



2018
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
of the
DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

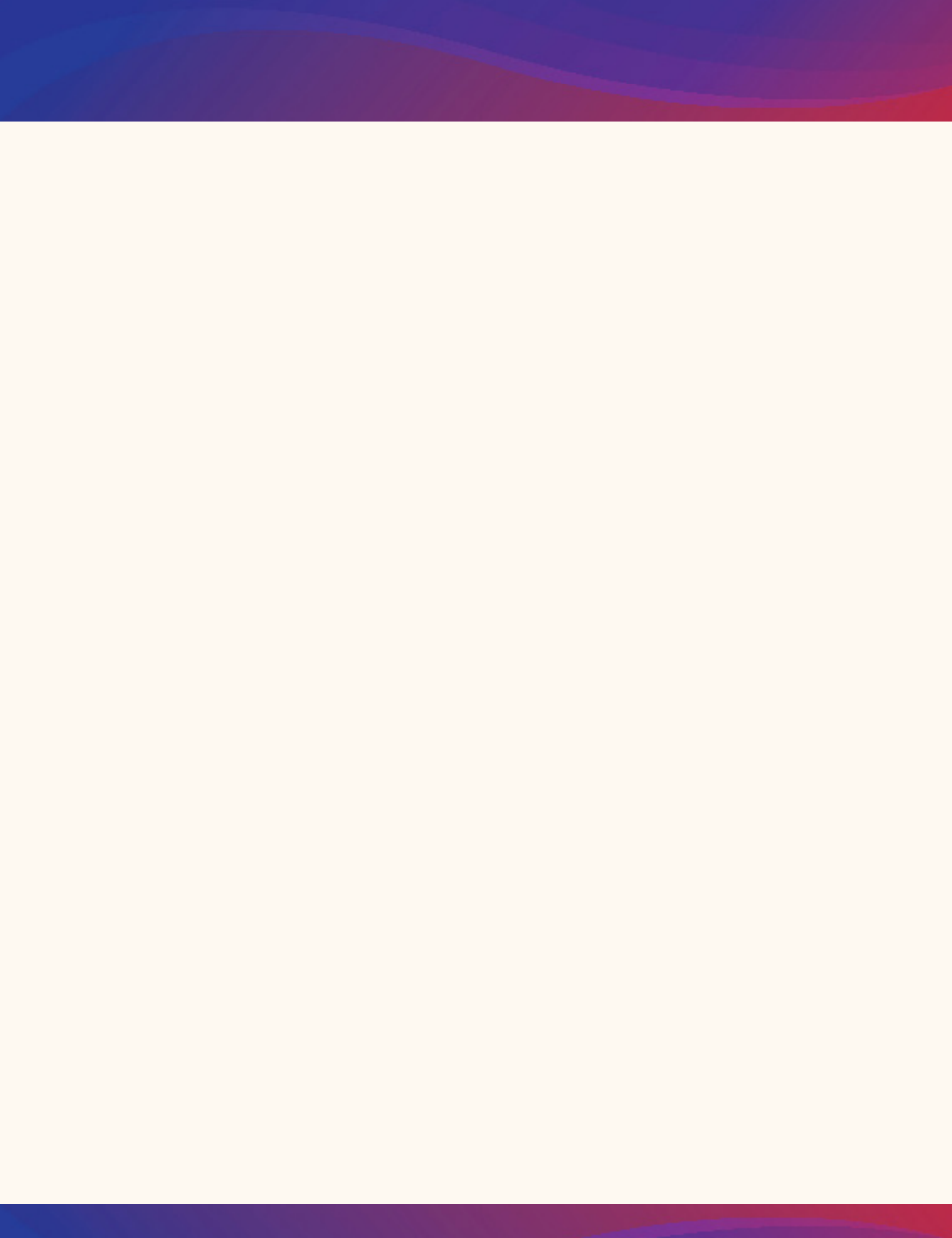


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I: OVERVIEW	4
Executive Summary	6
Our Organization: Vision, Mission and Objectives.....	12
Our Organization at a Glance.....	13
The Foreign Service Posts of the Philippines	14
DFA Milestones in 2018	16
Chapter II: OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE	18
ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1: Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment for Economic Growth	18
A. Preservation and Enhancement of National Security.....	18
B. Promotion and Attainment of Economic Security.....	48
C. Cultural Diplomacy.....	54
D. Public Diplomacy.....	60
ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2: Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged.....	62
A. Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN).....	63
B. Rescued and Repatriated Overseas Filipinos.....	64
C. Utilization of ATN Fund and Legal Assistance Fund (LAF).....	66
C. Labor-Related Agreements.....	67
D. Migration Governance.....	68
ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3: Consular Services Strengthened.....	70
A. Regional Consular Offices / Satellite Offices	71
B. Passport Services	72
C. Other Services (Visa, Authentication, Consular Records)	73
D. Quality Management System	74
E. Overseas Voting.....	75
Chapter III: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING.....	76
A. Human Resources	77
B. Finance.....	80
C. Infrastructure.....	81
D. Systems and Processes.....	82
ATTACHED AGENCIES	86
A. Foreign Service Institute (FSI).....	86
B. Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP)	87
C. UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM)	87
ANNEXES	88
A. Foreign Trips of the President and Incoming High-Level Visits in 2018.....	89
B. Official Travels of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 2018	92
C. Agreements Signed in 2018.....	94
D. Consular Data and Statistics.....	105



“We shall continue to assert and pursue an independent foreign policy. Our long-term national development and national security goals come first. We shall continue to reach out to all nations regardless of their prevailing political persuasions or proximity to or distance from our shores so long as these nations wish us well.”

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



“It is not independent foreign policy if you simply switch the master before whom you are kneeling; you are still on your knees. Independent foreign policy means getting off your knees and on your feet and standing up for our country. That is true independence.”

TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) actively led national efforts to advance Philippine interests in the global arena. The DFA pushed forward with the administration's independent and principled foreign policy through strengthening and enhancing bilateral and multilateral relations to promote a stable security environment for the country's economic growth. This is in line with the Government's vision of a secure and prosperous Philippines that is confident of its place in the community of nations.

In October 2018, the DFA saw another leadership change as Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. took over the helm of the Department from former Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano.

Under the leadership of Secretary Locsin, the DFA expanded ties with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and traditional allies while enhancing engagement of non-traditional partners, and expanded its global presence through the establishment of new Foreign Service Posts based on Philippine strategic priorities.

The DFA sustained participation in the ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the United Nations (UN), among others, and was involved in global governance and cooperation efforts on key advocacies, which include the protection of its maritime sovereign interests, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism, curbing human trafficking, migration and development, and the promotion of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises.

In 2018, guided by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the country's chief foreign policy architect under the Constitution, the DFA continued to advance the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy: (1) preservation and enhancement of national security; (2) promotion and attainment of economic security; and (3) protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare of overseas Filipinos (OFs).

2018

Protection of Maritime Sovereign Interests: West Philippine Sea and Philippine Rise

President Duterte paved the way for improving relations with China. Bilateral visits and cooperative mechanisms helped create an improved environment for managing issues in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

At the same time, the Duterte Administration actively pursued the Philippines' advocacy on the South China Sea by pushing for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), a document that embodies the collective commitment of ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability and mutual trust, and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea.

Under Philippine Country Coordinatorship of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations for 2018-2021, the Philippines is shepherding the negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

Build, Bridge, Build—Enhancing Bilateral Relationships

The DFA continues to take steps to fortify relations with traditional allies, as well as to revitalize and forge greater exchanges with non-traditional partners.

In September 2018, President Duterte undertook official visits to Israel and Jordan, during which agreements on labor, investment, science and technology, and defense cooperation were signed.

The momentum of high-level exchanges between the Philippines and China continued in the year with President Duterte hosting Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Philippines on 20-21 November 2018, during which a total of 29 documents and agreements were signed, including those on economic cooperation and infrastructure, banking and finance, people-to-people exchanges, and education, culture, energy and technical cooperation.

The US returned the three Balangiga Bells to the Philippines on 11 December 2018. The Bells were subsequently returned to the Diocese of Borongan, Samar on 15 December 2018, in a ceremony attended by the President.

Economic Diplomacy

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte attended the APEC Leaders' Meeting, where he highlighted the achievements of the administration. In his interventions, the President cited the Philippine government's "Build Build Build Program" as reflective of the ongoing reforms towards promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through the delivery of basic services on health, food and financing to our people.

The Philippines also successfully completed its fifth Trade Policy Review in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on 26 and 28 March 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Review evaluates the country's trade policy regime from 2012 to 2017. The WTO Report highlighted the Philippines' 6.6% six-year average GDP growth from 2012 to 2017 and expressed optimism with President Duterte's ten-point socio-economic agenda.

The Philippines-European Free Trade Association (PH-EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is the country's second bilateral FTA. It was ratified by President Duterte on 8 December 2017 and concurred in by the Senate through Senate Resolution No. 93 on 5 March 2018. The DFA deposited the Philippines' Instrument of Ratification of the FTA on 22 March 2018 through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. The PH-EFTA FTA's entered into force on 1 June 2018.

The DFA launched the first-ever edition of the Philippine International Economic Outlook in December 2018. The Outlook is a modest attempt to provide Philippine economic agents and practitioners a comprehensive, impactful, and easily understandable outlook on Philippine international economic realities.

Improved Consular Services

In line with the President's directive for government offices to streamline processes and provide better government service, the DFA implemented several measures to improve consular services such as the opening of five Consular Offices in 2018.

Since its launch in 15 January 2018, a total of 284 Passport-on-Wheels services were rendered, which served 130 cities and municipalities and resulted in the issuance of 216,058 ePassports for 2018.

The Passport ePayment Portal, which allows applicants to pay the processing fee through banks and other payment platforms, was introduced in June 2018 for DFA-Office of Consular Affairs (OCA).

The DFA Authentication Division, which was ISO-certified in 2016, the DFA Passport Division core process and DFA NCR-West Authentication and Passport processes, which were ISO-certified in 2017, were re-certified with the latest ISO 9001 Standard (9001:2015) in December 2018. In addition to these processes, the scope of DFA's Quality Management System (QMS) was expanded to include the Diplomatic and Official Passport Section, Visa Division, and Assistance-to-Nationals Service for Walk-in Clients at the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (UMWA).



DFA opens its Consular Office in San Pablo, Laguna, 29 October 2018. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

Protecting Filipinos Abroad: More Effective Assistance to Nationals Services

In pursuit of the third pillar of Philippine foreign policy, the DFA has taken active steps in the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas.

The DFA constantly monitored political and security developments in various flashpoints in the Middle East to ensure timely and adequate response of the Philippine government to any situation that could affect the safety and well-being of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) in the region.

In 2018, the DFA provided various forms of assistance to a total of 105,653 OFs with 101,918 OFs as beneficiaries of the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Fund and 3,735 OFs as beneficiaries of the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF).

From January to December 2018, in coordination with relevant government agencies under the One-Country Team Approach, the DFA assisted a total of 5,886 trafficking victims who were exploited either through illegal recruitment, forced labor, or other exploitative and abusive arrangements.

The DFA actively engaged in the negotiation, conclusion, and ratification of bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements on labor, migration governance and frameworks for the promotion of Philippine nationals' interests abroad.

The Philippines voted in favor of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. The GCM was also overwhelmingly adopted by 152 states, including states in Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia and all Arab receiving states in the Middle East. The GCM is envisioned as the first comprehensive instrument that will define and shape a multi-year global migration governance framework through voluntary and actionable/ doable commitments of various states.

Cultural Diplomacy

The Department fulfilled its mandate to promote the Philippines' cultural and creative industries and secure a foothold in foreign economies through the use of soft power by leveraging historical milestones, gastronomy, performing and visual arts, literature and other Philippine studies, films and TV as well as other creatives.

The DFA, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) signed the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Governance and Operations of Sentro Rizal on 22 March 2018 to further enhance collaboration and implement an intensified culture and arts education program for overseas Filipinos through the Sentro Rizal. The MOU signifies better coordination among these three major agencies in advancing, through the Foreign Service Posts, the goal of inclusive growth through the promotion of the Philippines'

cultural and creative industries, as well as reaching out to the Filipino diaspora to enhance their bonds to our nation's heritage.

Among the notable cultural projects of the DFA are the following:

- *Flavors of Philippine Cuisine*, a culinary tour, traveled in the Scandinavian cities of Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Malmo from 27 August to 8 September 2018 with Margarita Forés, awarded by international culinary peers as Asia's Best Female Chef for 2016.
- The Orchestra of the Filipino Youth, a 70-member orchestra, performed before a full house in the Qatar National Library and Katara Royal Opera House on 25 and 26 October 2018.
- The Ballet Philippines performed its repertoire, *Masterpieces*, on 19 August 2018 at the Shanghai International Dance Center. The performance aimed at enhancing awareness of Filipino culture and identity.



*The Orchestra of the Filipino Youth performs at the Katara Royal Opera House in Doha, 26 October 2018.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Doha)*

OUR ORGANIZATION: VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

“The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination.”

(1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines)

“The Department shall be the lead agency that shall advise and assist the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations.”

(Executive Order No. 292, Administrative Code of 1987)

MISSION

To promote and protect Philippine interests in the global community.

VISION

A resilient foreign service for a strong Philippines.

CORE VALUES

Patriotism, Integrity, Professionalism, Excellence, Service

OUR ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

Number of Foreign Service Posts

- 60** Embassies
- 4** Permanent Missions
- 23** Consulates General

Number of Foreign Service Personnel

- 1,390** Home Office Personnel
- 518** Staff in Consular Offices
- 1,389** Employees on Foreign Assignment
- 507** Locally-Hired Staff at FSPs

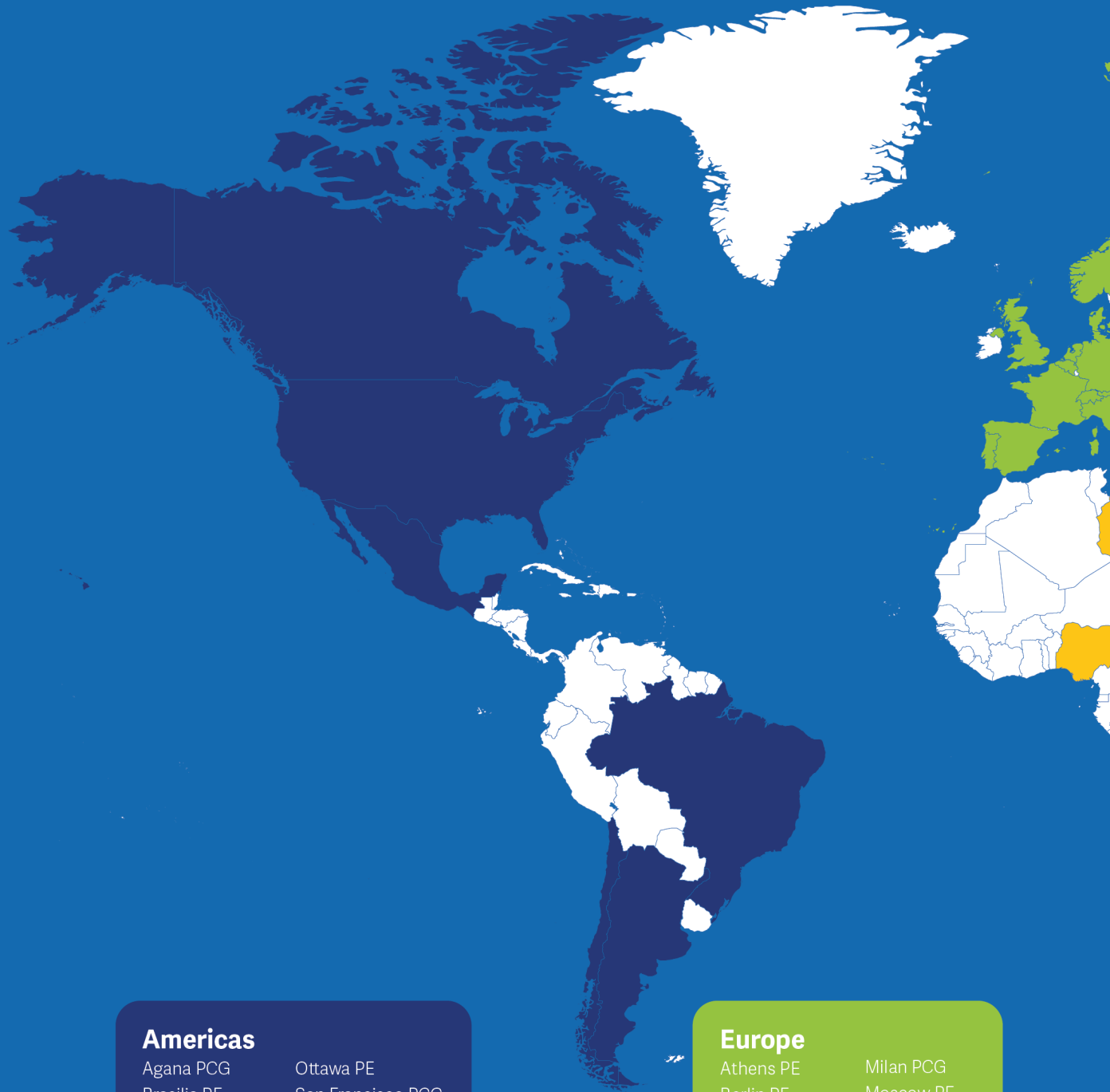
Management of Government-Owned and Leased Properties Abroad

- 62** Properties Owned
- 52** Chanceries/Consulate Offices Leased
- 57** Official Residences Leased

Consular Offices

- DFA NCR West**, Ermita, Manila
- DFA NCR East**, Mandaluyong City
- DFA NCR South**, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
- DFA NCR Northeast**, Cubao, Quezon City
- DFA NCR Central**, Pasig City
- DFA NCR North**, Novaliches, Quezon City
- DFA CO Angeles**, Angeles City, Pampanga
- DFA CO Antipolo**, Antipolo City
- DFA CO Bacolod**, Bacolod City
- DFA CO Baguio**, Baguio City
- DFA CO Butuan**, Butuan City
- DFA CO Cagayan De Oro**, Cagayan de Oro City
- DFA CO Calasiao**, Calasiao, Pangasinan
- DFA CO Mandaue**, Mandaue City, Cebu
- DFA CO Cotabato**, Cotabato City
- DFA CO Davao**, Davao City
- DFA CO Dumaguete**, Dumaguete City
- DFA CO General Santos**, General Santos City
- DFA CO Ilocos Norte**, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte
- DFA CO Iloilo**, Iloilo City
- DFA CO La Union**, San Fernando City, La Union
- DFA CO Legazpi**, Legazpi City
- DFA CO Lipa**, Lipa City, Batangas
- DFA CO Lucena**, Lucena City
- DFA CO Pampanga**, San Fernando City, Pampanga
- DFA CO Puerto Princesa**, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
- DFA CO Santiago**, Santiago City, Isabela
- DFA CO San Pablo**, San Pablo City, Laguna
- DFA CO Tacloban**, Tacloban City
- DFA CO Tagum**, Tagum City, Davao del Norte
- DFA CO Tuguegarao**, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
- DFA CO Zamboanga**, Zamboanga City

THE FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

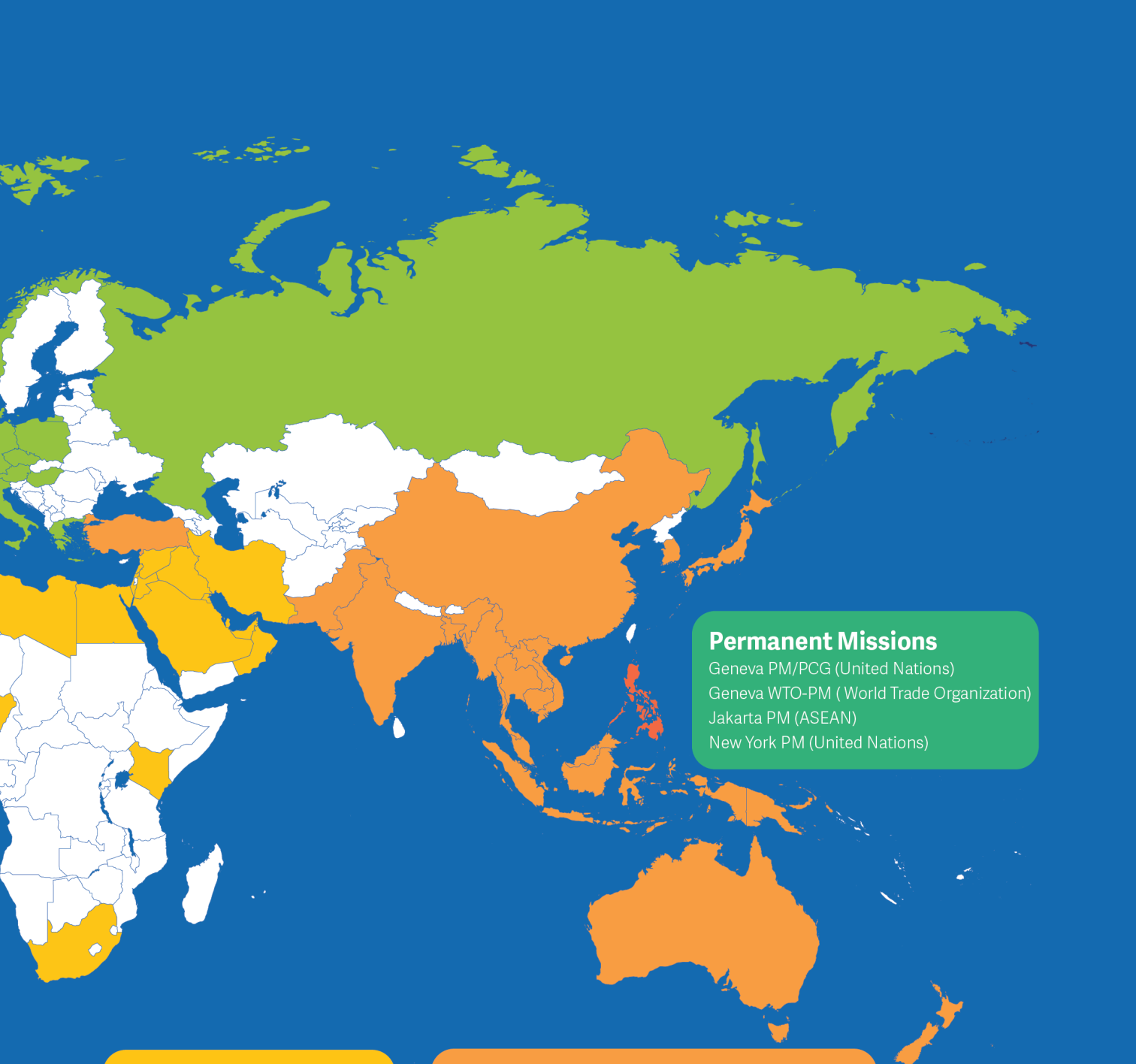


Americas

Agana PCG	Ottawa PE
Brasilia PE	San Francisco PCG
Buenos Aires PE	Santiago PE
Calgary PCG	Toronto PCG
Chicago PCG	Vancouver PCG
Honolulu PCG	Washington, D.C. PE
Houston PCG	
Los Angeles PCG	
Mexico PE	
New York PCG	

Europe

Athens PE	Milan PCG
Berlin PE	Moscow PE
Berne PE	Oslo PE
Brussels PE/PM	Paris PE
Budapest PE	Prague PE
Copenhagen PE	Rome PE
Frankfurt PCG	The Hague PE
Lisbon PE	Vatican PE
London PE	Vienna PE/PM
Madrid PE	Warsaw PE



Permanent Missions
Geneva PM/PCG (United Nations)
Geneva WTO-PM (World Trade Organization)
Jakarta PM (ASEAN)
New York PM (United Nations)

Middle East & Africa
Abu Dhabi PE Kuwait PE
Abuja PE Manama PE
Amman PE Muscat PE
Baghdad PE Nairobi PE
Beirut PE Pretoria PE
Cairo PE Riyadh PE
Damascus PE Tehran PE
Doha PE Tel Aviv PE
Dubai PCG Tripoli PE
Jeddah PCG

Asia-Pacific
Ankara PE Hongkong PCG Seoul PE
Bangkok PE Islamabad PE Shanghai PCG
Beijing PE Jakarta PE Singapore PE
Brunei PE Kuala Lumpur PE Sydney PCG
Canberra PE Macau PCG Tokyo PE
Chongqing PCG Manado PCG Vientiane PE
Dhaka PE New Delhi PE Wellington PE
Dili PE Osaka PCG Xiamen PCG
Guangzhou PCG Phnom Penh PE Yangon PE
Hanoi PE Port Moresby PE

2018 MILESTONES



JANUARY

Launch of the Passport-on-Wheels services

FEBRUARY

Philippine hosting of the second Meeting of the Philippines-China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) on the South China Sea



MARCH

Completion of the fifth Trade Policy Review in the World Trade Organization



APRIL

32nd ASEAN Summit, Singapore



MAY

Signing of the Philippines-Kuwait Agreement on the Employment of Domestic Workers



JUNE

Official Visit of President Duterte to South Korea

2018 MILESTONES

JULY

Working visit of President Duterte to Malaysia



AUGUST

Repatriation of 31 fishermen in Manado, Indonesia

SEPTEMBER

Official visit of President Duterte to Israel



OCTOBER

Re-election of the Philippines to the Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021



NOVEMBER

Official visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Philippines



DECEMBER

Return of the historic Balangiga Bells to the Philippines



OUTCOME 1:

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Consistent with the foreign policy strategy of the President to be “a friend to all and enemy to none,” the DFA actively led efforts to engage bilateral and international partners to promote a stable security environment for the country’s economic growth. This is in line with the Government’s vision of a secure and prosperous Philippines that is confident of its place in the community of nations.



*Undersecretary Enrique A. Manalo (sixth from left) co-chaired the 16th Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (SOM-DOC) with Ambassador Zhao Jianhua (fifth from left) of the Chinese Embassy in Manila, 26 October 2018, Manila.
(Photo Credit: DFA–Office of Strategic Communications and Research)*

KEY ADVOCACIES ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Protection of Maritime Sovereign Interests: West Philippine Sea and Philippine Rise

In pursuit of the Philippine government's independent and principled foreign policy, the DFA continues to strengthen bilateral ties with traditional partners and enhance relations with non-traditional partners. The Philippines continues to assert its position on the West Philippine Sea while maintaining its firm adherence to resolving issues through peaceful means.

At the same time, the Duterte Administration actively pursued the Philippines' advocacy on the South China Sea by pushing for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), a document that embodies the collective commitment of ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability and mutual trust and to ensure the

peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea.

The Duterte Administration also asserted the Philippines' sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the Philippine Rise region, an underwater feature situated in the Pacific Ocean with an approximate area of 24 million hectares located within the Philippines' EEZ and continental shelf as well as the outer limits of the continental shelf up to the 350-NM from the Philippines' baselines, in accordance with the decision of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf issued on 12 April 2012.

Among the DFA's key contributions in the promotion and protection of maritime sovereign interests are the following:



Undersecretary Manalo leads the Philippine delegation to the Second Meeting of the Philippines–China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, 13 February 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA–OSCR)

The DFA continued to engage China relative to our concerns on the West Philippine Sea. The First Meeting of the Philippines–China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM) was held on 19 May 2017. The BCM has since had two meetings in 2018: 13 February 2018 and 18 October 2018.

As agreed during the Second BCM Meeting, Inter-Sessional Meetings of the Political–Security and Oil and Gas Working Groups of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (ISM-BCM) were convened. The first ISM-BCM was held in Manila, Philippines on 24 August 2018. The ISM is a useful venue to maintain regular communication, prevent incidents, and build mutual confidence. Both sides raised respective concerns regarding incidents and actions in the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea (WPS/SCS). The Philippines reiterated its position that its sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the concerned areas are consistent with

international law, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Break-out sessions composed of military and coast guard delegates were also convened to discuss liaison and communication mechanisms with their counterparts.

The Third Meeting of the BCM was convened on 18 October 2018 in Beijing, China. The Philippine delegation was led by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo and the Chinese delegation was led by Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou. The delegations had a productive exchange of views on ways to enhance maritime cooperation in areas such as recent developments in the South China Sea carrying political and security implications, maritime search and rescue, maritime safety, marine environmental protection/marine scientific research, and fisheries in relevant Working Group meetings under the framework of the BCM. Without prejudice to their respective positions on sovereignty, sovereign

rights, and jurisdiction, the delegations also discussed possible cooperation on joint exploration and development of maritime oil and gas.

The Philippines was at the forefront of discussions on maritime concerns and regional security as it hosted the Eighth ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and the Sixth Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) at the Diamond Hotel in Manila on 6-7 December 2018. These were attended by officials from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Forum serves as a platform for government representatives from ASEAN member states and experts from regional and international organizations as well as think-tanks and the academe to interact and exchange views on the most important and pressing challenges to maritime safety and security, including piracy and armed robbery at sea, safety of navigation, marine environmental pollution, and other traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

The DFA articulated the Philippine position on the West Philippine Sea, which calls for the peaceful resolution of disputes and for full respect for legal and diplomatic processes.



Undersecretary Manalo (sixth from left) with National Security Council Deputy Director-General Vicente M. Agdamag (seventh from left) together with the heads of delegation from ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat, at the Eighth ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), 6 December 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)



President Duterte prepares to deliver the ASEAN Common Statement at the third ASEAN-China Summit, 14 November 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

In August 2018, the **Philippines became the Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations until 2021**. As Country Coordinator, the Philippines co-chaired the following meetings with China:

- 25th Meeting of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (JWG-DOC) on 1-2 September 2018 in Siem Reap, Cambodia; and
- 26th JWG-DOC and the 16th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (SOM-DOC) on 24-26 October 2018 in Manila, Philippines.

Under the Philippines' Country Coordinatorship, **ASEAN and China adopted the ASEAN Strategic Partnership Vision 2030** at the 21st ASEAN-China Summit on 14 November 2018 in Singapore. The Strategic Vision charts the future direction that would advance ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations to new heights by forging closer cooperation in the political-security, economic, and socio-cultural areas.

The DFA contributed to the celebration of the International Year of the Reefs (IYOR) by participating in the preparatory meeting on 9 January 2018, and the launching of IYOR 2018 on 12 February 2018.

The DFA provided inputs and technical information to the Permanent Delegate to UNESCO in filing the Philippines' objection and non-recognition of Chinese-named undersea features within Philippine waters on 28 February 2018.

The DFA provided inputs and participated in the public hearing of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 20 February 2018, and in the Senate Plenary on 22 February and 1 March 2018. On 5 March 2018, **the Senate unanimously approved on Third Reading a resolution concurring with the Philippines' accession to seven maritime agreements:**

- International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention) on 27 July 2017;
- Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS Protocol 78);
- Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS Protocol 88);
- Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as Modified by the Protocol of 1978;
- Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines 1966;

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas; and,
- FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

On 3 April 2018, **the Philippines acceded to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention)**. The accession is in accordance with the Philippines' general obligations as a Party to the UNCLOS which requires States to prevent, reduce, and control the intentional or accidental introduction of species, alien or new, to a particular part of the marine environment which may cause significant and harmful changes to that environment.

The DFA organized a Consultation Workshop on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Strategy, Mass, and other IMO matters, held on 27-28 June 2018 in Pasay City. The workshop facilitated the formulation of necessary policies affecting Philippine international and domestic fleets, seafarers, fishers, and the maritime and fishing industries.

Counter-Terrorism, De-Radicalization and Security Cooperation

The DFA participated in various efforts to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism and extremism.

The Philippines strengthened cooperation with the United Kingdom to help manage traditional and non-traditional security threats. **The Philippine National Police (PNP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Crime Agency of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland regarding Cooperation and Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating Serious and/or Organized Crime** on 19 November 2018. The MOU covers security cooperation in various areas, including:

- Sharing of law enforcement best practices and challenges, specifically in handling terrorism threats, drug trafficking, and other crimes;
- Police-to-police exchange of information on cybercrimes and cyber security threats;
- Police-to-police cooperation on investigation of online sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable persons;
- Strengthening capacity and capability through sharing of best practices and program of training and education; and
- Mechanisms to ensure safety of Filipino tourists in the United Kingdom and vice-versa.

Moreover, pursuant to the Philippines – United Kingdom (UK) MOU on Defense Cooperation signed in December 2017, **the Philippines and the UK successfully held the inaugural Philippines-UK**

Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting on 5 October 2018 in Manila. The JDC focused on areas of cooperation and an exchange of information on each country's defense and military command structures and defense policies, including counter-terrorism and anti-piracy efforts and maritime patrols; defense acquisition processes; idea-sharing on how the Philippines can build its defense industry; and proposed plan of defense and military cooperation activities.

The DFA also participated in the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Terrorism Conference in Sydney, Australia on 17 March 2018, during which legislative and enforcement tools to combat cross-border movement of violent extremists in the region were shared. The conference served as a platform in gaining the challenges and lessons of countries in the region in addressing the threat of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).

The DFA led the Philippine delegation to the UN High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism at the UN Headquarters in New York on 26-29 June 2018, upon the invitation of the Secretary General through the Philippine Permanent Mission to UN in New York. The conference was the first ever to have been conducted to improve international cooperation and information-sharing, and build new partnerships that can find practical solutions to the threat of terrorism. For the Philippines, the conference was an avenue to discuss opportunities and challenges in strengthening international cooperation through the sharing of information, expertise, and resources; strengthening



Secretary Cayetano (seated, third from left) represents President Duterte in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Counter-Terrorism between ASEAN and Australia on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, 17 March 2018, Sydney. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

global action to prevent violent extremism by engaging the youth and preventing misuse of new technologies and the Internet by terrorists; combating the evolving threat from Foreign Terrorist Fighters; and strengthening the role and capacity of the UN to support Member States to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The DFA coordinated with the Anti-Terrorism Council - Program Management Center (ATC-PMC) on the conduct of the Second Philippines-Indonesia Joint Working Group Meeting which was held on 31 July 2018 in Manila. The meeting focused on discussions related to the draft work plan on the seven areas of cooperation: border control, deradicalization and counter-radicalization, internet and cyber-terrorism, legal

regimes in counter-terrorism, law enforcement joint exercises, information exchange, and capacity building.

The DFA also coordinated with the ATC-PMC on the conduct of the Sixth Philippines-Australia Bilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations (6th BCTC) in Manila on 3 December 2018, which was attended by agencies responsible for foreign policy, defense, intelligence, law enforcement, legal assistance, financial, border, maritime and transport security, immigration, development assistance, and the peace process. Deputy Director-General Damian Carlos, National Security Council, headed the Philippine delegation, while Australian Counter-Terrorism Ambassador Paul Foley led the Australian delegation.

The Department participated in the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) Countering Violent Extremism Working Group Plenary and Workshop on Gender and Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (P/CVE): The Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) held on 18-19 December 2018 in Melbourne, Australia. Discussions focused on the capacity gaps and opportunities in mainstreaming a gender perspective across all levels of P/CVE policy and programming. The discussions also touched on the challenges of dealing effectively with women and children returning from foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) conflict zones.

Then Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter S. Cayetano outlined Philippine priorities during the High-Level General Debate at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly held on 25 September to 1 October 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Philippines signed the Code of Conduct Towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism in ceremonies at the UN Headquarters on the side of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly on 28 September 2018. Then Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. signed the Code on behalf of the Philippines.

At the United Nations General Assembly’s annual debate on the “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” on 4 October 2018, Ambassador Locsin underscored the transnational nature of terrorism and the deep and symbiotic relationship between terrorism and the illegal drug trade. The Philippines also called on the international community to urgently adopt a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism.



Secretary Cayetano at the High-Level General Debate at the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, 29 September 2018, New York. (Photo Credit: United Nations)

On the national front, **the Department participated in the establishment of the Technical Working Group initiated by the ATC-PMC on the Amendment of the Human Security Act of 2007.**

DFA acted as Co-Chair with ATC-PMC in relation to the meetings of the Inter-Agency Working Group regarding the Human Security Act (HSA). Also, DFA, as a Subject Matter Expert, proposed a number of amendments to the HSA. The final draft of the proposed law was subsequently approved by the Office of the Executive Secretary, and was used by Congressman Romeo M. Acop as the basis for House Bill Number 7141, otherwise known as the “The Prevention of Terrorism Act.”

Insofar as the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 is concerned, **the National Security Council – Strategic Trade Management Committee (NSC-STMCom), of which the Department is a member, established a technical working group which crafted the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on the Republic Act 10697 or the “Strategic Trade Management Act of 2015.”**

The Department participated in the Workshop on “Countering Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia” held in Makati City on 13-16 March 2018 hosted by the ATC-PMC, the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and the Daniel K. Inouye-Asia-Pacific Center on Security Studies (DKI-APCSS).

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

The Department participated in the **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Asia Pacific Regional Earthquake Response Exercise 2018** in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga on 26-29 June 2018, hosted by the Philippines, and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) INSARAG 36-Hour Earthquake Response Simulation Exercises on 5-8 December in Western Bicutan, Taguig City. The INSARAG’s primary purpose is to facilitate coordination between the various international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams who are deployed to countries experiencing devastating events of structural collapse due primarily to earthquakes.

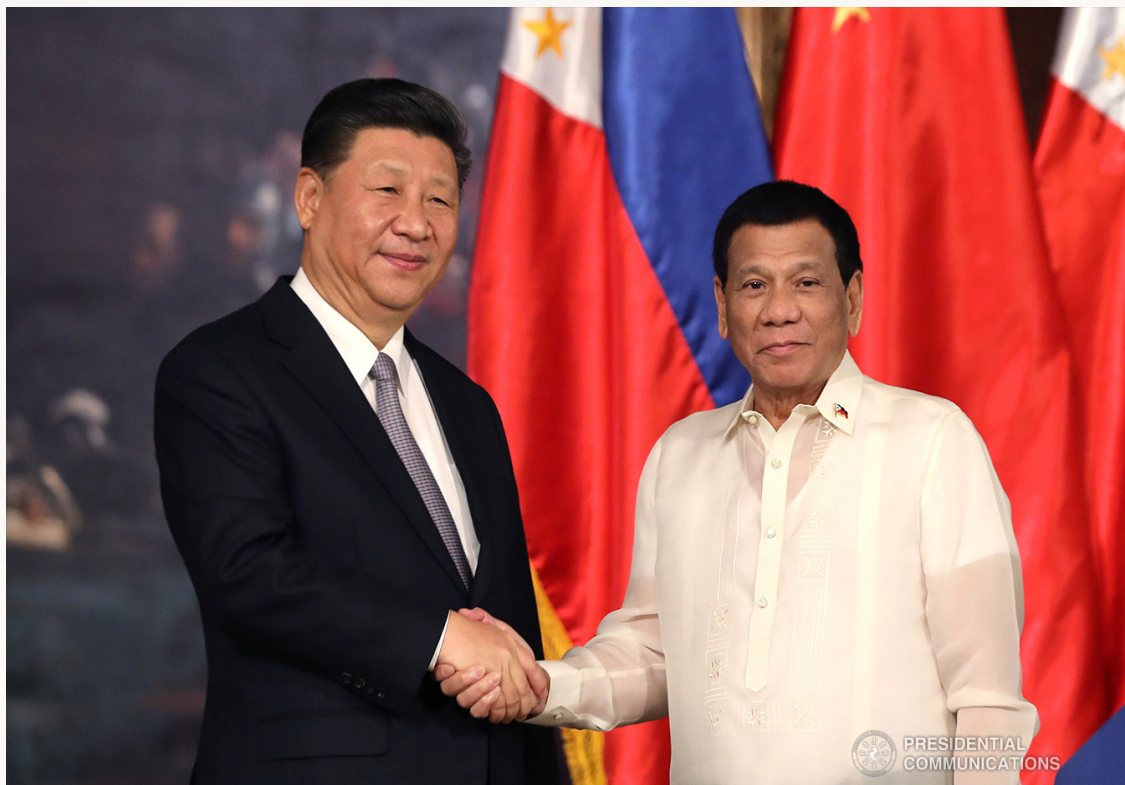
The Department also participated in Department of Health’s (DOH) **Tabletop Exercises of the Third Regional Collaboration Drill (RCD) under the ASEAN Regional Capacity on Health Disaster Management (ARCH) Project** on 3-5 December 2018 in Makati City. The objective of the drill was to develop collaboration on disaster health management among ASEAN countries and Japan.

AMITY AND COOPERATION

Bilateral Engagements

The Duterte Administration expanded ties with ASEAN Member States and traditional allies while enhancing engagement with non-traditional partners through a series of high-level bilateral visits (state and official) and bilateral consultations.

Numerous agreements on economic and infrastructure projects were signed during the engagements. These agreements feed into the “Build, Build, Build” program of the Duterte Administration, which will provide the infrastructure and logistical support for the country’s economic development.



*President Rodrigo Roa Duterte with Chinese Prime Minister Xi Jinping at the joint press conference following their bilateral meeting, 20 November 2018, Manila.
(Photo Credit: Presidential Communications Operations Office)*

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia

Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Australia Summit in Sydney, Australia, on 17 March 2018.

On 27 September 2018, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

China

On 9–10 April 2018, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte participated in the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2018 in Boao, Hainan Province, China. He attended the opening ceremony and welcome banquet, and held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, during which several agreements were signed.

Chinese State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi visited Davao City on 28–29 October 2018 to prepare for President Xi's visit to the Philippines.

On 20–21 November 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping undertook a State Visit to the Philippines. The visit witnessed the exchange of 29 documents and agreements in economic cooperation and infrastructure (12 documents), including one loan agreement for the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project between MWSS and Export-Import Bank of China; trade and investment (2); banking and finance (4); law enforcement (2); education, culture and people-to-people (4); technical cooperation in agriculture, IT and disaster relief; and energy (1).



Secretary Cayetano (rightmost) with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, 17 March 2018, Sydney. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)



Secretary Locsin and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi following their bilateral discussions, 29 October 2018, Davao. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

India

A bilateral meeting between President Duterte and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was held on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and Republic Day, New Delhi, India, on 24 January 2018.

On 3 August 2018, a meeting between Secretary Cayetano and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Vijay Kumar Singh took place on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.



President Duterte and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi give a joint statement following their bilateral meeting at the Hyderabad House, 24 January 2018, New Delhi. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Indonesia

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi visited Davao City on 3 January 2018.

Japan

The Fourth Philippines–Japan Vice–Ministerial Strategic Dialogue was held on 14 June 2018 in Tokyo.

On 15 November 2018, a bilateral meeting between President Duterte and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was held on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore.



President Duterte meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, 15 November 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Malaysia

On 19 February 2018, Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman visited Manila on a working visit.

President Duterte also undertook a working visit to Malaysia on 13–16 July 2018. He and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad discussed issues of mutual concern and reaffirmed Philippines–Malaysia ties in their bilateral meeting. Secretary Cayetano and Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah also met on the sidelines of the said visit.



President Duterte and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad during the President's working visit, 16 July 2018, Putrajaya. (Photo Credit: PCOO)



Undersecretary Manalo and Mongolian Deputy Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh sign the Memorandum of Policy Consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, 11 October 2018, Makati City. (Photo Credit: DFA–OSCR)

Mongolia

The Third Philippines–Mongolia Policy Consultations were held on 11 October 2018 in Makati City.

New Zealand

On 3 August 2018, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Singapore, Secretary Cayetano met with New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters.

The Fifth New Zealand Foreign Ministry Consultations were held on 3 December 2018 in Wellington, New Zealand.



Meeting proper of the Philippines–Pakistan Policy Consultation Talks, 13 February 2018, Islamabad. (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Islamabad)

Pakistan

The Fifth Philippines–Pakistan Policy Consultation Talks were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on 18 January 2018.



Palau President Thomas “Tommy” Remengesau, Jr. pays a courtesy call on President Duterte, 15 February 2018, Davao City. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Palau

President Duterte received Palau President Thomas “Tommy” Remengesau, Jr. in Davao City on 15 February 2018.



President Duterte and Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill following their bilateral meeting, 16 May 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Papua New Guinea

On 15-17 May 2018, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill undertook an Official Visit to the Philippines. He and President Duterte signed a joint statement, while Secretary of Agriculture Emmanuel Piñol and Papua New Guinea Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Benny Allan signed a Joint Declaration on Agriculture Cooperation, which is expected to increase trade and investment volumes, provide Philippine companies with more business opportunities in Papua New Guinea, and create employment opportunities for Filipinos. The strengthened relations will also benefit the Philippines in the long term in terms of food security, particularly in the area of rice farming and production.

Secretary Cayetano met with Papua New Guinea Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Rimbink Pato on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Singapore on 3 August 2018.



President Duterte meets with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Summit, 28 April 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Singapore

President Duterte and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met on the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Summit on 28 April 2018.

On 12 November 2018, Secretary Locsin and Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan had a pull-aside meeting on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Singapore.



Undersecretary Manalo (eighth from left) and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sumith Nakandala (ninth from left) led the Philippine and Sri Lankan delegations respectively at the Second Philippines-Sri Lanka Political Consultations, 15 February 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

Sri Lanka

The Second Philippines-Sri Lanka Political Consultations were held in Manila on 15 February 2018.

South Korea

President Duterte undertook an Official Visit to South Korea on 3-5 June 2018. The visit saw the signing of four MOUs and a loan agreement after the meeting between President Duterte and President Moon Jae-in.

The Seventh Philippines - Republic of Korea Political Consultations were held on 6 November 2018 in Manila.



President Duterte meets with President Moon Jae-in during his official visit to South Korea, 4 June 2018, Seoul. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Thailand

A bilateral meeting between Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai was held on 12 October 2018 at the sidelines of 33rd ASEAN Summit.



Secretary Locsin and Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai at a bilateral meeting at the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit, 12 October 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Singapore)

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste Foreign Minister Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares paid a courtesy call on Secretary Cayetano on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings on 3 August 2018 in Singapore.

Vietnam

A meeting between President Duterte and Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc was held on the sidelines of the Working Dinner during the 32nd ASEAN Summit on 27 April 2018.



President Duterte meets with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc on the sidelines of the 32nd ASEAN Summit, 27 April 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Iran

On 2 August 2018, Secretary Cayetano met Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.

Israel

On 2-5 September 2018, President Duterte undertook an Official Visit to Israel. The visit saw the signing of four agreements: (1) Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Filipino Home-based Caregivers between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel and the Implementation Protocol to the Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Filipino Home-based Caregivers between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel, (2) MOU on Scientific

Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel, (3) MOI between the Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and Invest in Israel of the Foreign Investments and Industrial Cooperation Authority of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Government of Israel on the Collaboration on Promotion of Bilateral Investment, and (4) Agreement on Temporary Employment of Filipino Hotel Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel and the Implementation Protocol to the Temporary Employment of Filipino Hotel Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel.



President Duterte and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu deliver their joint statements after the signing of agreements, 3 September 2018, Jerusalem. (Photo Credit: PCOO)



*President Duterte is welcomed by King Abdullah of Jordan upon arrival in Amman, 6 September 2019.
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Jordan

President Duterte undertook an Official Visit to Jordan on 6-7 September 2018. The following agreements were signed: (1) MOU on Political Consultations between the DFA and the Jordan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates (MFAE), (2) MOU on Defense Cooperation between the DND and the Jordan Armed Forces, (3) MOU on Investments between BOI and Jordan Investment Commission, (4) MOU on Labor Cooperation between DOLE and Ministry of Labor of Jordan (MOL), (5) Cooperation Framework on Deployment of HSWs to Jordan between DOLE and MOL, and (6) MOA on Mutual Recognition of Maritime Certificates under the terms of the 1978 STCW convention between MARINA and Jordan Maritime Commission.

Kuwait

Secretary Cayetano visited Kuwait and signed the Philippines–Kuwait Agreement on the Employment of Domestic Workers on 11 May 2018.

Nigeria

The Third Philippines–Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting was held in Manila on 15 August 2018.

Qatar

Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani paid the Philippines a visit on 14–15 August 2018 in preparation for the visit of Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

Saudi Arabia

President Duterte met HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef Al-Saud, Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Manila on 18 March 2018.

Secretary Cayetano visited Saudi Arabia on 9–10 May 2018. In a bilateral meeting, he and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir affirmed the importance of bilateral relations between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

On 7–8 October 2018, the Philippines – Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in Makati.

Sudan

Sudanese Transport Minister Makkawi Mohamed Awad visited Manila on 8–14 April 2018.

United Arab Emirates

The Second Philippines – United Arab Emirates Political Consultations were held on 9 May 2018.

UAE Chief of Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship Ali Mohammad Al-Shamsi visited the Philippines on 16–17 October 2018.



Secretary Cayetano and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir in a bilateral meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 10 May 2018, Riyadh.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Riyadh)



President Duterte meets with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif.
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

EUROPE



Secretary Cayetano in a lunch meeting with ambassadors from the European Union and its Member States, 8 October 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)



Secretary Locsin and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the ASEM Summit, 19 October 2018, Brussels. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

European Union

On 8 October 2018, Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano hosted a lunch meeting with Ambassadors of the European Union and EU Member States.

Finland

The Sixth Philippines–Finland Bilateral Consultations were held in Manila on 5 October 2018.

Hungary

On 15–17 November 2018, State Secretary Dr. Csaba Balogh of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary visited Manila for meetings with Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Administration Officer-in-Charge Ma. Theresa Dizon-de Vega, and Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Nora K. Terrado. She was also the main speaker during the Mangrove Forum on Philippines–Visegrad Relations.

The Netherlands

A meeting between Secretary Cayetano and Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok took place on 27 September 2018 on the sidelines of the 73rd UN General Assembly.

On 19 October 2018, Secretary Locsin met Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Brussels.

Norway

President Duterte received the Norwegian Special Envoy to the Peace Process Idun Tvedt on 15 February 2018.

On 2 August 2018, Secretary Cayetano met Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Sørdeide on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Singapore.

Russia

Secretary Cayetano and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met on the sidelines of the 51st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on 2 August 2018.

Switzerland

An MOU between the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) and the University of Fribourg's Institute of Federalism in Switzerland was signed on 12 February 2018.

On 7 September 2018, an International Cooperation Agreement (ICA) on Nuclear Research was signed between the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN).

Turkey

The MOU on Defense Industry Cooperation between the Department of National Defense (DND) and Turkey's Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB) was signed in Manila on 18 December 2018.

United Kingdom

The inaugural Philippines–United Kingdom Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting was held in Manila on 5 October 2018.

An MOU between the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) of the United Kingdom regarding Cooperation and Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating Serious and/or Organized Crime was signed on 19 November 2018.



Norwegian Special Envoy to the Peace Process between the Government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front Idun Tvedt (third from left) pays a courtesy call on President Duterte, 15 February 2018, Davao City. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

AMERICAS

Brazil

The Fourth Philippines–Brazil Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) Meeting was held on 3 September 2018 in Makati City.

Canada

On 23 May 2018, Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano met with members of Canada’s House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to discuss Canada’s engagement in Asia.

Colombia

The Philippines and Colombia convened their fourth Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) Meeting on 23 November 2018 in Manila.



Undersecretary Manalo and Brazil Undersecretary for Asia and the Pacific Henrique da Silveria Sardinha Pinto at the Fourth Philippines–Brazil Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Meeting, 3 September 2018, Makati City. (Photo Credit: DFA–OSCR)



The Philippine and Colombian delegations, led by Undersecretary Manalo (10th from left) and Colombia Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Luz Stella Jara (11th from left) respectively, at the Fourth Philippines–Colombia Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Meeting, 23 November 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA–OSCR)

United States

On 12–21 May 2018, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter S. Cayetano, then Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana, Secretary of Interior and Local Government Eduardo Año and Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez visited the US Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii and met with then US Pacific Command (PACOM) chief Admiral Harry Harris Jr. to discuss mutual defense and regional security issues, the fight against terrorism, and countering violent extremism.

Secretary Cayetano met with the Commander of the US Pacific Fleet Admiral John C. Aquilino during his visit to the Philippines on 8 August 2018 to underscore the US commitment to the Philippines and the Indo-Pacific region and to discuss the joint exercises between the US and the Philippine navies.

President Duterte met with Ambassador Sung Kim on 12 September 2018 to discuss the Philippines–US alliance and defense and security cooperation, particularly the AFP modernization and counter-terrorism.



Philippine government officials provide updates on the Duterte administration's priorities and programs during the Townhall Meeting organized by the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu, Hawaii, 19 May 2018.

L-R: Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana; Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Interior and Local Government Officer-In-Charge Eduardo Año, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (Photo Credit: Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu)



Philippine and American officials during the return of the Balangiga Bells, 11 December 2018, Pasay City. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

On 11 December 2018, the US Government returned the historic Balangiga Bells to the Philippines 117 years after they were taken from the country during the Filipino-American War.

On the same day, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte received the Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Admiral Philip S. Davidson and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. Joseph H. Felter to discuss the Philippines-US alliance and defense and security cooperation.

Enhancing Regional and Multilateral Engagements

The Duterte Administration actively participated in regional and global platforms to pursue Philippine advocacies and interests in the international arena.



Secretary Cayetano (fourth from left) with other foreign ministers at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat prior to the 32nd ASEAN Summit, 27 April 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: DFA–OSCR)

ASEAN AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Secretary Cayetano joined other ASEAN Foreign Ministers in Singapore for the annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat on 6 February 2018, the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers during Singapore's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018. The Foreign Ministers discussed the way forward in efforts to further integrate ASEAN in all its three pillars, namely, political-security community, economic community, and socio-cultural community.

Secretary Cayetano urged his counterparts to capitalize on the momentum gained in realizing ASEAN Vision 2025 by following through on several important initiatives, including: the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (ACTIP), and the commencement of the substantive negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Secretary Cayetano also attended a series of meetings at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 27 April in Singapore, prior to the 32nd ASEAN Summit on 28 April. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers released a statement on the recently-held Inter-Korean Summit, and welcomed the outcome of the Summit which could enhance inter-Korean relations for the betterment of the Korean peoples. They urged all concerned parties to work towards reducing tensions, and the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

At the 17th ASEAN Political-Security Community Council Meeting held on 27 April

2018 in Singapore, Secretary Cayetano reaffirmed the Philippines' support for ASEAN Community Building that would deliver meaningful benefits to its people. He also commended the progress made in the implementation of the APSC Blueprint 2025, and recognized the importance of raising public awareness of ASEAN's people-centered and people-oriented Community.

Also on 27 April 2018, President Duterte attended the 32nd ASEAN Summit Working Dinner (Plenary) and Retreat of the ASEAN Leaders in Singapore, where the ASEAN Leaders adopted three outcome documents:

- ASEAN Leaders' Vision of a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, which articulates ASEAN's strategic position and intent in the context of a shifting geopolitical and economic landscape;
- ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN), which is envisioned as a collaborative platform for the 26 ASCN 'pilot cities' to synergise development efforts, share best practices, and catalyse opportunities for growth, innovation, capacity-building and sustainable development; and
- ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, which aims to closely coordinate on the cybersecurity policy, diplomacy, cooperation, technical and capacity building efforts among various platforms of the three pillars of ASEAN.

During the Working Dinner (Plenary) of the ASEAN Leaders, President Duterte announced that the Philippines has produced a primer on the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and suggested

that other ASEAN Member States may wish to translate this primer in their local languages. The President's message may be summarized in his succinct articulation of the following: prosperity can be shared, power can equalize, and politics can be transformative.

The Leaders also discussed the matters relating to the South China Sea and emphasized the importance of non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea. They welcomed the improving cooperation between ASEAN and China in the South China Sea, which includes the official commencement of the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) on a mutually-agreed timeline.



President Duterte (third from left) joins other ASEAN leaders at the opening ceremony of the 32nd ASEAN Summit, 20 April 2018, Singapore. (Photo Credit: PCOO)



UN General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa (sixth from left) congratulates then Permanent Representative to the UN Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (fifth from left) and the Philippine team after the Philippines was re-elected on 12 October 2018 to the UN Human Rights Council for the term 2019-2021.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Permanent Mission to New York)

UNITED NATIONS

Human Rights

On 12 October 2018, the UN General Assembly re-elected the Philippines for another three-year term (2019-2021) in the Human Rights Council (HRC) by 165 votes out of 193 ballots cast, which underscored the Philippines' sustained commitment to promote and protect human rights.

This is the Philippines' fifth term in the Council. The country was elected as an original member of the Human Rights Council in 2006-2007, then served as HRC member during the periods 2008 to 2010, 2012 to 2014, and 2016 to 2018. As a member of the HRC for 2016-2018, the Philippines also served as its Vice-President representing the Asia-Pacific Group.

The Philippines reaffirmed its commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to advance the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities, protect their dignity and ensure their full enjoyment of human rights and opportunities. Speaking at the 11th Session of the CRPD on 12 June 2018, then Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. noted the many gains that the Philippines and the UN achieved in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.



Ambassador Locsin delivers the Philippine statement during the 11th Session of the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD), 12 June 2018, New York.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Permanent Mission in New York)

Nuclear Energy

At the High-Level Meeting to commemorate the International Day Against Nuclear Tests held on 6 September 2018 in New York, the Philippines called upon the international community to support a concerted effort against nuclear tests.

Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., in a statement delivered at the United Nations General Assembly, said that the Philippines recognizes the destructive effect on the environment of nuclear testing and the horrendous effect of the use of nuclear weapons. The Philippines signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996 and deposited its Instrument of Ratification in 2001.

Secretary Locsin also delivered the ASEAN Statement, which welcomed Thailand's impending ratification of the CTBT. The ASEAN Statement cited that "all of ASEAN Member States' ratification of the CTBT solidifies and bolsters our strong commitment to the international norm against nuclear testing, as well as our steadfast support to the CTBT." It reiterated ASEAN's commitment to preserve the region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty).

Environment

The Philippine Delegation participated in the 24th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 2-14 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland.

The Philippines underscored its commitment to the Convention and that the developing countries' right to the development space must be respected. Stressing the need to support developing country Parties to achieve the collective goal of a stable climate system, Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman said that surviving climate impacts and adopting anticipatory adaptation measures require undivided attention.



L-R: Philippine Ambassador to Poland Patricia Ann Paez, Chairman of the Climate Change Commission Emmanuel de Guzman, and Head of the Philippine Delegation Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu join Polish officials at the 24th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2-14 December 2018, Katowice, Poland. (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Warsaw)

Women's Issues

The Philippines participated in the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women held on 12-23 March 2018 with the theme “Challenges and Opportunities in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls.”

The Philippines actively engaged in the consultations leading to the adoption of the session's agreed conclusions, which recognize that rural women and girls are essential to sustainable development, and that their rights and empowerment need to be prioritized.

During the general discussion, Philippine Commission on Women Chairperson Rhodora Bucoy delivered the Philippine statement which highlighted Philippine efforts to advance women's empowerment and gender equality. She also stressed that the Philippines would continue to implement, and commit to develop, strategies that address the inter-sectionalities faced by rural women and girls and support their empowerment for greater control over land and access to basic services.

The Philippines also sponsored the following side events during the CSW62:

- *Agree to Agri: Unearthing the Power of Rural Women*: a presentation of government and non-government efforts and interventions in promoting rural women empowerment at the grassroots level.
- *Against All Odds: How Rural Women Confront Externalities in the Philippines*: a discussion of efforts and programs of the Philippine government in areas affected by armed conflict, disasters, epidemic diseases and adverse effects of agri-business plantations.

Health

Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III participated in the first UN General Assembly High-Level Meetings on the fight against tuberculosis and on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on 26-27 September 2018, at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Secretary Duque highlighted the government's intensified efforts to address tuberculosis in the country. He stated that the enactment into law of a comprehensive tuberculosis elimination plan in 2016 emphasizes the Philippines' commitment to end tuberculosis and to achieve the country's vision to be among the healthiest nations in Asia. He also noted the adoption of key technologies to advance TB screening, diagnosis and treatment, and that, as a final measure, there is a need to work with key stakeholders and providers and enforce mandatory notification of TB by all care providers.

Food and Agriculture

Secretary Emmanuel Piñol of the Department of Agriculture represented the Philippines in the Ministerial Breakfast on the Implementation of the Decade of Family Farming on 27 September 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. He shared that the Philippine government has been actively implementing policies and initiatives on agriculture and fishing to address rural poverty. As an example, he cited the launching of the Production Loan Easy Access program (PLEA) which is a loan assistance program for small farmers and fisher folks that positively impacted the lives of the beneficiaries and reduced rural poverty in the Philippines.

Transnational Organized Crime

On 25 July 2018, the Philippines co-sponsored the launching of *Inherent Dignity: An Advocacy Guidebook* to preventing trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and realizing the human rights of women and girls throughout their lives. The book is a publication of Mercy International Association, a non-governmental organization granted special consultative status by the UN.

In his opening remarks, then Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN, Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., shared the policies, programs, efforts and achievements of the Philippines with regard to sex trafficking. He mentioned the whole-of-society approach that the Philippines had employed, getting all relevant agencies of the government, NGOs, civil society, Filipino communities abroad, and even informal groups to join the fight to eliminate trafficking. The Philippines has achieved a level of success such that it was given Tier 1 ranking in the US Trafficking in Persons Report for three consecutive years since 2016.



Ambassador Locsin at the launch of *Inherent Dignity*, 25 July 2018, New York.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Permanent Mission to New York)

Older Persons

The Philippines participated at the ninth session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing held at the UN Headquarters in New York on 23-26 July 2018. During the session, Ambassador Locsin reaffirmed support for the work of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on the rights of older persons.

Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit presented the mandates, programs and activities of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) for senior citizens. She shared that CHR is working towards increasing social pensions for senior citizens. Commissioner Gomez-Dumpit also participated in the side event Demonstrating the Work of the NHRIs and the Rights of Older Persons, which was co-sponsored by the Philippines.

Migrant Rights

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted on 18 December 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Philippines was one of the key players during the GCM negotiations. The Philippines advocated for the protection of the rights and the promotion of the welfare of migrants, regardless of their migration status.

The Philippines also served as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the GCM convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly on 10-11 December 2018 in Marrakech, Morocco. Secretary Locsin chaired one of the plenary sessions.

PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

As part of its independent foreign policy thrust and parallel to its efforts to strengthen foreign relations for its national security goals, the Duterte Administration explored economic partnerships with new and non-traditional trade partners while further strengthening existing ties with its traditional partners. Agreements on trade and investments were signed during the President's various state visits.

The DFA continued to lead the government's efforts in the promotion of the Philippines' economic interests, through both multilateral and bilateral engagements. Priority was given to intensifying economic promotion activities for trade, investment, tourism, and services, as well as capacity-building and strengthening collaboration with relevant government agencies for a reinforced One Country Team Approach.



The WTO Trade Policy Review Body Chairman, Ambassador Juan Carlos Gonzales of Colombia, and the Discussant, Ambassador Stephen de Boer of Canada; with Members of the Philippine Delegation comprising representatives from the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Finance, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Food Authority, the Government Procurement Policy Board, the Intellectual Property Office, and the Philippine Permanent Missions to the WTO and United Nations. (Photo Credit: DFA-UIER)

MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS

World Trade Organization

The Philippines successfully completed its 5th Trade Policy Review in the World Trade Organization on 26 and 28 March 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The WTO Report highlighted the Philippines' 6.6% six-year average GDP growth from 2012 to 2017 and expressed optimism with President Duterte's 10-point socio-economic agenda. Other critical reforms that were pursued in the country during the Review period include the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, the Philippine Competition Act and the creation of the Philippine Competition Commission, the liberalization of several key economic sectors, the amendment of the Cabotage Principle of the 1957 Tariff and Customs Code through the Foreign Ships Co-Loading Act, the lowering of tariff duties on IT-related products, the amendments to the Intellectual Property Code, and "Project Repeal."

Senate Concurrence, Entry-into-Force, and Domestic Implementation of the Philippines-European Free Trade Association (PH-EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The PH-EFTA FTA is the country's second bilateral FTA. It was ratified by President Duterte on 8 December 2017, and concurred in by the Senate through Senate Resolution No. 93 on 5 March 2018. The DFA deposited the Philippines' Instrument of Ratification of the FTA on 22 March 2018 through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. The PH-EFTA FTA entered into force on 1 June 2018.



*During the Senate Concurrence of the PH-EFTA Free Trade Agreement, 5 March 2018, Manila.
L-R: DTI Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez, Senator Loren Legarda, DFA Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel A.J. Teehankee and DFA Assistant Secretary of the Office of International Economic Relations Leo M. Herrera-Lim.
(Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)*

ASIA - PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

The Philippines successfully participated in the following Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meetings in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), which included meetings on Structural Reform, Agriculture, Connectivity, and MSMEs:

- Informal Senior Officials Meeting (ISOM), 05-06 December 2017
- First Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) and Related Meetings, 24 February – 9 March 2018
- Second Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2) and Related Meetings, 11-24 May 2018
- Third Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM3) and Related Meetings, 4-20 August 2018
- Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM) and Related Meetings, 12-13 November 2018

The APEC National Secretariat (ANS) hosted four Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM) Meetings in preparation for the four Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1-3 and CSOM), APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM), and APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

The President participated in the following meetings: APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue with Leaders, and the APEC Leaders' Informal Dialogue with Pacific Islands Countries on 17 November 2018. He also participated in the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Retreat 1 and Working Lunch at the APEC Haus on 18 November 2018. The President also attended a Filipino Community get-together on 16 November 2018.



*President Duterte joins other leaders at the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue, Port Moresby, 17 November 2018.
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*



Leaders at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Port Moresby, 18 November 2018. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

President Duterte joined the Economic Leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum and highlighted the achievements of the administration.

In his interventions, the President mentioned the Philippines' improved government services for the general public which resulted from the benefits of streamlining and secure, stable and reliable cyber services; the Philippine government's commitment to bring the benefits of an internet and digital economy to every Filipino throughout the archipelago; the Philippines' commitment to provide a new vision that is strategic and people-centered; the Philippines' envisioning a stable, dynamic and prosperous Asia Pacific with a digital future and economy as drivers in improving

connectivity; the Philippine government's "Build, Build, Build Program" as reflective of the ongoing reforms towards promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through the delivery of basic services on health, food and financing to our people; and that APEC will mark an important milestone in the year 2020 when the success of the forum in attaining free trade and investment principles under the Bogor Goals are determined.

The President also underscored the government's advocacy for inclusive globalization and support for rules-based multilateral trading system and Philippine micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and win-win outcomes.

BILATERAL INITIATIVES ON THE SIDELINES OF APEC

Memorandum of Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation (Rice Production)

Another highlight of the President's visit in Papua New Guinea on 16 November 2018 was the signing of a five-year Memorandum of Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation (Rice Production). Areas of cooperation under the agreement included a tie-up on rice and grain production including the development of hybrid species; production of coconut, cocoa, coffee, rubber, and palm oil; horticulture production; aquaculture and inland fish farming; post-harvest development; livestock breeding; and improvement in breeding cattle and goat.

Both parties can organize workshops, symposia, training courses, and exhibition on related subjects.

Joint Economic Trade Cooperation

Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon M. Lopez and Papua New Guinea Minister for Foreign Affairs Rimbink Pato signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETC) on behalf of the Philippines and Papua New Guinea governments, respectively.

Inauguration of the PH-PNG Business Council

The Filipino and Papua New Guinean business community established the Philippines-Papua New Guinea Business Council (PH-PNGBC) to help promote and strengthen business, economic, social and cultural ties between the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. The launching ceremony was held on November 16, 2018 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, the same day that the Memorandum of Agreement on Joint Rice Development Project was signed by both countries.

DFA PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

The DFA participated in one UNCITRAL Commission meeting and two Working Group meetings on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS).

After the session held in Vienna, Austria on 29 October – 2 November 2018, the Working Group III finally moved forward with a draft final list of possible areas for reform on the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. These are the concerns pertaining to the lack of consistency,

coherence, predictability and correctness of arbitral decisions by ISDS tribunals and concerns pertaining to arbitrators and decision makers. The discussions will proceed in the next session in New York in March 2019. The Philippines was elected member of the UNCITRAL for the 2016–2022 term. The Philippines' position supporting greater transparency and independence and impartiality of arbitrators in ISDS proceedings is included in the agenda for future discussions.

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

The 24th round of negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an economic partnership agreement between the ten ASEAN member-states and its six partners (China, India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea) was held on 18–27 October 2018 in Auckland, New Zealand, with progress in talks on trade in goods, services, and investments. The comprehensive economic partnership covers trade in goods and services and investments.

When concluded, RCEP is expected to deliver tangible benefits through potential improvements in market access, more coherent trade facilitation and regulatory rules and cooperation. In turn, this will provide more choices and opportunities for ASEAN people to participate gainfully in global value chains.


RCEP Trade Ministers agreed on a Work Plan for the conclusion of RCEP. Seven of the 20 chapters have so far been concluded, with four chapters nearing conclusion.

The Philippine Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) has been steadfast in the negotiations, engaging the RCEP Partner Countries (RPCs) multilaterally and bilaterally, at formal and informal venues, at all levels of representation, to resolve pending issues concerning the Philippines. It is also active in engaging local stakeholders and consulting government agencies concerned, with a view to harmonizing the interests of RPCs and the interests of our local stakeholders and domestic policies, for a mutually beneficial and balanced representation of interests in the agreement.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The Department fulfilled its mandate to promote the Philippines' cultural and creative industries and secure a foothold in foreign economies through soft power by leveraging historical milestones, gastronomy, performing and visual arts, literature, film and television, and other Philippine arts.



**A performance of the Orchestra
of the Filipino Youth at the
Qatar National Library and
Katara Royal Opera House from
22 to 28 October 2018**

Ang Misyon Inc.'s Orchestra of the Filipino Youth (OFY), a 70-member orchestra under the baton of Maestro Joshua Dos Santos, performed to a full house at the Qatar National Library and Katara Royal Opera House on 25 and 26 October 2018, respectively. The orchestra, composed of children from underprivileged communities, indulged the audience with three encore performances after extended applause.

Flavors of Philippine Cuisine: a culinary tour in the Scandinavian cities of Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Malmo with Margarita Forés, awarded by international culinary peers as *Asia's Best Female Chef for 2016*

A culinary tour was held in the cities of Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Malmö from 27 August to 8 September 2018. Led by internationally-renowned Chef Margarita Forés, the culinary team included Chefs Angelo Comsti, George Mendez, Juvy Lorca and Maicy Sacramento. Chef Forés demonstrated the preparation of Filipino favorites such as chicken adobo, pinakbet, kinilaw, and maja blanca, before introducing them to the Scandinavian palate with drinks from Destileria Limtuaco and a selection of the Philippines' award winning chocolates from Malagos and Theo & Philo. To enhance the promotion of Filipino cuisine, guests were each given "Adobo Starter Kits" that contained a recipe card for adobo from the book *Kulinarya*, small bottles of the Philippines' coconut vinegar, Filipino soy sauce, black peppercorns, and other condiments used in the preparation of adobo. Adlai grains, which have a lower glycemic index than rice, were served to accompany the main dish. Copies of *Kulinarya* were made available for guests to purchase.



Chef Margarita Forés at the CPH Cooking Class during her culinary tour showcasing the best of Filipino cooking. (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Oslo)

Signing of the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Governance and Operations of Sentro Rizal among the DFA, the National Commission for Culture the Arts (NCCA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

The Tripartite MOU on the Governance and Operations of Sentro Rizal among the DFA, the NCCA and CFO was signed on 22 March 2018 to further enhance collaboration and to implement an intensified culture and arts education program for the overseas Filipinos through Sentro Rizal.

The MOU signifies better coordination among these three major agencies in advancing, through the Foreign Service Posts, the goal of inclusive growth through the promotion of the Philippines' cultural and creative industries, as well as reaching out to the Filipino diaspora to enhance their bonds to our nation's heritage.



(L-R) National Museum of the Philippines Assistant Director Ana Labrador, National Commission for Culture and the Arts Chairman Virgilio S. Almario, Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez, and National Museum of Philippines Director Jeremy Barns at the newly inaugurated Sentro Rizal in Washington, D.C., 10 June 2018.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C.)



Lasap Pilipino, A Culinary Tour in the Southern European cities of Madrid, Paris and Lisbon with Chef Myrna Segismundo

Following her successful culinary tours in Europe and North America in 2017, Chef Myrna D. Segismundo and her team composed of Chefs Jill Sandique, Raul Ramos, Marie Angeli San Diego, Stephanie Benedito and writer Alicia Yael Honasan travelled to Madrid, Paris, and Lisbon to promote Philippine cuisine and ingredients. The culinary team successfully delivered a talk and cooking demonstration on Philippine cuisine and provided a full-course dinner to invited guests in each city. These efforts are aimed at introducing Filipino food traditions to the international market and to mainstream Philippine flavors in global cities with diverse gastronomic landscapes.



*Top: Ballet Philippines performs its repertoire, Masterpieces, in the Tianquiao Theater in Beijing.
Bottom: Chef Myrna D. Segismundo delivers a talk and cooking demonstration in Lisbon, Paris, and Madrid.
(Photo Credits: Philippine Embassies in Beijing, Lisbon, Paris, and Madrid)*



Masterpieces, a Ballet Philippines performance in Shanghai, China

Ballet Philippines performed its repertoire, *Masterpieces*, on 19 August 2018 at the Shanghai International Dance Center. A reciprocal performance organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China was held at the Tianquiao Theater in Beijing, China on 25–26 August 2018.

Film Appreciation Series 2018

A series of award-winning Filipino movies, namely: “Die Beautiful,” “Life is What You Make It,” “Signal Rock,” “Heneral Luna,” “Goyo,” and “Larawan” were screened at the Home Office.

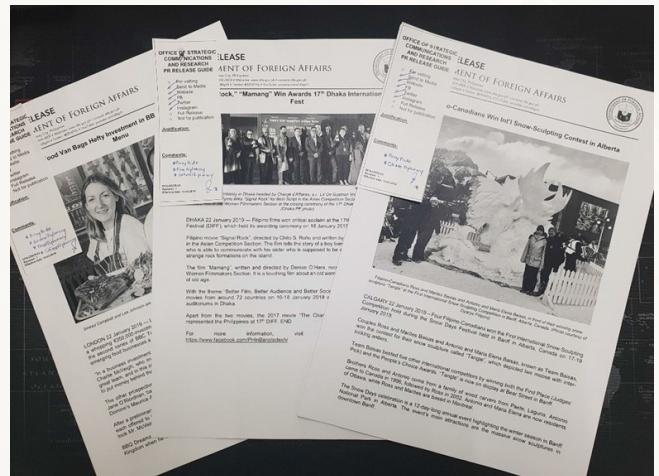


PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

STRENGTHENING THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Department provides its domestic and foreign publics relevant and timely information on the implementation of its foreign policy pillars, through press releases, photo releases, statements and advisories. The Department also continued to strengthen its online and social media presence in 2018.

3,864
press and photo releases, statements and advisories from the Home Office, COs and FSPs published and promoted in 2018





Website

The DFA continued to populate its website with relevant information on its policies, projects, activities and programs. Banners featuring the most recent photos of DFA's important events are constantly updated to capture the attention of DFA's publics.

The website underwent continual enhancements to ensure its accessibility and user-friendliness. The "Secretary's Corner" was enhanced to provide the public with easy links to his engagements in video, photo and text formats. Icons of DFA's other social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, and YouTube have been added to facilitate DFA's other social media engagements.

Social Media

DFA continues to be the fastest growing Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) on Facebook (URL: <https://www.facebook.com/dfaphl>) in terms of the increase in the number of page likes and follows compared to other ASEAN MFAs. As part of its branding project undertaken in the realm of social media, DFA provided all FSPs with recommended social media profile photos, as well as guidelines on the appropriate cover photos which best represent their presence in their respective areas of assignment, the use of uniform social media handles for greater security and ease of search by the public, and the setting up of Facebook pages instead of accounts.

The DFA's Twitter presence (URL: <https://twitter.com/DFAPHL>) continued to grow with unique new followers added each month.

In line with continuing efforts to reach out to a wider segment of both the Department's domestic and foreign publics, the DFA opened its official Instagram account (URL: <https://www.instagram.com/dfaphl>) in September 2018.

Implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Program

The DFA received 51 FOI requests from January to December 2018. Out of this figure, five FOI requests were successful and 44 were denied by the Department's different FOI Decision Makers and Approving Authorities, while two requests are awaiting clarification from requesting parties.

The DFA participated in the 2018 First Quarter FOI Receiving Officers' Hangout on 18 April 2018. During this event, PCOO Assistant Secretary Kristian R. Ablan commended the DFA for being one of the top National Government Agencies fully compliant in the submission of the Department's FOI Manual, Agency Inventory, and FOI Registry.

OUTCOME 2:

OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS (ATN)

The Duterte Administration is committed to the protection of Overseas Filipinos by providing various forms of assistance to distressed overseas Filipinos, including the provision of legal assistance when necessary, as well as pursuing advocacies that seek to ensure the protection of migrants, including the fight against trafficking in persons.



Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola with OFW beneficiaries of the Flexible Visa Program of the Kingdom of Bahrain (Photo Credit: DFA-UMWA)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) IMMIGRATION AMNESTY PROGRAM

A total of 5,174 Filipinos were repatriated (2,746 by the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi and 2,428 by the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai) during the UAE Immigration Amnesty Program from August to 31 December 2018. Among the key measures announced by the UAE government were: (1) the introduction of six-month visas for job-seekers, (2) allowing the visitors in the UAE to adjust or renew their visa without having to leave or re-enter UAE, and (3) amnesty to those who overstayed in the country or entered the country illegally.

The DFA provided assistance to OFs who wished to avail themselves of the UAE immigration amnesty, including passport retrieval, passport applications, and notary services for those who wanted to avail themselves of the six-month job seeker visa as well as issuance of Travel Document, reimbursement of out pass and booking of airline tickets for those who wanted to exit and return to the Philippines. The DFA also provided financial assistance to the repatriates in the amount of US\$ 100.00.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN MANAMA'S FLEXI-VISA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP)

In November 2018, the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) of Bahrain launched the Flexi-Visa Program as a pathway to the regularization of more than 2,000 undocumented Filipino migrants in the gulf country. Under this program, out-of-status workers are issued a renewable work permit with two-year validity. It also allows them to legally work in Bahrain without an employer sponsor. The FAP of the Philippine Embassy in Manama, Bahrain supports qualified applicants by taking care of the first two monthly payments. As of December 2018, 549 skilled workers and 45 domestic workers benefited from the program.

RESCUED AND REPATRIATED OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

Rescue and repatriation of abused OF Pahima Alagasi. A household service worker in Riyadh who suffered maltreatment and labor abuse from her employer, Ms. Alagasi was repatriated after a long legal battle. The DFA provided her PhP 50,000.00 as financial assistance. She met with President Duterte in Davao before finally joining her family in Cotabato.

Repatriation of undocumented Filipinos and children from Jordan. The President instructed the Philippine Embassy in Amman, Jordan, to fast-track the repatriation of undocumented Filipinos and their children. On 8 November 2018, a total of 31 OFs and their children were repatriated from Jordan.

Repatriation of 19 Filipinos from Iraq. Nineteen overseas Filipinos, who were alleged victims of human trafficking, were repatriated to Manila on 17 December 2018, through the combined efforts of the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad, the Iraqi government, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Representatives of member agencies of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) were at the airport to debrief the repatriated OFWs. The DFA also forwarded to the IACAT Secretariat, based at the Department of Justice (DOJ), the sworn statements of the repatriates, to facilitate investigation and prosecution of the alleged traffickers of the OFs.



OFW Pahima Alagasi (third from left) is interviewed during a press conference at the DFA. Joining her are Acting Assistant Secretary Elmer Cato, ACTS OFW Party List Representative Aniceto Bertiz and Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Adnan Alonto, 13 October 2018, Pasay City. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

Case of Ms. Jennifer Dalquez, Death Row case in Abu Dhabi. On 7 December 2014, OF Dalquez allegedly killed her employer in self-defense after he attempted to rape her. She was apprehended by the police authorities on 11 December 2014. Ms. Dalquez was sentenced to death by the Court of First Instance of the Al Ain Judicial Court on 20 May 2015, which was reversed by Al Ain Court of Appeals on 20 June 2017.

The DFA exhausted all legal to remedies to spare Ms. Dalquez from capital punishment, including the provision of legal services since her case was heard in March 2015. After serving her sentence, Ms. Dalquez was repatriated on 2 November 2018 and, through the ATN Fund, was provided PhP 100,000.00 to help her start a new life with her family.

Repatriation of 31 fishermen in Manado, Indonesia. On 13 April 2018, the Philippine Consulate General in Manado, Indonesia, in collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines/Naval Fleet Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM), repatriated 31 fishermen aboard a Philippine Navy Ship BRP Davao del Sur as part of the conduct of its PH-RI Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) Exercises. The Filipino fishermen were arrested by Indonesian authorities for violation of Indonesian Immigration Law. After months of detention, they were released and repatriated to the Philippines.



*Repatriated Filipino fishermen from Manado, Indonesia.
(Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)*

UTILIZATION OF ATN FUND AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND (LAF)

To show the commitment of this administration to the cause of overseas Filipinos, the following initiatives were implemented:

- The Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund was increased to PhP 1 billion under the 2018 budget
- The Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) was increased to PhP 200 million under the 2018 budget.
- The Guidelines on the Use of the ATN Fund were also revised to help provide more effective and efficient assistance to distressed OFs.

For the period January to December 2018, the DFA assisted a total of 101,918 OFs through the disbursement of PhP 999,495,697.40 ATN Fund, as well as 3,735 OFs through the disbursement of PhP 190,079,747.48 LAF.



Secretary Cayetano signs the Philippines - Kuwait Agreement on the Employment of Household Service Workers, 11 May 2018, Kuwait (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

LABOR-RELATED AGREEMENTS

The **Philippines–Kuwait Agreement on the Employment of Household Service Workers (HSW)**, which was signed on 11 May 2018, will benefit household service workers in Kuwait. The agreement has specific provisions to ensure the protection of the rights, welfare, and well-being of Filipino HSWs in Kuwait. The recruitment and employment of an OFW will be governed by a standard contract, which states that: the Philippine passport should be in the possession of the employee; the opening of a bank account for the OFW will be facilitated so that he or she can remit funds to her family; food, housing, clothing and health insurance will be provided; the OFW will be allowed to have and use cellular phones and other means of communication; and the agreed wage in the contract will be enforced. The agreement also provides for the establishment of a mechanism to provide a 24-hour assistance and creation of police hotline/emergency number 112 which the worker can immediately contact, and the formation of a Joint Committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement.

The **Philippines–Sweden Social Security Agreement** was signed in October 2015, ratified on 21 February 2017, and concurred by the Senate on 22 January 2018. The **Philippines–Germany Social Security Agreement** was signed on 19 September 2014, ratified on 21 February 2017, and entered into force on 1 June 2018. These agreements entitle covered Filipino workers, including their family members and survivors, to social security benefits



Undersecretary Enrique A. Manalo and German Ambassador Gordon Kricke sign a protocol documenting the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Philippines–Germany Social Security Agreement (SSA), 23 March 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

under the same conditions as nationals of Sweden and Germany, and vice versa; allow covered Filipino workers to continue receiving their social security benefits wherever they decide to reside, whether in the Philippines or in Sweden or Germany; provide for the adding together of contribution and creditable periods under the social security law of the Philippines and Sweden and Germany, excluding overlapping periods, to determine benefit eligibility; and facilitate coordination between competent institutions/ authorities and liaison agencies of the Philippines and Sweden and Germany in extending assistance to covered workers in the implementation of the Agreement.

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The DFA actively participated in Migration and Development initiatives, affirming the Philippines' commitment in maintaining its lead role in migration governance. It articulated and reinforced the Philippine position in migration issues in bilateral, regional, and international fora, with specific focus on the principle of shared responsibility and on the recognition and enforcement of rights of undocumented and inherently vulnerable migrant workers.



The Philippine delegation, headed by Secretary Locsin (sixth from left), showing its full support for the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration during the Intergovernmental Conference, 10-11 December 2018, Marrakech, Morocco. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

Since April 2017, the DFA had been actively participating in various meetings and conferences to come up with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM), an intergovernmental agreement that is envisioned as the first comprehensive instrument that will define and shape a multi-year global migration governance framework through voluntary and actionable commitments of various states. This would help protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants. After the draft of the GCM was finalized in July 2018, the DFA convened the Manila Conference on Global Migration Governance, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development in the context of the Global Compact on Migration in August 2018. The Manila Conference was the first event of its kind in terms of migration governance. It provided a platform for different stakeholders to share their perspectives on the effective implementation of the GCM and its experiences on migration governance, human rights, and sustainable development. It highlighted initiatives from various states and civil society organizations to address migration governance issues through discourse, policy enactment, and implementation of concrete measures. The results of the Manila Conference and the Inter-Agency Experts' Workshop in November 2018 served as inputs of the Philippines' statements during sessions in the inter-governmental conference in Marrakech, Morocco.

The Philippines voted in favor of the GCM on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech. The GCM was also overwhelmingly adopted by 152 States, including States in Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia, and all Arab receiving States in the Middle East. Thereafter, the GCM was formally endorsed by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2018.



Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. delivers before the General Assembly the Philippines' statement of strong support for the resolution endorsing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the UN General Assembly, 19 December 2018, New York. (Photo Credit: Philippine Permanent Mission to New York)

Mapping of Overseas Filipinos

The Department of Foreign Affairs embarks on mapping in order to actively and continually monitor the socio-economic and political conditions that may impact Overseas Filipinos. In July 2018, ATN mapping missions were conducted in Lebanon and Syria.

Trafficking in Persons

For the third consecutive year, the Philippines retained its Tier 1 status in the 2018 US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report released on 28 June 2018.

According to the report, the Philippines fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. The Philippines continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period by:

- Convicting and punishing more traffickers;
- Effectively coordinating identification, referral, and provision of services to more victims;
- Increasing efforts to prevent trafficking of Filipino migrant workers and to assist those who become victims of trafficking overseas; and
- Implementing procedures to reduce the backlog of trafficking cases in the courts.

OUTCOME 3:

CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED

In line with the President's directive for government offices to streamline processes and provide better government service, the DFA implemented the following measures to improve consular services: opened four new consular offices, worked with Congress to extend the validity of the passport from five to ten years, increased passport production capacity, launched the Passport-on-Wheels project, and achieved ISO 9001:2015 certification for its passport and authentication processes.





Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Neil Frank R. Ferrer (center) leads the inauguration of the DFA Consular Office in Antipolo, 12 November 2018. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES / SATELLITE OFFICES

In line with the President's directive for government offices to streamline processes and provide better government service, the DFA implemented the following measures to improve consular services:

Five Consular Offices (COs) opened in 2018:

- CO ILOCOS NORTE in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte on 8 May 2018;
- CO SANTIAGO in Santiago City, Isabela on 16 May 2018;
- CO SAN PABLO in San Pablo City, Laguna on 4 October 2018;
- CO ANTIPOLO in Antipolo City, Rizal on 12 November 2018; and
- CO TAGUM in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on 28 November 2018.

The opening of new mall-based Consular Offices in strategic locations in the country will be beneficial to the Filipino people through the following:

- Avoiding long queues that are inconvenient to the passport applicant;
- Increasing passport services capacity to accommodate a large number of passport clients and, as a result, address the unavailability of passport appointment slots;
- Making passport services available to a wider public;
- Lessening the expenses (transportation, food, etc.) and reducing travel time of passport applicants; and
- Providing better facilities and comfort to the public.

PASSPORT SERVICES

For the period January to December 2018, the DFA issued a total of 4,340,407 passports.

In accordance with Republic Act No. 10928, the Department launched the Philippine electronic passports with ten-year validity on 12 January 2018 at the Office of Consular Affairs (DFA-OCA). The first batch of Philippine passports with the extended validity were released on the same day.

To provide easier passport application for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) considering the circumstances and requirements for their travel abroad, the Department launched a portal dedicated for first-time OFWs in January 2018.

The DFA streamlined documentary requirements for passport applicants. The revised Passport Application Form and streamlined requirements will make it easier for applicants to fill up the application form.

On 14 June 2018, the DFA launched the passport ePayment Portal in DFA-OCA in July 2018 for Consular Offices located in NCR, and nationwide in September 2018. The Passport ePayment Portal was introduced to allow passport applicants to pay the processing fee through banks and other payment platforms. It was set up to streamline the application process, increase show-up rate, and eradicate fixers.

The DFA expanded the Courtesy Lane at all Consular Offices nationwide. The Courtesy Lane allows the following to apply for passports even without an appointment in DFA-OCA or in the consular offices:

- Senior Citizen and one travel companion;
- Person with disability (PWDs) and one travel companion;
- Solo parent and his/her minor children;
- Pregnant women;
- Minors seven years old and below and his/her parents and minor siblings; and
- OFWs (land-based, or seafarers).



*Passport-on-Wheels in Tublay, Benguet (above) and University of the Philippines Los Baños (below).
(Photo edit: DFA-OSCR)*

OTHER SERVICES (VISA, AUTHENTICATION, CONSULAR RECORDS)



*Philippine Ambassador to The Hague Jaime Victor B. Ledda (seated, center) depositing the Philippine Instrument of Accession to the Apostille Convention to Ms. Coos't Hoen (seated, second from left), Head of the Treaties Division of the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which acts as the treaty depositary. Witnessing the ceremony are (standing, from left) DFA Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs J. Eduardo Malaya, Associate Justice Noel G. Tijam, Associate Justice Marvic Mario Victor F. Leonen, Associate Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, DFA Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Neil Frank R. Ferrer and representatives from the Hague Conference on Private International Law headed by its Secretary General Dr. Christophe Bernascon (seated, second from right).
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in The Hague)*

The DFA issued a total of 977,370 visas in 2018, which is 4.47% higher than the total 935,572 visas issued in 2017.

In line with the Department's efforts to achieve ISO certification for visa services and DFA-OCA's standardization of requirements and processes, DFA-OCA collated recent applicable visa policy issuances. The Compendium of Philippine Visa Policies supplements the Codified Visa Rules and Regulations (CVRR) of 2002 in providing guidance to Foreign Service Posts on visa matters. Through the compendium, the DFA commits to "effectively and efficiently deliver foreign policy, diplomatic, and consular services" as mandated by the Department's Quality Policy.

The Philippines acceded to the Apostille Convention on 12 September 2018, which will enter into force on 14 May 2019. The Apostille Convention abolishes the requirement for legalization of foreign public documents among Member States or Contracting Parties.

The DFA also continued to work with APEC, the Bureau of Immigration (BI), and business groups in the Philippines on the implementation on the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) system. The Philippines attended meetings of APEC 2018 SOM 1 Business Mobility Group Meeting on 24-26 February 2018 and APEC 2018 SOM 3 Business Mobility Group Meeting on 06-08 August 2018, both held in Papua New Guinea.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In 2016 the Department earned certification to the ISO 9001:2008 standard for one of OCA's core processes: Authentication service in DFA-OCA. In support of this undertaking, the following Offices also implemented Quality Management System (QMS): the Office of the Secretary (OSEC), the Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (UA), the Office of the Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns (UCSCC), the Office of Asset Management and Support Services (OAMSS), the Office of Financial Management Services (OFMS), the Human Resources Management Office (HRMO), the Internal Audit Service (IAS), the Intelligence and Security Unit (ISU), the Office of Treaties and Legal Affairs

(OTLA), the Office of Strategic Communications and Research (OSCR), and the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (OPPC).

In 2017, the DFA achieved certification to the ISO 9001:2015 standard for the Regular Passport process and Authentication process in DFA-OCA and the DFA-NCR West.

In December 2018, the DFA was re-certified to the ISO 9001:2015 standard. This time, the DFA-QMS expanded to include the Assistance-to-Nationals service for Walk-in Clients at the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs and the Diplomatic and Official Passport and Visa services (DOPS).



DFA receives recognition from the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) for its successful implementation of ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS). Joining Assistant Secretary Ferrer (sixth from left), who received the recognition on behalf of DFA, are Internal Quality Audit Head Giovanni E. Palec, Deputy Quality Management Representative Grace T. Cruz-Fabella, the QMS Secretariat, and OCA and OSCR personnel, 25 October 2018, Manila. (Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)

OVERSEAS VOTING

DFA continued to expand the reach of its omni-media information campaign that was launched in 2016. The Overseas Voting (OV) registration public service announcement had been playing in FSPs, Panahon TV, Pinoy Arabia FM, Beam, DZRH and Radyo Pilipinas. In May 2018, Radyo Inquirer, DZMM, ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) and The Filipino Channel (TFC) joined the campaign and started playing the same in their respective media platforms nationwide and worldwide.

DFA's information materials have also been displayed in various E-billboards courtesy of Outdoor Advertisers Association of the Philippines (OAAP). OV information materials were also disseminated in partnership with the National Movement for Free Election (NAMFREL) and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines – Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (CBCP-ECMI).

In September 2018, DFA partnered with SM Cinemas where the information campaign materials were played in 33 SM Cinemas nationwide for two weeks. Posters were also displayed in each SM Mall where there is a Global Pinoy Center, and information materials were also displayed in E-Billboards of SM Megamall, SM Cebu, SM MOA Arena and the Globe.

DFA also partnered with Cebu Pacific Air and an appeal for overseas Filipinos to register as overseas voters was published in September issue of their in-flight magazine "SMILE".

As a result, there were 1,822,115 active registered overseas voters for the 2019 National and Local Elections, a 32.41% increase compared with the 1,376,067 active registered voters for the 2016 Elections.

Furthermore, COMELEC, in its Minute Resolution No. 18-1124 dated 14 November 2018, approved the adoption of Automated Election System (AES) by 41 FSPs.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

The Department pursued the goal of ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification for its Passport and Authentication Services to ensure the delivery of quality consular services. The DFA was able to successfully transition from ISO 9001:2008 Certification for Authentication Services in early 2017 to the ISO 9001:2015 standard for both Passport and Authentication Services, receiving Third-Party Auditor recommendation for certification by year end.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Acknowledging that its human resources are its most valuable assets, the Department is committed to strengthening its wellness and family support program aimed at promoting the optimal health and well-being of DFA employees, as well as increasing productivity in the workplace.

DFA rolled out the following activities and initiatives in 2018:

- **Wellness Seminars for CO Personnel.** The seminars were aimed at building the resilience of, and providing psychosocial support to, DFA frontline personnel assigned at the provinces.
- **Reintegration Seminars.** DFA continued with its program of holding quarterly debriefing sessions to help advance psychological wellness of foreign service personnel who were recalled to the Home Office. In 2018, a separate session for spouses and children of recalled personnel was conducted.
- **Counselling Services for DFA Personnel.** DFA partnered with Better Steps Psychology to hold individual counselling sessions for foreign service personnel and their dependents, especially those coming from hardship posts. Counselling services were also extended to those personnel who were reassigned in the Home Office.
- **Financial Literacy Program.** Adopting a holistic approach to wellness, the Department also conducted a series of seminars on financial wellness in 2018, on topics which include financial goal-setting, investment and



HRMO held tai chi sessions at the Home Office every Wednesday and Friday. (Photo Credit: DFA-HRMO)

education planning, debt management and retirement planning, stock market investment, and real estate planning. DFA likewise partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the conduct of seminars on basic entrepreneurship and franchising.

- **Relationship Seminars.** In partnership with the Center for Family Ministries (CEFAM), DFA organized a lecture series on relationships which covered topics on connecting with adolescent children, developing the resilience of children, and creating positive and nurturing relationships.
- **Nutrition Counselling.** DFA collaborated with the National Nutrition Council of the Philippines for the holding of special and one-on-one nutrition counselling sessions for DFA employees.
- **Fitness Classes.** HRMO continued holding weekly yoga, tai chi, and sound healing classes in 2018.

PWD-Friendly Institution

The Department strives to create a diverse and inclusive workplace. It currently employs 45 persons with disability (PWD) which constitutes 1.55% of its total workforce, exceeding the required one percent prescribed by RA 10524 or the Magna Carta for PWDs.

Creation of Additional Plantilla Positions

In September 2018, DFA was able to facilitate the creation of additional 37 foreign service staff to augment the staffing of five Foreign Service Posts, namely: Calgary PCG, Jeddah PCG, Abu Dhabi PE, Doha PE, and Geneva PM.

The Department also requested the creation of 14 home-based plantilla positions for its Internal Audit Service, which were approved by the DBM in December 2018. The prospective appointees of said positions shall undertake the Department's operations/performance, compliance, and management audit-related functions.

Total Number of DFA Personnel	4,003
Regular Personnel	2,597
Officers	582
Staff	2,015
Non-Regular Personnel	1,406
Contractual	746
Contract of Service	123
Casual	30
Local Hire at FSPs	507

Job Competency and Profiling Project

In line with the Department's goal to work towards a competency-based human resources management, it completed the first and second phases of the Job Profiling and Competency Project with the Ateneo Center for Organizational Research and Development (CORD).

A competency dictionary containing eight core, seven leadership, and 66 functional/technical competencies was developed in 2018 and used to determine the competencies required for each of the 266 unique job positions in the Department.

Once these job positions were completed and validated, the Department proceeded with the training needs analysis, an assessment of gaps in competencies of personnel, which may be addressed by training and other learning and development interventions.

Training and Scholarships

In 2018, DFA directly facilitated and funded 11 trainings for 580 employees worth PhP 9,548,323.10; supported and funded 14 trainings for 454 employees worth PhP 3,698,492.65; and supported 36 trainings for 1,393 employees.

These training programs, particularly those targeted for consular and ATN officers, equate to better service for the public.

Launch of the Human Resources Information System

The Department launched in July 2018 the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) after several months of user acceptance testing. Designed specifically for the DFA, HRIS is intended to include several modules on leave management, attendance monitoring, personal data of employees, performance management, and training.

The launching of HRIS in the Home Office simplified the processing of leave applications, allowing personnel to do away with the paper filing of leaves. It also simplified the filing of requests for overtime, daily time record corrections and official business.

HRIS will be rolled out to all Foreign Service Posts and Consular Offices by the end of 2019.

First-ever Gender and Development (GAD) Assembly

In 2018, the Department completed its second cycle of Participatory Gender Audit. The first cycle was conducted in 2014. In order to present the audit findings and recommendations, the Department organized, for the first time, a three-day GAD Assembly attended by 122 GAD Focal Points from all over the Philippines and the world on 6-8 November 2018 at the Makati Diamond Residences, Makati City.

The outcome of the GAD Assembly paved the way for the adoption in December 2018 of the Department's GAD Agenda for 2019-2022.

The DFA's GAD Focal Point System was established in 2011 in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women.



*Speakers and participants of DFA's first GAD Assembly, 6 November 2018, Makati.
(Photo Credit: DFA-OSCR)*

FINANCE

As of 28 December 2018, the DFA's Budget Utilization Rate (BUR) was at 91.61% of its 2018 Allotment of PhP 20.215 Billion. Obligations BUR is computed as total obligations against total allotment from all expense classes.

Based on the DFA's FY 2018 Agency Performance Review (APR) Report by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on the physical and financial accomplishments of agencies, DFA has improved its performance compared to FY 2017.

Status of DFA Budget as of 28 December 2018 (amount in thousand PhP):

	REGULAR
Authorized Appropriation	20,215,012
Allotment	20,034,325
Obligations	18,352,749
Balance	1,681,576
BUR	91.61%

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS MANAGEMENT

Frankfurt

The Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt has been rendering assistance-to-nationals, promoting Filipino culture, and strengthening economic ties since 17 August 2018, when the landing team arrived.

Copenhagen

The Embassy landing team arrived in Copenhagen on 17 October 2018 to prepare for the official opening of the Philippine Embassy in Denmark on 14 January 2019.

Houston

The Consulate landing team arrived in Houston on 16 June 2018 to prepare for the opening of the Philippine Consulate General in Texas. Its formal inauguration is set on 22 March 2019.

ASSETS IMPROVEMENT

In coordination with various line offices, the Department oversaw the improvement of assets abroad:

Nairobi

A new Chancery for the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi was inaugurated on 9 November 2018.

Berlin

The construction of the newly-acquired Chancery of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin started in July 2018.

Geneva

The new Chancery will house the Permanent Mission of the Philippines in Geneva. Construction is on-going. Eighty percent payment for the land/lot acquisition and beginning of earthworks for the design and construction of the new Chancery was effected in November 2018.

Rome

The renovation of the Philippine Embassy in Rome is now in its final phases of discussion.

CAR REFLEETING PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

The Program aims to improve the current vehicle inventory of Foreign Service Posts essential to the efficient delivery of services and fulfillment of official duties and functions. These services and functions include: making representations with host governments; extending protocol assistance to visiting foreign dignitaries, high-ranking Philippine government officials and other VIPs; delivering Assistance-to-Nationals services (e.g. rescue and evacuation operations); conducting Overseas Absentee Voting field registrations; consular outreach activities; and conducting cultural and economic diplomacy activities (e.g. exhibits, multicultural festivals, Filipino artists' concerts and recitals overseas). Appropriate vehicles likewise benefit the image and stature of the Heads of Posts especially in representing the Philippines at important meetings and gatherings.

The Department was able to secure authority from the Department of Budget and Management to purchase nine motor vehicles and one motorcycle under the FY 2018 Car Refleeting Program.

SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

DFA PUBLIC SERVICE CONTINUITY PLAN

The drafting of the DFA Public Service Continuity Plan began in December 2018 in compliance with Presidential Decision File No. 381-120517-34 and the Fourth Meeting of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change, Adaptation, Mitigation and Risk Reduction. On 6 March 2019, the DFA submitted to the Office of the President – Presidential Management Staff its Public Service Continuity Plan. The Plan establishes roles and responsibilities, mission, essential functions, recovery time objectives, activation criteria and procedures, orders of succession, continuity strategies, communication procedures and

resource requirements, among other particulars, in the aftermath of a high-impact incident shutting down the DFA main building and the OCA building.

DFA – BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE MILESTONES

Guided by R.A. 9184 and its 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations and the Department's thrust in providing transparent and accountable transactions with its goods and services providers, BAC has successfully guided the Department through the procurement process, leading to the following achievements and milestones:

Procurement Monitoring Report (PMR) 2018

MODE OF PROCUREMENT	NO. OF PROJECTS	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
Competitive Bidding	28	PhP 299,005,333.56
Competitive Bidding (Early Procurement)	8	PhP 210,438,191.60
Agency-To-Agency	23	PhP 133,386,961.84
Direct Contracting	8	PhP 7,265,726.00
Emergency Case	6	PhP 37,661,801.64
Highly Technical Consultants	8	PhP 10,325,846.24
Lease of Real Property/Venue	148	PhP 51,957,600.22
Shopping	16	PhP 2,159,062.70
Small Value Procurement	363	PhP 54,006,114.18
Scientific, Scholarly or Artistic Work, Exclusive Technology and Media Services	27	PhP 26,526,082.88
TOTAL	633	PhP 832,732,720.86

Participation of the DFA in Project Repeal

For the first time, the Department of Foreign Affairs participated in the National Competitiveness Council's Project Repeal: Philippine Red Tape Challenge which is a government-wide regulatory reform initiative to repeal outdated rules and reduce the cost of doing business. The mission is to review irrelevant, burdensome and unnecessary laws/issuances imposed on businesses and citizens that affect the country's global competitiveness ranking and investment climate.

In 2018, the DFA had the third highest number of submissions (34 issuances) after the BIR (50+) and the DOJ (40+) among all government agencies. These submissions are broken down as follows:

- 19 Consular-related
- 11 Citizens' Charters
- 2 OFW-related
- 2 HRMO-related

The Project Repeal Secretariat commended the DFA for having the most organized and comprehensive submissions. The fourth Repeal Day ceremonies, which was participated in by the DFA, were held on 12 December 2018 at the PICC.

DFA QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (QMS)

ISO Certification

The DFA QMS was audited on 17-18 December 2018. The following processes were certified compliant with ISO 9001:2015 standard:

- Assistance-to-Nationals service for Walk-in Clients in the Home Office, including processes that provide support to frontline services of OCA and OUMWA.
- Regular Passport and Authentication Services, Diplomatic and Official Passport Service, and Visa Application in DFA-ASEANA
- Regular Passport and Authentication Services in DFA-NCR West

Programs

The QMS Secretariat coordinated with IAS on the Semi-Annual Internal Quality Audits (IQAs) to monitor and review QMS implementation. The first IQA was held on 11-20 April 2018, while the second IQA was held on 26 September to 5 October 2018.

After each IQA, the QMS Secretariat planned, led, organized and coordinated the Semi-Annual Management Reviews (MRs). The first MR was held on 2-3 May 2018, while the second MR was held on 29 November 2018.

CYBERSECURITY

DFA Network Security and Hardware Refresh / Upgrade

The Department has successfully installed 150 access points and more than 90 network switches across the Home Office in order to provide a reliable, managed, and secured wireless access to the DFA Network.

DFA has also installed more than 30 access points at DFA Aseana together with recabling and various civil works which replaced its aging structured cabling system.

Disaster Recovery and Hyperconverged Infrastructure

Two Hyperconverged Infrastructures were successfully procured and established. The two centralized servers intend to minimize resource consumption of existing servers by reducing the amount of servers to two and utilizing Virtual Machine (VMWare) to host various information systems developed or outsourced by the Department. DFA has also procured Secure Socket Layer (SSL) for the Information Systems hosted by the Department to provide security and authenticity to its access.

Active Directory and Identity and Access Management System

The DFA has more than 1,000 accounts, wherein more than 700 Department personnel have been successfully registered to the Active Directory and Identity and Access Management System, which intends to provide the Department with secure and responsible access to the DFA Network. It enables access based on personnel identity, which limits access to both DFA network and terminals to registered DFA personnel.

Data Privacy Act

Through the hiring of a Highly Technical Consultant (HTC) for the Department's Privacy Impact Assessment, DFA was able to generate a Privacy Impact Assessment Report and Risk Management Report in compliance with Republic Act 10173 otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERPS)

DFA continued and renewed the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERPS) – Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS) to its four pilot Administrative offices. It also procured five additional modules which shall be used for the five Geographic Offices of the Department namely, Office of ASEAN Affairs (ASEAN), Office of European Affairs (OEA), Office of Middle East and African Affairs (OMEAA), Office of Asia and Pacific Affairs (ASPAC) and Office of American Affairs (OAA).

DFA procured and implemented three additional Information Systems (IS), namely the Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), Payroll and Benefits Management Information System (PBMIS) and the Property and Inventory Management Information System (PIMIS). These Information Systems aim to streamline and facilitate Administrative functions/operations and ensure that personnel data and relevant information are sourced from a single database.

ATTACHED AGENCIES

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE (FSI)

OUTCOME

Contributed to the development and professionalization of the career corps of the DFA

MAJOR OUTPUTS

The Carlos P. Romulo School of Diplomacy (CPRSD) prepared, organized and implemented 73 training programs. CPRSD also responded to requests from government agencies to organize and implement demand-driven courses, and was able to complete an additional 57 training programs.

The Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies (CIRSS) responded to the research needs of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other stakeholders on matters related to foreign policy. It organized conferences, lectures, round table discussions and other events to support its research program. It also published 27 Commentaries and two Insights.

FSI also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with China Foreign Affairs University on 20 November 2018, which will promote stronger partnership and cooperation with China. The MOA is expected to provide opportunities to train our diplomats in China and exercise soft power through trainings for Chinese diplomats.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES (TCCP)

OUTCOME

Foreign relations strengthened through providing technical training for the Developing and Least Developed Countries

MAJOR OUTPUTS

TCCP implemented nine programs in 2018, including in the following areas: culture and heritage preservation; women and entrepreneurship; gender and development; and management of rhinoceros beetle infestation.

UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES (UNACOM)

OUTCOME

Contributed to Philippine development in educational, scientific, and cultural matters

MAJOR OUTPUTS

UNACOM participated in the following activities:

- Assisted in the application of Baguio as a UNESCO Creative City for Crafts and Folk Art; Baguio successfully joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2017, the first Philippine city to do so.
- Provided inputs and assistance to the nomination bid of the Culion Leprosy Archives in the UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia-Pacific. In May 2018, the body voted to inscribe the Culion Leprosy Archives, noting its significance to leprosy history in the Philippines and Asia as a whole.
- Provided support to the Philippine delegation in one session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and two sessions of the UNESCO Intangible Heritage Committee.
- Provided support to Philippine sites and traditions for possible UNESCO recognition.
- Organized a regional conference on inclusive and rights-based education.
- Organized a series of workshops on promoting the interface between policy-making and research.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A

Foreign Trips of the President in 2018

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
24-26 January 2018	ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and Republic Day, New Delhi, Republic of India	<p>Under the theme “Shared Values, Common Destiny,” the Summit saw the signing of the Delhi Declaration to mark the 25th anniversary of ASEAN – India dialogue relations.</p> <p>President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the summit.</p>
9-10 April 2018	Boao Forum for Asia, Boao, Hainan Province, People’s Republic of China	<p>President Duterte delivered the opening speech during the opening ceremonies of the Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia.</p> <p>From Boao, President Duterte proceeded to Hong Kong SAR for a Working Visit and met with the Filipino community.</p>
27-28 April 2018	32 nd ASEAN Summit, Republic of Singapore	<p>Three outcome documents were signed during the summit: the ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation, the ASEAN Leaders’ Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN, and the Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defense Ministers on Countering Terrorism.</p> <p>President Duterte also had bilateral meetings with President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, President Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore, and Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.</p> <p>President Duterte was also present for the signing of business agreements between Philippine and Singaporean companies.</p>
3-5 June 2018	Official Visit to the Republic of Korea	<p>President Duterte and President Moon Jae-in held a bilateral summit meeting, followed by the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on cooperation in the fields of transport, agriculture, renewable energy development, science and technology, tourism, and economy, as well as a loan agreement.</p>
13-16 July 2018	Working Visit to Malaysia	<p>President Duterte had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in which they reaffirmed PH-Malaysia ties.</p>

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
2–5 September 2018	Official Visit to the State of Israel	President Duterte met with President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The visit saw the signing of agreements on the temporary employment of Filipino home-based caregivers and hotel workers, scientific cooperation, and bilateral investment.
6–7 September 2018	Official Visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	President Duterte met with King Abdullah II of Jordan and signed agreements on political consultations, defense cooperation, investments, labor cooperation, deployment of household service workers, and recognition of maritime certificates under the terms of the 1978 STCW.
11 October 2018	ASEAN Leaders' Conference in Bali, Republic of Indonesia	<p>In his intervention, President Duterte urged the ASEAN leaders to make economic growth sustainable and truly inclusive by standing as a united and stronger regional community.</p> <p>The Philippines donated \$300,000 in assistance to the ASEAN AHA Center for areas hit by a 7.4-magnitude earthquake and tsunami in Palu, Indonesia. A C-130 plane was also deployed to bring additional assistance.</p>
13–15 November 2018	33rd ASEAN Summit, Republic of Singapore	<p>The ASEAN Leaders discussed work in advancing ASEAN community building and exchanged views on regional and international issues, including addressing non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism. A total of 63 outcome documents were adopted, issued and noted by the Leaders.</p> <p>The ASEAN Leaders also held Plus One Summits with seven Dialogue Partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States), the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the 21st ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit, and the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS).</p> <p>President Duterte delivered the ASEAN–China Common Statement, which reaffirmed ASEAN and China's shared commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, noting the steady progress in the negotiations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC). President Duterte called on all parties to work together for the early conclusion of an effective and substantive COC.</p> <p>The President also met with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore and with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan on the sidelines.</p>

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
15–18 November	APEC Economic Leaders' Summit, Independent State of Papua New Guinea	In the Economic Leaders' Meeting, President Duterte championed Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and inclusive globalization. President Duterte also participated at the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue with APEC Leaders and a Dialogue with the leaders of the Pacific Islands.

Incoming High-Level Visits

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
15 February 2018	Meeting between President Duterte and President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. of the Republic of Palau	President Remengesau paid a courtesy call on President Duterte in Davao. They discussed maritime security, police cooperation, connectivity, and tourism cooperation.
15–17 May 2018	Official Visit of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea	President Duterte and Prime Minister O'Neill signed a joint statement and a Joint Declaration on Agriculture Cooperation.
20–21 Nov 2018	State Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China	President Duterte and President Xi witnessed the exchange of 29 documents and agreements in the areas of economic cooperation and infrastructure; education, culture and people-to-people exchange; technical cooperation (agriculture, IT, disaster relief); and energy.

ANNEX B

Official Travels of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 2018

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter S. Cayetano

DATE	EVENT
24–26 January 2018	ASEAN–India Commemorative Summit and Republic Day, New Delhi, India
17–18 March 2018	ASEAN–Australia Special Summit, Sydney, Australia, with a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull
20–24 March 2018	Official Visit to China
27–28 April 2018	ASEAN Ministerial Meetings and 32nd ASEAN Summit, Singapore
09–10 May 2018	Official Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
09–10 May 2018	Official Visit to the State of Kuwait
11–13 May 2018	Official Visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain
19 May 2018	Visit of Philippine officials to the US Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii
14–15 May 2018	Working Visit to Moscow, Russia, and bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
13–16 July 2018	President Duterte’s Working Visit to Malaysia, and Secretary Cayetano’s meeting with Foreign Minister Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah
30 July – 4 August 2018	51st ASEAN Foreign Minister’s Meeting and Related Meetings, Singapore, and meetings with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Vijay Kumar Singh, Norwegian Foreign Minister Ine Eriksen Søreide, Papua New Guinea Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Rimbink Pato, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and Timor-Leste Foreign Minister Dionisio da Costa Babo Soares
2–5 Sept 2018	President Duterte’s Official Visit to Israel
6–7 Sept 2018	President Duterte’s Official Visit to Jordan
22–24 August 2018	Visit of “Build, Build, Build” Team to China
27–29 September 2018	73rd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York and meetings with Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok, Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr.

DATE	EVENT
18–19 October 2018	12th Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, Brussels, Belgium, and a meeting with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte
12–15 November 2018	33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Singapore, with meetings with Singapore Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and Thailand Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai
10–11 December 2018	Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Marrakesh, Morocco
19 December 2018	73rd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York City and voting for the resolution endorsing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

ANNEX C

Agreements Signed in 2018

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Memorandum of Agreement Concerning the Recognition of Training and Certification of Seafarers Under Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention between Maritime Industry Authority of the Philippines and the Marine Department of Thailand	16 January 2018	Thailand
Administrative Arrangement for the Implementation of the Philippines-Luxembourg Social Security Agreement	19 January 2018	Luxembourg
Philippines-Netherlands Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation on the Sustainable Development of the Manila Bay Area	22 January 2018	Netherlands
Memorandum of Understanding on Promotion of Investments between Invest India and the Board of Investments	24 January 2018	India
Memorandum of Understanding Between the Board of Investments of the Republic of the Philippines and Invest India of the Republic of India	26 January 2018	India
Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Swedish Police Authority on Law Enforcement Cooperation	31 January 2018	Sweden
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Agricultural Cooperation	06 February 2018	Turkey
Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Investments (BOI) of the Republic of the Philippines and the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of the Republic of Turkey (ISPAT)	06 February 2018	Turkey
Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Cooperation between the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG) and the University of Fribourg's Institute of Federalism	12 February 2018	Switzerland
Memorandum of Cooperation for the Pre-Survey on the National Broadband Plan of the Philippines	12 February 2018	Japan

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Exchange of Notes on the Programme for the Support of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi and its Surrounding Areas	20 March 2018	Japan
Exchange of Notes for the Construction of Waste to Energy Facilities in Davao	20 March 2018	Japan
Budapest Convention on Cybercrime	28 March 2018	
Implementing Arrangement on Deepening Cooperation between the Philippine Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force	04 April 2018	Japan
Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	10 April 2018	China
Exchange of Letters for the Pre-Feasibility Study of the proposed Davao City Expressway Project	10 April 2018	China
Preferential Buyer Credit Loan Agreement for the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project between the Republic of the Philippines as Borrower and the Export-Import Bank of China as Lender	10 April 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment of Filipino Teachers of English Language in China	10 April 2018	China
Exchange of Letters on the Phase III of Technical Cooperation Project for the Philippines-Sino Centre for Agricultural Technology (PhilSCAT)	10 April 2018	China
Exchange of Letters on Providing a Batch of Broadcasting Equipment to the Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Philippines (PCOO)	10 April 2018	China
ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuff Products	18 April 2018	Singapore
ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation	28 April 2018	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN	28 April 2018	ASEAN Member States

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defense Ministers on Countering Terrorism	28 April 2018	ASEAN Member States
Framework Arrangement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning Loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for the Years 2017-2022	04 May 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) for the Recovery and Repatriation of the Remains of Japanese Soldiers	08 May 2018	Japan
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports	09 May 2018	United Arab Emirates
Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	09 May 2018	United Arab Emirates
Agreement on the Employment of Domestic Workers Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Kuwait	11 May 2018	Kuwait
Joint Declaration on Agriculture Cooperation (signed between Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and Papua New Guinea Agriculture and Livestock Minister Benny Allan, with the view of signing a Memorandum of Agreement on Agriculture Cooperation)	15-17 May 2018	Papua New Guinea
Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment of Dependents of Diplomatic and Consular Personnel	18 May 2018	Australia
Protocol 2 Designation of Frontier Posts	18 May 2018	Malaysia
Agreement between Foreign Service Institute and Cambodian National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations	23-25 May 2018	Cambodia
Loan Agreement on the New Cebu International Container Port Project between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Export-Import Bank of Korea (Government Agency for EDCF) (worth US\$199.25 million)	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the DOST-PH and the Ministry of Science and ICT-ROK	04 June 2018	South Korea

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Transportation-PH and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport-ROK Concerning Cooperation in the Field of Transport	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) on Enhancing Economic Cooperation	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on the Expansion of Renewable Energy Deployment between the Department of National Defense and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE)	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture (DA)-PH and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA)-ROK on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding between the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) of the Government of the Republic of Korea	04 June 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation between the PH Department of Energy and the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE)	04 June 2018	South Korea
Air Transport Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain	12 June 2018	Spain
Exchange of Notes on the Project for Improving Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Cagayan de Oro River Basin	13 June 2018	Japan
Exchange of Notes on the Japanese Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) 2019	13 June 2018	Japan
Memorandum of Understanding between BiZone Limited Liability Company and Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Republic of the Philippines on Cooperation in Cybersecurity	06 July 2018	Russian Federation

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services between Philippines and India	12 July 2018	India
Agreed Minutes of Bilateral Meeting on Decent Work, Labor Mobility and Fair and Ethical Recruitment Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	13 August 2018	Bahrain
Protocol to the Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Filipino Home-based Caregivers between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel	03 September 2018	Israel
Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State of Israel	03 September 2018	Israel
MOI between the Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and Invest in Israel of the Foreign Investments and Industrial Cooperation Authority of the Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Government of Israel on the Collaboration on Promotion of Bilateral Investment	03 September 2018	Israel
Memorandum of Understanding on Investments between BOI and Jordan Investment Commission	06 September 2018	Jordan
Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation between the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Ministry of Labor of Jordan (MOL)	06 September 2018	Jordan
Cooperation Framework on Deployment of HSWs to Jordan between the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Ministry of Labor of Jordan (MOL)	06 September 2018	Jordan
Memorandum of Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Maritime Certificates under the Terms of the 1978 STCW convention between MARINA and Jordan Maritime Commission	06 September 2018	Jordan
Memorandum of Understanding on Investments between BOI and Jordan Investment Commission	06 September 2018	Jordan

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates	06 September 2018	Jordan
Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation between the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Jordan Armed Forces	06 September 2018	Jordan
International Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) concerning Scientific and Technical Cooperation in High-Energy Physics	07 September 2018	European Organization for Nuclear Research
Exchange of Notes on the New Bohol Airport Constructions and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (II)	08 October 2018	Japan
Memorandum of Cooperation for the Release and Utilisation of Earmarked Stocks under the Tier 1 Programme of ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve	12 October 2018	ASEAN Member States
Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Member States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on Strengthening Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry	12 October 2018	ASEAN Member States
Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Food and Agriculture Cooperation	12 October 2018	ASEAN Member States
Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement	12 October 2018	ASEAN Member States
Convention on Cluster Munitions	16 October 2018	
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture between the Department of Agriculture of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	17 October 2018	Pakistan
Protocol for the Establishment of a Political Consultations Mechanism between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan	26 October 2018	Azerbaijan

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Exchange of Letters on the Feasibility Study of the Davao River Bridge Project (Bucana)	29 October 2018	China
Handover Certificate of Law Enforcement-Related Materials/Equipment between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	29 October 2018	China
Handover Certificate of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	29 October 2018	China
Exchange of Notes on the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) Rehabilitation	07 November 2018	Japan
Exchange of Notes on the grant aid of the Government of Japan to the Philippines of Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) UH-1H parts and maintenance equipment to the Philippine Air Force	07 November 2018	Japan
Protocol 4 on Co-Terminal Rights between Points within the Territory of any other ASEAN Member State	09 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
Protocol to Implement the Tenth Package of Commitments under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services	11 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print-Disabled	12 November 2018	
ASEAN Smart Cities Framework	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Joint Statement to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
Declaration on the Guidelines on Consular Assistance by ASEAN Member States' Missions in Third Countries to Nationals of Other ASEAN Member States	14 November 2018	ASEAN Member States
Memorandum of Agreement on Agricultural Cooperation between the Philippines and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea	16 November 2018	Papua New Guinea
Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippines and PNG on the Establishment of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee	17 November 2018	Papua New Guinea
Memorandum of Understanding between the PNP and the NCA of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland regarding Cooperation and Exchange of Information for the Purposes of Combating Serious and/or Organized Crime	19 November 2018	United Kingdom
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperative Partnership for Agricultural Machinery between the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO) of the Republic of Korea	20 November 2018	South Korea
Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Oil and Gas Development between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Infrastructure Cooperation Program between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Program for Cooperation on Industrial Parks Development between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China

AGREEMENT	DATE	COUNTERPART
Exchange of Letters on the Davao River Bridge Project (Bucana) between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Exchange of Letters on China Aid Bridge and Road Project in Marawi between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Exchange of Letters on Project of Container Inspection Equipment between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Handover Certificate of Emergency Humanitarian Cash Assistance between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China for 2019-2023	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Basic Education between the Department of Education of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding between the Cooperative Development Authority of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China on Strengthening the Building of Agricultural Cooperatives	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Cooperation in Key Infrastructure Projects in Davao Region between the Department of Finance of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Implementation Agreement of the Feasibility Study of Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridge	20 November 2018	China

AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Implementation Agreement of the Feasibility Study of Davao City Expressway Project	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Renminbi Clearing Arrangement	20 November 2018	China
Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Fresh Young Coconuts from the Philippines to China between the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Protocol of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Frozen Fruits from the Philippines to China between Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Supporting the Feasibility Study of Major Projects between the Department of Finance of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the China International Development Cooperation Agency of the Government of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding between Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines and the China Foreign Affairs University of the People's Republic of China	20 November 2018	China
Preferential Buyer's Credit Loan Agreement on the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project between Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System (MWSS) and Export-Import Bank of China	20 November 2018	China
Memorandum of Understanding on Panda Bonds Issuance	20 November 2018	China
Commercial Contract of the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project between Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewage System (MWSS) China Energy Engineering Corporation	20 November 2018	China
Framework Agreement for Industrial Park between Bases Conversion and Development Authority and Gezhouba	20 November 2018	China
Letter of No Objection to the Organization of the Renminbi-Philippine Peso Foreign Exchange Trading Market	20 November 2018	China

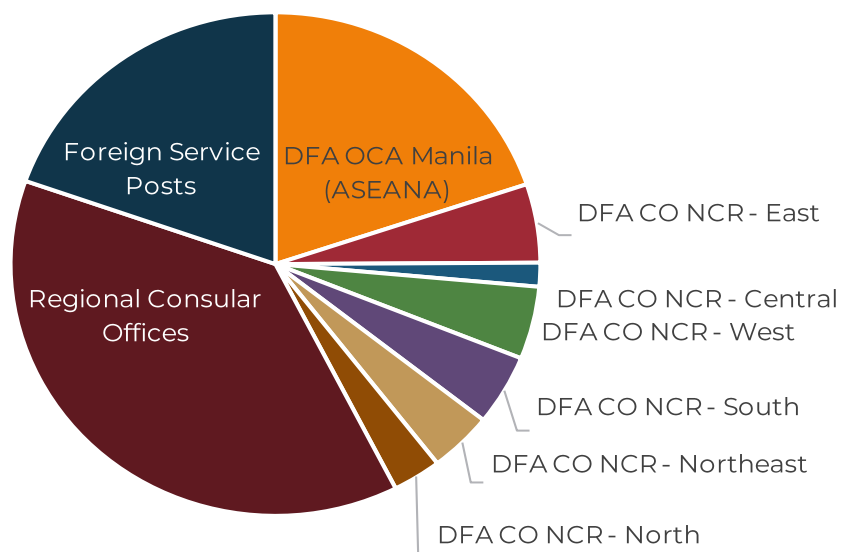
AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	COUNTERPART
Contract for the Project Management Consultancy of the Philippine National Railways South Long Haul Project (North-South Railway Project) between the Department of Transportation of the Republic of the Philippines and China Railway Design Corporation	20 November 2018	China
Commercial Contract of Safe Philippines Project, Phase I	20 November 2018	China
Certificate of Authority to Operate for the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Limited - Manila Branch	20 November 2018	China
Philippines-Switzerland Air Services Agreement	20 November 2018	Switzerland
Exchange of Notes on the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)	21 November 2018	Japan
Exchange of Notes on the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Extension Project (I)	21 November 2018	Japan
Protocol for Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines and the Council of Higher Education of Turkey	21 November 2018	Turkey
Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the European Union on Certain Aspects of Air Services	29 November 2018	European Union
Cultural Exchange Programme between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the Years 2018-2020	06 December 2018	Bangladesh
Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	10 December 2018	
Agreement on Temporary Employment of Filipino Hotel Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel and the Implementation Protocol to the Temporary Employment of Filipino Hotel Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Israel	11 December 2018	Israel
Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Industry Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Presidency of Defence Industries of the Republic of Turkey	18 December 2018	Turkey

ANNEX D

Consular Data and Statistics

2018 Passport Issuances

PASSPORT ISSUING SITE	NUMBER OF PASSPORTS ISSUED
DFA OCA Manila (ASEANA)	862,119
DFA CO NCR-East Mandaluyong City	219,151
DFA CO NCR-Central Pasig City	66,430
DFA CO NCR-West Manila	202,515
DFA CO NCR-South Muntinlupa City	196,619
DFA CO NCR-Northeast Quezon City	169,425
DFA CO NCR-North Novaliches	128,685
Regional Consular Offices	1,643,022
Foreign Service Posts	852,441
TOTAL	4,340,407



2018 Visa Issuances—Local

CLASSIFICATION		NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED	
Non-Immigrant	Temporary Visitor – Restricted Nationals	9(a)	3,695
	Foreign Government Officials (FGOs) and International Organizations (IOs)	9(e)	2,949
	Renewal of visa for FGOs and IOs in the home office	9(e)	3,328
	Student Visa	9(f)	36
	Pre-Arranged Employment	9(g)	11
	Transit Visa	9(b)	23
	Crew List Visa	9(c)	3
	Special Non-Immigrant	47(a)(2)	371
TOTAL			10,416

APEC Business Travel Cards (ABTC)

536

2018 Visa Issuances—Foreign Service Posts

CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL
Non - Immigrant Visa	
Temporary Visitor's Visa 9(a)	966,693
Transit Visa 9(b)	124
Crewlist Visa 9(c)	4,608
Treaty / Trader Investor 9(d)	1
Foreign Government Official 9(e)	5,282
Student Visa 9(f)	76
Pre - Arranged Employee 9(g)	18
Special Category	
SIRV	0
SRRV	152
Special Non - Immigrant	
Special Non - Immigrant 47a(2)	232
TOTAL NON - IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED	977,186
Immigrant Visa	
13(a)/(b)/(c)	176
13(g)	8
TOTAL IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED	184
GRAND TOTAL	977,370

2018 Authenticated Documents

PERIOD	DFA OCA (ASEANA)	DFA CO East	DFA CO Northeast	DFA CO South	DFA CO West	DFA CO Pampanga
JANUARY	30,467	4,531	8,686	1,543	10,106	3,309
FEBRUARY	32,435	4,531	8,927	1,783	11,276	3,914
MARCH	33,505	5,698	9,207	1,709	10,960	4,151
APRIL	31,837	5,315	7,984	1,708	10,064	3,950
MAY	31,096	5,059	8,161	1,724	8,866	3,560
JUNE	26,873	4,054	7,658	1,616	7,774	3,029
JULY	32,649	4,920	8,727	1,734	11,600	3,745
AUGUST	31,291	4,987	9,023	1,950	10,857	3,834
SEPTEMBER	27,596	4,841	7,749	1,742	9,887	3,269
OCTOBER	32,731	5,152	8,388	1,800	11,725	3,599
NOVEMBER	26,868	4,328	7,021	1,661	9,794	2,860
DECEMBER	22,221	3,617	5,029	1,243	7,673	2,506
Sub-Total	359,569	57,033	96,560	20,213	120,582	41,726

Total Authenticated Documents

695,683

2018 Civil Registry Services

CIVIL REGISTRY REPORTS	TOTAL
Birth	27,943
Marriage	18,985
Death	2,563
Petition for Correction of Clerical Error (RA 9048)	1,204
Conversion to Islam	8
Renunciation	306
Legal Instruments	1,948
Supplemental	96
Total Number of Reports received from FSPs	53,053
TOTAL	53,053

2018 Local Mobile Passport Services / Passport on Wheels (POW)

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
15 January 2018	Las Pinas	1500	927
18 January 2018	Manila	1300	1285
22 January 2018	Angeles	1100	684
23 January 2018	Capas, Tarlac	1238	1032
25 January 2018	SJDM	1079	820
26 January 2018	Baliwag	1244	1126
29 January 2018	Muntinlupa	1238	1005
30 January 2018	Cainta	1047	895
02 February 2018	Bay	1282	1042
07 February 2018	Marikina	503	508
08 February 2018	Caloocan	583	863
09 February 2018	Bocaue	1015	1531
12 February 2018	Binan	1800	953
19 February 2018	Taytay	1046	836
20 February 2018	Pasig	1800	1132
21 February 2018	Mandaluyong	1500	1249
23 February 2018	BSP	500	762
23-25 February 2018	Laoag	800	756
27 February 2018	Navotas	1500	1282
28 February 2018	Silang	1500	1184
01 March 2018	Valenzuela	1534	1202
02 March 2018	San Mateo, Rizal	1218	959
03 March 2018	Bacoor, Cavite	1000	850
03 March 2018	Hagonoy, Bulacan	1340	1212
05 March 2018	Iba, Zambales	1784	1452
07 March 2018	San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	1519	1026
08 March 2018	Antipolo City	1500	1319

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
09 March 2018	CLOATA	1451	1292
10 March 2018	Taguig City	1841	1580
10 March 2018	Special MPS- Mirandaflor Oca-Bunye	1	1
10 March 2018	Nickel Asia Corporation	15	15
12 March 2018	DFA Main	274	179
13 March 2018	Gen. Mariano, Cavite	1533	1306
16-18 March 2018	Davao City	4376	3595
19 March 2018	League of Municipalities	117	47
20 March 2018	Dasmariñas, Cavite	1661	1460
21 March 2018	Bustos, Bulacan	950	812
21 March 2018	PAAAO/Sta. Maria	902	731
23 March 2018	Marikina City	1533	1258
23 March 2018	Malacañang	210	149
25 March 2018	Senate	1532	1189
26 March 2018	Tarlac	1500	1324
02 April 2018	Quezon City	1527	1129
03 April 2018	Ibaan, Batangas	613	530
04 April 2018	Malolos, Bulacan	2150	1707
05 April 2018	Sta. Rosa, Laguna	1648	1497
06 April 2018	Calamba, Laguna	1866	1748
07 April 2018	Balayan, Batangas	1793	1338
10 April 2018	Rosario, Cavite	646	523
10 April 2018	Special MPS- Mrs. Rosa Teh Lim	1	1
11 April 2018	Bacoor, Cavite	1937	1519
12 April 2018	Marikina	862	670
13 April 2018	Binangonan, Rizal	1020	876
16 April 2018	Batangas City	1200	929
18 April 2018	San Pedro, Laguna	1500	1035

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
19 April 2018	Pulilan, Bulacan	1500	1304
19 April 2018	NCMF	344	176
20 April 2018	San Miguel, Bulacan	1488	1155
21 April 2018	Pandi, Bulacan	1792	1478
21 April 2018	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	1493	1308
23 April 2018	Parañaque City	700	561
23 April 2018	Eagle Broadcasting Company	350	199
24 April 2018	Malabon	1036	906
24 April 2018	Special MPS	3	3
26 April 2018	Calapan, Mindoro	1036	877
27 April 2018	Oriental, Mindoro	933	617
27 April 2018	Aboitiz	553	426
27 April 2018	Special MPS	2	2
28 April 2018	Roxas, Oriental Mindoro	1007	782
30 April 2018	Antipolo City	1500	1065
03 May 2018	Lubao, Pampanga	1692	1333
04 May 2018	Malabon City	725	472
04 May 2018	Rosario, Batangas	498	418
05 May 2018	Rosario, Batangas	526	421
05 May 2018	San Pablo, Laguna	1500	1080
07 May 2018	Tarlac	990	854
07 May 2018	Concepcion, Tarlac	1000	732
08 May 2018	Rosales, Pangasinan	1064	862
10 May 2018	PAGCOR	584	407
11 May 2018	Province of Bataan	1800	1607
12 May 2018	Balanga City, Bataan	1168	1015
16 May 2018	Cabuyao, Laguna	1681	1447
18 May 2018	Imus, Cavite	1717	1286
18 May 2018	Special MPS - Tri-city Medical Hospital, Pasig	1	1

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
18 May 2018	Special MPS - St. Luke's Hospital, Quezon City	1	1
19 May 2018	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	997	836
21 May 2018	Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	1445	1137
22 May 2018	Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	1179	965
24 May 2018	Sto. Tomas, Batangas	1108	926
25 May 2018	DOH	650	525
25 May 2018	Province of Batangas	994	978
26 May 2018	Municipality of Rodriguez	1099	956
29 May 2018	Caloocan City	1575	1060
30 May 2018	AFP	500	334
30 May 2018	PAAAO	940	722
31 May 2018	House of Representatives	882	715
01 June 2018	Loyola Grand Villas Subdivision	640	558
02 June 2018	Pateros Parish Church	484	371
04 June 2018	Pila, Laguna	9222	716
06 June 2018	Special MPS - Mr. and Mrs. Ty	2	2
07 June 2018	Pili, Camarines Sur	1700	1381
08 June 2018	Province of Camarines Sur	717	624
09 June 2018	Libmanan, Camarines Sur	874	668
11-12 June 2018	DFA Booth- Independence Day	134	80
13-18 June 2018	Apalit, Pampanga	1565	966
14-18 June 2018	Calumpit, Bulacan	699	596
16-18 June 2018	San Juan City	1502	1134
19-19 June 2018	Bacolod City	750	419
21 June 2018	Iglesia ni Cristo	67	67

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
22-23 June 2018	Basco, Batanes	500	339
23 June 2018	DFA Day	415	286
25 June 2018	PBA	641	401
26 June 2018	Bocause, Bulacan	1249	957
28 June 2018	Naic, Cavite	615	507
29 June 2018	Subic, Zambales	1732	1553
30 June 2018	Xavier School	2004	1890
03 July 2018	Pasig	1950	1202
04 July 2018	Mandaluyong City	1470	1081
05 July 2018	Paombong, Bulacan	862	644
09 July 2018	Cavinti, Laguna	535	518
09 July 2018	Calamba, Laguna	1262	1145
10 July 2018	Limay, Bataan	1550	1391
12-13 July 2018	Vigan, Ilocos Sur	2056	1951
13 July 2018	SMDC	346	285
14 July 2018	GAB	213	185
14 July 2018	Valenzuela City	1100	999
16 July 2018	TIEZA	579	540
17 July 2018	Meycauayan, Bulacan	793	710
19 July 2018	DPWH Central Office	346	288
21 July 2018	Batangas City	1428	1094
21 July 2018	Unilab	1049	914
23 July 2018	NCDA	61	31
24 July 2018	AFP	954	680
25 July 2018	Province of Laguna	2502	2157
26 July 2018	Ibaan, Batangas	1056	779
27 July 2018	St. Luke's BGC	387	324

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
27 July 2018	Security Bank	356	288
28 July 2018	Regus, BGC	238	185
28 July 2018	Calaca, Batangas	1586	1479
28 July 2018	PNP	1347	912
30 July 2018	Andrew Tan and Family	11	7
30 July 2018	PMS	243	190
01-02 August 2018	Cebu	3154	2446
02 August 2018	San Pascual, Batangas	692	644
03 August 2018	Gen. Garcia, Bohol	1281	1011
04 August 2018	Dauis, Bohol	1871	1292
08 August 2018	Virac, Catanduanes	1261	830
07 August 2018	AHRPA, LHARPA and LAHRAO	1323	1018
09 August 2018	Special MPS- Angeles City	4	4
08 August 2018	Olongapo	1276	962
08 August 2018	Mendez, Cavite	1464	1348
09 August 2018	House of Representatives	415	357
09 August 2018	Municipality of Calauan, Laguna	836	755
11 August 2018	Meralco	1715	1504
11 August 2018	Samal	1398	1013
12 August 2018	Samal	761	455
15 August 2018	Municipality of Teresa, Rizal	1219	1054
18 August 2018	Bureau of Immigration	856	729
18 August 2018	Silang, Cavite	1338	1192
20 August 2018	Mabini, Batangas	2000	1564
23 August 2018	NBI	522	456
24 August 2018	Lyceum of the Philippines University	653	521

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
25 August 2018	Taytay	1085	871
25 August 2018	Antipolo, Rizal	1523	1091
30 August 2018	Iriga City	882	761
31 August 2018	Province of Tarlac	863	721
31 August 2018	Province of Nueva Ecija	1447	1271
31 August 2018	Eagle Broadcasting Corporation	400	247
01 September 2018	Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	2001	1174
01 September 2018	Navotas City	867	843
03 September 2018	Tanauan Batangas	1032	805
03 September 2018	Special MPS - Senator Pacquiao	7	7
04 September 2018	Magallanes, Cavite	384	272
04 September 2018	Parañaque City	457	383
05 September 2018	Kabankalan City	571	493
06 September 2018	Province of Negros Occidental	415	308
06 September 2018	Tanay, Rizal	759	551
07 September 2018	Parañaque City	1151	857
08 September 2018	San Miguel, Bulacan	1139	995
08 September 2018	Baliwag, Bulacan	1500	1072
12 September 2018	DBP	427	316
12 September 2018	SCMC	311	278
13 September 2018	Gumaca, Quezon	628	605
18 September 2018	Supreme Court of the Philippines	499	307
18 September 2018	Olongapo City	1000	784
18 September 2018	Province of Bulacan	986	786
20 September 2018	Porac, Pampanga	969	618
20 September 2018	Bauan, Batangas	1000	880
22 September 2018	Department of Energy	195	185

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
25 September 2018	Naic, Cavite	972	810
25 September 2018	Bacoor, Cavite	772	547
25 September 2018	San Luis, Batangas	863	788
27 September 2018	PNP Silang Cavite	501	209
27 September 2018	Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija	875	650
27 September 2018	Cordillera, Mountain Province	869	600
28 September 2018	Antipolo City	938	611
28 September 2018	Carmona, Cavite	989	724
01-05 October 2018	Basco, Batanes	416	317
02 October 2018	Philippine Coast Guard	359	191
03 October 2018	Batangas City	1488	996
04 October 2018	House of Representative	647	550
04 October 2018	Dipolog City	1263	993
05 October 2018	Baras, Rizal	834	626
06 October 2018	Special MPS-Nickel Asia	93	85
06 October 2018	Taguig	938	816
08 October 2018	Iba, Zambales	1147	1045
09 October 2018	Court of Appeals	612	469
09 October 2018	Province of Bohol	2071	1542
12 October 2018	Tagbilaran, Bohol	2679	1885
16 October 2018	San Pascual	1172	1095
16 October 2018	Marilao, Bulacan	1050	927
18 October 2018	Valenzuela City	913	775
18 October 2018	Imus, City	1000	814
19 October 2018	Goodyear	98	77
22 October 2018	Special MPS (Pateros)	77	77
22 October 2018	Department of Agriculture	131	60

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
23 October 2018	Biñan, Laguna	1239	1029
24 October 2018	BF Federations	208	189
24 October 2018	Dasmariñas, Cavite	1200	1019
25 October 2018	Malabon	614	427
30 October 2018	First Green Meadows Homeowners Association	241	212
30 October 2018	Calaca, Batangas	851	794
06 November 2018	DLSU Dasmariñas	259	201
06 November 2018	Civil Service Comission	484	380
07 November 2018	Landbank	509	456
07 November 2018	Batangas State University	100	85
08 November 2018	St. Jude Catholic School	479	433
08 November 2018	Gen. Trias Cavite	755	696
09 November 2018	Marikina City	422	303
09 November 2018	Hagonoy, Bulacan	864	756
10 November 2018	Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	740	529
10 November 2018	Aguho, Pateros	394	224
12 November 2018	Pasay City Hall	707	425
13 November 2018	DSWD	450	373
13 November 2018	Supreme Court	399	276
13 November 2018	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	499	445
14 November 2018	Guiguinto, Bulacan	413	351
14 November 2018	Mason	234	177
14 November 2018	Sta. Rita, Pampanga	979	757
15 November 2018	Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite	499	438
15 November 2018	Pamplona, Cagayan	200	140
16 November 2018	Llanera, Nueva Ecija	1000	762
20 November 2018	Tagaytay City	1077	744

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
21 November 2018	Subic Bay Freeport Zone	1346	855
22 November 2018	San Marcelino, Zambales	1169	967
26 November 2018	Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro	1000	803
27 November 2018	Calapan, Oriental Mindoro	1111	885
28 November 2018	Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro	660	463
29 November 2018	Lucban, Quezon	813	483
30 November 2018	Puerto Galera	1000	834
03 December 2018	Sampaloc, Cavite	504	364
03 December 2018	Nestle, Makati City	180	74
04 December 2018	Philamlife	260	126
03 December 2018	Paniqui, Tarlac	585	582
05 December 2018	4 th District Nueva Ecija	916	727
05 December 2018	Malabon	1233	371
06 December 2018	Palayan, Nueva Ecija	1150	727
06 December 2018	Congress	500	223
07 December 2018	San Pablo, Laguna	743	477
11 December 2018	Pilar	700	487
11 December 2018	Balanga City	1000	849
12 December 2018	Alfonso, Cavite	933	635
17 December 2018	Ayala Centre Makati	216	66
17-19 December 2018	Paniqui Tarlac	968	998
18 December 2018	SJDM, Bulacan	1000	558
19 December 2018	Maragondon, Cavite	885	591
27 December 2018	Tagum City	1983	1160
TOTAL	284	237,037	216,058