	1,553	
Kuala Lumpur	81	71	152	
Kuwait	37	38	75	
Lisbon			0	
London	23		23	
Los Angeles	3		3	
Macau SAR	16		16	
Madrid	8		8	
Manado	155		155	
Manama	53	10	63	
Mexico	4		4	
Milan	19		19	
Moscow	1		1	
Muscat	28		28	
Nairobi	92	4	96	
New Delhi	66	1	67	
New York	11		11	
Osaka	15		15	
Ottawa	2		2	
Paris	2		2	
Phnom Penh	24	1	25	
Port Moresby			0	
Prague	2		2	
Pretoria	5		5	
Riyadh	1,452	31	1,483	
Rome	27		27	
San Francisco	3		3	
Santiago	21		21	
Seoul	7		7	
Shanghai	52		52	

ANNEX E:

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. Of OFs assisted using ATN Funds	No. Of OFs assisted using LAF	TOTAL	OUMWA (walk-in and referrals)
Singapore	17	1	18	
Sydney			0	
Tehran	110		110	
Tel Aviv	33		33	
Tokyo	6		6	
Tripoli	4,167	2	4169	
Vancouver	1		1	
Vienna	2		2	
Vientiane	3		3	
Warsaw			0	
Washington DC	1		1	
Wellington			0	
Xiamen	19		19	
Yangon			0	
TOTAL	10,701	252	10,953	10,002

Total Filipinos Assisted: 20,955

**Number of OFs Jailed, Number of Filipinos Repatriated and
Number of Human Remains Repatriated**

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. of Jailed OFWs (January to December 2014)	No. of Filipinos Repatriated (January to December 2014)	No. of Human Remains Repatriated (January to December 2014)
Abu Dhabi	155	814	27
Abuja	1		7
Agana	26	58	3
Amman	54	44	4
Ankara	5	11	
Athens	4	28	10
Baghdad		4	
Bangkok	46	11	3
Beijing	13	46	3
Beirut	216	95	10
Berlin	87		
Berne	1	1	1
Brussels	5	2	
Budapest	9	6	
Brasilia			
Brunei	18	178	
Buenos Aires	6	41	
Cairo	10		
Canberra		1	5
Chicago	24	4	49
Chongqing	5	1	
Damascus	9	281	
Dhaka	7	16	3
Dili	4		2
Doha	141	346	48
Dubai		974	13
Guangzhou	105	11	3
Geneva	1	2	

ANNEX E:

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. of Jailed OFWs (January to December 2014)	No. of Filipinos Repatriated (January to December 2014)	No. of Human Remains Repatriated (January to December 2014)
Hanoi	21	4	1
Honolulu	31	37	
Hong Kong SAR	108	66	22
Islamabad	7	11	
Jakarta			
Jeddah	232	1,302	150
Kuala Lumpur	2,563		
Kuwait	43	110	5
Lisbon		3	1
London	18	39	28
Los Angeles	31	26	
Macau SAR	26	188	10
Madrid	27	19	
Manado	24	92	
Manama	53	167	6
Mexico	5	1	6
Milan	124		9
Moscow	1	20	
Muscat		44	
Nairobi	2	7	1
New Delhi	26	5	4
New York	5	27	129
Osaka	27	39	
Oslo	2		
Ottawa		1	14
Paris	6		6
Phnom Penh	9	9	4
Port Moresby		1	12

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. of Jailed OFWs (January to December 2014)	No. of Filipinos Repatriated (January to December 2014)	No. of Human Remains Repatriated (January to December 2014)
Prague			
Pretoria	1	2	6
Riyadh	499	2,220	230
Rome	65	2	
San Francisco	16	28	
Santiago	45		
Seoul	18	21	13
Shanghai	94	58	2
Singapore	98		37
Sydney	28	24	6
Tehran	11	8	3
Tel Aviv	10	84	
The Hague	1	5	
Tokyo	101	3	
Toronto	5	7	97
Tripoli	2	304	8
Vancouver	6	11	
Vienna	5	5	
Vientiane		3	1
Warsaw			
Washington DC	115	6	59
Wellington	1	1	1
Xiamen	14	4	
Yangon			
TOTAL	5,478	7,989	1,062

ANNEX E:

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

Drug Smuggling Cases: Asia and the Pacific

COUNTRY - FSP	MALE	FEMALE
Brunei – Brunei PE	2	1
Cambodia – Phnom Penh PE	3	5
China – Beijing PE	4	6
China – Chongqing PCG	0	5
China – Guangzhou PCG	19	81
China – Hong Kong SAR PCG	8	29
China- Macau SAR PCG	6	12
China – Shanghai PCG	15	16
China – Xiamen PCG	3	10
India – New Delhi PE	1	4
Indonesia – Manado PCG	1	0
Indonesia – Jakarta PE	3	9
Japan – Osaka PCG	7	2
Japan – Tokyo PE	10	4
Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur PE	436	63
Maldives – Dhaka PE	0	1
Singapore – Singapore PE	1	1
South Korea – Seoul PE	0	2
Sri Lanka – Dhaka PE	2	0
Nepal – New Delhi	0	1
Pakistan – Islamabad PE	0	4
Thailand – Bangkok PE	4	7
Vietnam – Hanoi PE	2	8
Subtotal	527	271

Drug Smuggling Cases: Middle East and Africa

COUNTRY - FSP	MALE	FEMALE
Bahrain – Manama PE	3	0
Iran – Tehran PE	5	6
Kuwait – Kuwait PE	21	7
Kenya – Nairobi PE	0	1
Qatar – Doha PE	18	1
Saudi Arabia – Jeddah PCG	45	9
United Arab Emirates –Abu Dhabi PCG	10	2
United Arab Emirates – Dubai PCG	12	38
Togo – Abuja PE	0	1
Subtotal	200	68

Drug Smuggling Cases: Americas

COUNTRY - FSP	MALE	FEMALE
Brazil – Brasilia PE	3	25
Argentina – Buenos Aires PE	1	6
Colombia –Brasilia PE	1	2
Chile – Santiago PE	1	2
Dominican Republic –Havana PE	2	0
Ecuador – Santiago PE	0	5
Mexico – Mexico PE	2	0
Peru – Santiago PE	7	34
USA – Chicago PCG	2	0
USA – Honolulu PCG	4	0
USA – Los Angeles PCG	1	0
USA – New York PCG	11	2
USA – Washington DC PE	2	3
Subtotal	38	79

Drug Smuggling Cases: Europe

COUNTRY - FSP	MALE	FEMALE
Athens – Athens PE	0	1
Austria – Vienna PE	2	0
France – Paris PE	2	1
Germany – Berlin PE	2	0
Italy – Rome PE & Milan PCG	56	11
Spain – Madrid PE	11	8
Turkey – Ankara PE	0	8
United Kingdom – London PE	2	1
Subtotal	75	30

Trafficking in Persons

Region	Total Victims Assisted
Americas	453
Asia and Pacific	384
Europe	29
Middle East and Africa	2,810
Total	3,676

ANNEX F: CONSULAR SERVICES

Passport Issuance Breakdown

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2014		
Passport Issuing Site	Type of Passport	No. of Passport Issuance
DFA Manila (ASEANA)	<i>MRRP</i>	48
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	467,896
DFA NCR-East (SM Megamall)	<i>ePassport</i>	191,387
DFA NCR-West (SM Manila)	<i>ePassport</i>	178,472
DFA NCR-Central (Robinsons Galleria)	<i>ePassport</i>	76,753
DFA NCR-South (Metro Gaisano)	<i>ePassport</i>	149,426
DFA NCR-Northeast (Ali Mall)	<i>ePassport</i>	118,839
Regional Consular Offices	<i>MRRP</i>	0
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	1,110,365
Foreign Service Posts	<i>MRRP</i>	0
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	757,489
TOTAL	<i>MRRP</i>	48
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	3,050,627
GRAND TOTAL		3,050,675

Visa Issuance Breakdown—Local

Non-Immigrant	Temporary Visitor – Restricted Nationals	9(a)	1,912
	Foreign Gov't Officials	9(e)	1,177
	Student Visa	9(f)	54
	Pre-arranged employment	9(g)	55
Special Non-Immigrant		47(a)(2)	85
Total			3,283

Authenticated Documents

Period	OCA Aseana	DFA-NCR East	DFA-NCR West	DFA-NCR South	DFA NCR Northeast	RCO Pam- panga
January	52,939	3,277	4,127	923	-	1,330
February	59,335	3,673	4,933	1,605	-	1,716
March	61,301	3,930	5,173	1,815	-	2,154
April	51,031	4,051	5,048	1,593	-	2,014
May	55,067	4,276	5,498	1,785	-	1,983
June	54,270	3,613	5,202	1,635	-	2,085
July	52,456	3,243	5,760	1,066	1,462	2,309
August	43,825	3,019	4,724	1,080	6,848	2,152
September	52,737	3,391	6,444	1,183	5,975	2,414
October	48,818	3,353	5,958	1,288	6,507	2,388
November	46,241	3,101	6,363	1,242	6,279	2,365
December	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	578,020	38,927	59,230	15,215	27,071	22,910

Civil Registry Reports

Civil Registry Reports	Total
Birth	886
Marriage	442
Death	82
RA9048	388
Divorce	4
Total no. of Application Processed	1,802
Received from Posts: Filed and Transmitted to PSA	
Birth	27,363
Marriage	17,851
Death	3,003
Divorce	7
RA9048	527
Renunciation	319
Conversion to Islam	53
Total no. of Reports Received from FSPs	49,123

ANNEX F:

CONSULAR SERVICES

Consular Outreach Services of Foreign Service Posts

Post	Total No. of Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants Served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents Issued	Number of Civil Registration Services
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC					
Bangkok PE	17	520	370	123	27
Beijing PE*	0	0	0	0	0
Brunei PE**	0	0	0	0	0
Canberra PE	7	3,760	3,313	0	0
Chongqing PCG	2	23	5	0	0
Dhaka PE	3	230	211	5	4
Dili PE*	0	0	0	0	0
Guangzhou PCG	1	65	28	1	0
Hanoi PE	4	519	494	39	26
Hong Kong SAR PCG	2	13	12	0	1
Islamabad PE	9	402	206	18	1
Jakarta PE	3	47	47	0	0
Kuala Lumpur PE	13	15,578	13,521	11,281	5,631
Macau SAR PCG**	0	0	0	0	0
Manado PCG*	0	0	0	0	0
New Delhi PE	5	55	55	9,679	142
Osaka PCG	9	-	1,983	564	
Phnom Penh PE	5	271	29	18	0
Port Moresby PE	0	0	0	0	0
Seoul PE	9	1,718	1,366	230	122
Shanghai PCG**	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore PE	0	0	0	0	0
Sydney PCG	4	240	73	45	10
Tokyo PE****	12	1,766	1,396	235	
Vientiane PE	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington PE	10	4,991	3,325	166	1,500
Yangon PE**	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	115	30,198	26,434	21,605	7,464

Post	Total No. of Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants Served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents Issued	Number of Civil Registration Services
AMERICAS					
Agana PCG	7	3,338	2,607	573	158
Brasilia PE	5	338	263	0	15
Buenos Aires PE	2	18	18	0	0
Chicago PCG	10	2,527	1,441	479	219
Honolulu PCG	7	2,395	2,170	142	82
Los Angeles PCG	15	5,488	4,594	559	335
Mexico PE	10	246	234	0	12
New York PCG	13	1,000	504	215	63
Ottawa PE	10	3,018	1,974	681	29
San Francisco PCG	42	11,092	6,279	2,261	721
Santiago PE	2	53	53	0	0
Toronto PCG	8	11,065	10,500	718	37
Vancouver PCG	20	10,278	9,319	728	178
Washington DC PE	19	5,467	4,590	453	50
Sub-Total	170	56,323	44,546	6,809	1,899
EUROPE					
Athens PE	7	2,485	2,384	59	42
Ankara PE	13	486	371	107	9
Berlin PE	8	1,243	915	3	212
Berne PE	0	0	0	0	0
Brussels PE/ PM*	0	0	0	0	0
Budapest PE	2	79	72	33	1
Geneva PCG/ PM	1	16	11	4	1
Vatican PE*	0	0	0	24	0
Lisbon PE**	0	0	0	0	0
London PE	9	1,714	1,198	222	117
Madrid PE	7	1,702	1,253	281	62
Milan PCG	16	2,007	-	463	0

ANNEX F:

CONSULAR SERVICES

Post	Total No. of Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants Served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents Issued	Number of Civil Registration Services
Moscow PE	0	0	0	0	0
Oslo PE	7	1,488	1,475	4	79
Paris PE	3	776	643	98	35
Prague PE*	0	0	0	0	0
Rome PE	12	4,097	3,482	344	271
The Hague PE	2	33	10	NA	NA
Vienna PE/PM	1	39	13	7	11
Warsaw PE	1	2	2	0	0
Sub-Total	89	16,167	11,829	1,649	840
MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA					
Abu Dhabi PE**	0	0	0	0	0
Abuja PE	15	220	207	10	5
Amman PE	7	416	7 (ext) 1 (renewal)	5 docs 265 IDs	6
Baghdad PE	5	208	67	6	4
Beirut PE*	0	0	0	0	0
Cairo PE	6	274	233	27	17
Damascus PE*	0	0	0	0	0
Doha PE**	0	0	0	0	0
Dubai PCG	12	2,307	2,022	264	21
Jeddah PCG	7	3,695	3,225	379	79
Kuwait PE	0	0	0	0	0
Manama PE	0	0	0	0	0
Muscat PE	4	260	185	59	16
Nairobi PE	14	1,163	288	28	25
Pretoria PE	12	272	272	0	0
Riyadh PE	43	22,148	17,401	4,338	409
Tehran PE	4	7***	0	0	0
Tel Aviv PE	7	451	165	54	2
Tripoli PE	0	0	0	0	0
Sub- Total	136	31,421	24,073	5,435	584
TOTAL	510	134,109	106,882	35,498	10,787

Legend:

* No consular outreach services in 2014

** Does not conduct consular outreach programs

*** Passport amendments/extensions

**** Combined number of legalized documents issued and civil registration services

Mobile Passport Services – Local

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
11 January	Valenzuela City	600	508
18 January	Angono, Rizal	550	409
25 January	Pandi, Bulacan	600	439
1 February	Balabac, Palawan	1,500	613
8 February	Llanera, Nueva Ecija	500	356
15 February	Balanga Bataan	500	448
22 February	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	600	488
1 March	Mendez, Cavite	500	402
8 March	Baler, Aurora	600	499
15 March	Mabini, Batangas	600	444
22 March	Calapan City	950	725
29 March	BSP-Plant Complex	439	332
29 March	Taguig City	500	342
5 April	1 st District, Quezon City	500	167
13 April	Masbate	500	409
26 April	Limay, Bataan	500	347
3 May	Norzagaray, Bulacan	500	375
8-10 May	Laoag City	500	1,353
17 May	ABS-CBN	500	311
24 May	Baliwag, Bulacan	500	484
24 May	Tarlac City	500	320
29 May	BSP-Manila	516	418
31 May	2 nd District Marikina City	500	300
5 June	House of Representatives	650	600
7 June	Vigan City	2,000	1,523
14 June	Gen Trias Cavite	500	397
21 June	Taytay, Rizal	550	410
28 June	Calamba Laguna	500	419
5 July	Binan, Laguna	550	511
12 July	GMA Network	550	459
19 July	Santa Rosa, Laguna	500	409
26 July	Bocaue, Bulacan	500	364
26 July	Hagonoy, Bulacan	550	397
2 August	Quezon City	550	436
9 August	Caloocan City	550	444
16 August	Silang, Cavite	470	341
23 August	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	700	547
30 August	San Juan City	400	267

ANNEX F: CONSULAR SERVICES

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
6 September	Rosales, Pangasinan	600	486
6 September	Palayan, Nueva Ecija	600	593
13 September	Malolos, Bulacan	600	388
14 September	Jaen, Nueva Ecija	600	457
18-20 September	Patikul, Sulu	1,100	985
27 September	Meycauayan, Bulacan	550	399
27 September	Rodriguez, Rizal	500	269
4 October	Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	600	320
11 October	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	500	613
18 October	Imus, Cavite	700	469
25 October	Marilao, Bulacan	500	490
8 November	Makati City	650	572
8 November	Parañaque City	550	487
15 November	Marikina City 1st Dist.	600	392
15 November	Binangonan Rizal	500	308
22 November	Obando, Bulacan	600	291
22 November	Tanay Rizal	600	330
6 December	Dasmariñas, Cavite	500	360
6 December	San Pablo, Laguna	650	429
13 December	Guiguinto Bulacan	650	487
13 December	Lagawe, Ifugao	650	417
TOTAL:		35,775	27,555



Apolinario Mabini
APOLINARIO M. MABINI

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION

The Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination (OSPPC) formulates strategic policies on cross-cutting and emerging foreign policy issues to support the work of the other offices in the Department of Foreign Affairs, with a view to providing them with the capacity to take a strategic view of Philippine foreign policy as a whole. It also leads corporate planning in the Department, including the crafting of the Strategic Plan, implementation of performance management systems, and preparation of Accomplishment Reports, to ensure the Department's contribution to the whole-of-government national development enterprise.

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