



2022

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ACCOMPLISHMENT
REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is run by 229 officers and 592 regular staff stationed in its headquarters in Manila, 535 personnel in 36 Consular Offices across the country, and 1,461 officers and regular staff in 94 Foreign Service Posts. The men and women of the DFA subscribe to the highest standards of integrity, competence and professionalism, as they fulfill their mandate to uphold the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, contribute to nation-building efforts, protect Filipinos abroad, and enhance the country's standing in the community of nations by forging cordial and productive relations with bilateral and other partners.

As the Philippines emerges from the fog of the COVID-19 pandemic, activity in foreign relations has shifted to a higher gear starting this year. The DFA has undertaken efforts to make up for lost time and temporary setbacks, building upon innovations it set up in the interim.

Guided by the President's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda and foreign policy pronouncements, the DFA, led by Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, has steered its initiatives and programs for 2022 toward ensuring the welfare of Filipinos overseas, further strengthening the Philippines' engagements with its bilateral and multilateral partners, implementing economic and cultural diplomacy efforts, improving bureaucratic efficiency, and, most importantly, pursuing an independent foreign policy.



2022 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to
Promote National Development and
International Cooperation

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

A. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

As the Philippines continued to forge an independent foreign policy with national interest and shared interests among its allies in mind, the DFA, under the President's leadership, facilitated and undertaken **landmark bilateral and multilateral engagements**, including:

State Visits to Indonesia on 04-06 September 2022 and Singapore on 06-07 September 2022

The Department facilitated the **President's inaugural state visits to Indonesia and Singapore from 04 to 07 September 2022**. The President had productive bilateral meetings with Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Singaporean President Halimah Yacob, and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, which established rapport and friendship among the leaders, and facilitated the deepening of ties bilaterally and within ASEAN.

A total of **ten (10) agreements were signed** at the sidelines of the visits. The back-to-back state visits brought in a total of **US\$8.484 billion** worth of investments from Indonesia and **US\$6.54 billion** worth of foreign direct investments from Singapore.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (left) and Indonesian President Joko Widodo (right) during the State Visit to the Republic of Indonesia on 04-06 September 2022 (Photo courtesy of BongBong Marcos' Facebook page)

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (left) and President Halimah Yacob of the Republic of Singapore (right) hold bilateral talks during the State Visit to Singapore on 07 September 2022. (Photo courtesy of Office of the President's Facebook page)



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (right) and Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore (left) hold bilateral talks during the State Visit to Singapore on 07 September 2022. (Photo courtesy of Office of the President's Facebook page)

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77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly's High-Level General Debate on 20 September 2022 in New York, USA

The Department led the arrangements for the participation of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in the High-Level General Debate of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) on 20 September 2022 wherein he outlined his expectations of the United Nations and the work ahead, the role PH will play, and PH's contributions to strengthening the international system.

The President announced the Philippines' bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2027-2028.

The theme identified for UNGA77 was "*A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges*", which aims to address unprecedented global trends, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and escalating conflicts, that pose challenges to individual countries and the world community alike.

The President met with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 21 September 2022, during which he underscored the United Nations' important role in promoting international peace and security and harnessing international cooperation to address global challenges, especially climate change.

The President also participated in business activities to forge more partnerships to advance PH's national economic and sustainable development agenda. He was joined in these meetings by key private sector representatives.

Leaders-level Bilateral Meetings

The Department organized the bilateral meetings/ courtesy calls of the Heads of States/Governments or their Special Envoys with/on the President who attended the inauguration of the President on 30 June 2022. These included Australian Governor-General David Hurley, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan, Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, US Second Gentleman Douglas Craig Emhoff, Republic of Korea Representative Kweon Seong-dong, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan, Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dom Pramudwinai, Cambodian Minister of Environment Say Samal, Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vietnamese Vice President Thi Anh Xuan, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajikumar Ranjan Singh, Singaporean Minister Dr. Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, UK Trade Envoy Richard Graham MP, and Indonesia Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mohammad Mahfud.

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President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. meets with Australian Governor-General David Hurley at the Malacañan Palace on 30 June. Governor-General Hurley was the only Head of State who attended the inauguration of President Marcos.

The President had bilateral meetings with the Heads of States/Governments at the following events:

- At the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York on 19–23 September 2022, the President met with U.S. President Joseph Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. meets with U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. at the sidelines of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City on 22 September 2022. (Photo courtesy of the Office of the President's Official Facebook Page)

- At the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 11–13 November 2022, the President met His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Korean President Yook Suk Yeol, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
- At the 29th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 12–19 November 2022, the President met with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha,

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese MP, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern MP, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.



Bilateral Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 19 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



Bilateral Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 19 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



Bilateral Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 17 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand



Bilateral Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and French President Emmanuel Macron at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 18 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

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- At the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, 12-14 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium, the President met with His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium, EU President Charles Michel, Estonia Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.



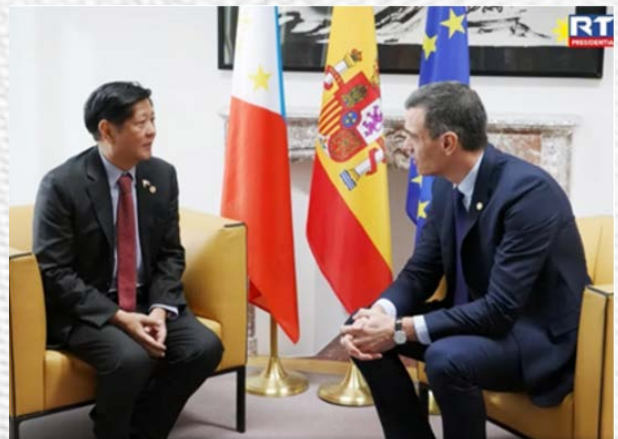
Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and King Philippe of Belgium, 13 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium



Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and President Charles Michel of the European Council, 13 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium



Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Estonia Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, 14 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium



Bilateral Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and President of the Spanish Government/Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez at the sidelines of ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, 14 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



PBBM, Dutch PM commit to boost cooperation in defense, water management

December 15, 2022

Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, 15 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium (Photo courtesy of PIA)



Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, 14 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium (Screen grab from RTVM)



Meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission, 14 December 2023, Brussels, Belgium (Screen grab from RTVM)

In a visit to Manila on 21 November 2022, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris met with the President and Vice President Sara Duterte, and reaffirmed the importance the two countries attach to the PH-U.S. alliance and partnership, especially in the context of regional and global developments. While citing the enduring ties between the Philippines and the United States, President Marcos underscored the need to evolve and redefine the relationship in order to be more responsive to current and emerging challenges.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. welcomes United States Vice President Kamala Harris in her courtesies call on 21 November 2022 at Malacanang Palace. (Photo courtesy of the Office of the President's Official Facebook Page)

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The Department organized the President's bilateral meetings for the incoming visits of Heads of States/Governments including Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe hold a bilateral meeting at the Malacañan Palace in Manila on 29 September 2022 during President Wickremesinghe's visit to the Philippines to participate in the Annual Governors Meeting of the Asian Development Bank. (Photo courtesy of President's Media Division of Sri Lanka)



Establishment of Diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the island country of Niue



President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. and Niue Premier Dalton Tagelagi sign the Joint Communiqué formally establishing diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Niue on 27 September 2022 at Malacañang Palace.

Of important note is the **establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the island country of Niue under the Marcos Administration.** The Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and Niue, facilitated by the DFA and signed by President Marcos and Niue Premier Dalton Tagelagi on 27 September 2022 at the Malacañang Palace, formally established the diplomatic relations between the two countries that signified their respective governments' resolve to develop friendly relations and foster cooperation. The intent to establish diplomatic relations with Niue is part of the wider thrust of the Philippine Government to broaden its engagement with Pacific island states, guided by a forward-looking policy and the principle of friendship towards all countries.

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The Philippines in ASEAN

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, 17 February 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. highlighted Philippine priorities on maritime security cooperation in ASEAN during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat. Attending the first meeting of ASEAN Foreign Ministers for the year under Cambodia's chairmanship, Secretary Locsin spoke on these priorities, highlighting maritime security cooperation as a key interest for the Philippines. Secretary Locsin offered for the Philippines to chair the 12th ASEAN Maritime Forum and the 10th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum to be held at the end of the year. Secretary Locsin also spoke on the political crisis in Myanmar, and welcomed the appointment of Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn as the new ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar.

ASEAN-US Special Summit, 12 - 13 May 2022, Washington D.C., USA

Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. represented the President in the ASEAN-US Special Summit. ASEAN and U.S. leaders exchanged views on various areas of cooperation including COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, maritime cooperation, people-to-people connectivity, digital technology and innovation, climate change, clean energy transformation, and sustainable infrastructure, among others. Secretary Locsin participated in discussions with members of the U.S. Congress and American business leaders, as well as attended a dinner hosted by President Joseph Biden, Jr. at the White House. The plenary sessions of the Special Summit was held at the State Department and attended by President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and select members of the Biden-Harris Administration.

55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings, 31 July - 06 August 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Philippines articulated its priorities and positions in the ministerial-level meetings with the 10 ASEAN Member States as well as ASEAN's 11 Dialogue Partners, specifically on maritime security as well as environmental protection and biodiversity. The meetings also saw exchanges of views on regional and international issues of common concern, including the situations in Myanmar, South China Sea, DPRK/Korean Peninsula, Ukraine, and promotion of human rights.

As Country Coordinator for ASEAN-European Union (EU) Dialogue Relations, the Philippines co-chaired the ASEAN-EU Post-Ministerial Conference with EU, which undertook a review of ASEAN-EU cooperation and exchange of views on the future of ASEAN-EU relations.

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55th ASEAN Anniversary and ASEAN Day Reception in conjunction with the ASEAN Coffee and Breakfast Festival, 10 August 2022, DFA



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo joined by the ambassadors and chargés d'affaires of ASEAN Embassies in Manila to commemorate the 55th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN

The ASEAN Day Reception, hosted by the DFA in celebration of the 55th Founding Anniversary of ASEAN and in compliance with Presidential Proclamation No. 282 dated 31 July 2017 declaring August of every year as ASEAN Month, was held in the DFA's Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini on 10 August 2022. This was the first in-person ASEAN Day celebration since the start of the pandemic. With the theme: *"ASEAN Youth: Embracing Identity Towards an Empowered Future"*, the Reception was attended by ambassadors and senior diplomats from ASEAN and ASEAN External Partners Embassies in Manila, Philippine government officials, ASEAN focal points, and guests from the private sector.

The Department, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines - Los Baños, and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), also held the ASEAN Tree Planting and Family Day event on 20 August 2022 at the ACB Headquarters and the University of the Philippines Los Baños Baker Field.

Senior Official Meetings (SOMs) with Dialogue Partners

The Philippines, facilitated by the ASEAN-Philippines National Secretariat at the DFA, continued its active engagement with ASEAN and its 11 Dialogue Partners (Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, ROK, New Zealand, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States), as well as continued to advance Philippine priorities through annual Senior Officials' Meetings. The SOMs are in preparation for the Ministerial Meetings and Plus One Summits to be held in the latter part of the year.

40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 10-13 November 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The ASEAN Leaders attended 13 Leaders'-level engagements at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits. The Philippines emphasized the need to reassert ASEAN Centrality amidst geopolitical dynamics in the region, adopted the Recommendations of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025

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Vision on strengthening ASEAN's capacity and institutional effectiveness to make ASEAN more decisive and responsive, and called on more serious steps in addressing climate change.



The President was welcomed by his fellow ASEAN Leaders as it was his first ASEAN Summit since his proclamation as the new President of the Republic of the Philippines.

The ASEAN Leaders had an interface with the Representatives of the ASEAN Inter-parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), ASEAN Youth, and ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) to discuss regional concerns. The ASEAN Leaders also met with the Heads of major International Organizations (IOs) for the 2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue and exchanged views on collaborative efforts toward a comprehensive post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery.

The ASEAN Leaders also met with Australia, China, India, Japan, ROK, United States, and the United Nations during their regular Summits. Moreover, ASEAN had its Commemorative Summit with Canada to celebrate 45 years of ASEAN-Canada relations. At these meetings, the Philippines articulated its national interests and commitment to working with ASEAN and its External Partners to find common ground to address the issues affecting our region and to strengthen cooperation.

The ASEAN Leaders agreed, in-principle, to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th member of ASEAN, granting Timor-Leste with observer status and to allow its participation in all ASEAN Meetings including the Summits.

2nd ASEAN Global Dialogue Post COVID-19 Comprehensive Recovery, 13 November 2022, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Leaders and the heads of major International Organizations (IOs) who attended the Second ASEAN Global Dialogue shared in-depth views on how ASEAN Member States can ensure good outcomes from their Post-COVID-19 recovery plans. The Leaders all agreed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the current geopolitical situation, the world is experiencing challenges in the economic and political arenas that are not confined within the borders of any one country. The Leaders emphasized the need to place people at the center of recovery and development and that, towards this end, investment in the protection of health and the education sector should be prioritized in order to raise human capital as well as productivity that will ultimately aid in the region's post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

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ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, 12-14 December 2022, Brussels, Belgium

The ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit, held on 14 December 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, was the first-ever 27+10 Leaders' Summit between the EU and ASEAN. The Summit demonstrated the increasingly close relationship between the world's two most advanced regional integration organizations, and provided guidance and momentum for future cooperation. The Philippines, as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations, shepherded the outcome document for the Summit.

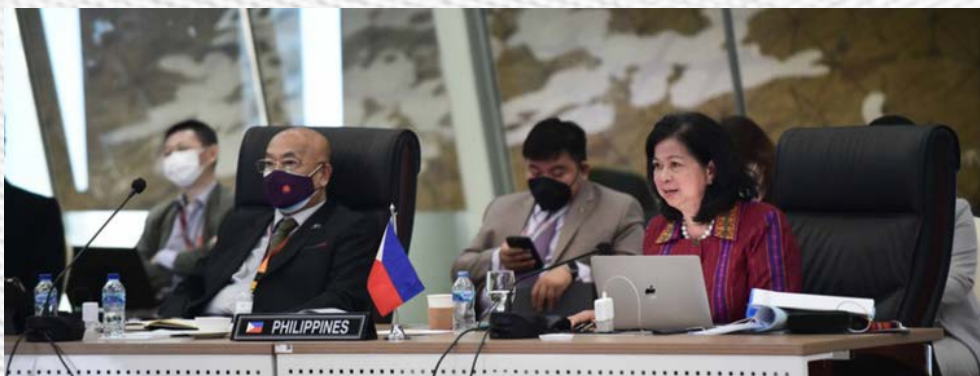
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Meetings

The Philippines participated in four (4) major meetings of AICHR, and supported initiatives that uphold the protection and promotion of human rights in the region, especially on matters related to freedom of opinion and expression, children's rights, technical cooperation with the United Nations, right to science, and environmental rights.

The Philippines also joined ASEAN in the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD.

High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV)

The Philippines actively engaged in five (5) major meetings of the HLTF-ACV, and committed to develop the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision which embodies the aspirations of the Leaders and the people of ASEAN beyond 2025, while pursuing a future-proof ASEAN amid geopolitical dynamics, economic challenges, major power rivalries, and regional and domestic challenges.



Ambassador Elizabeth P. Buensuceso (right) and Ambassador Luis T. Cruz (left), the Philippines' Representatives to the HLTF-ACV, discuss the future course of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision during the HLTF-ACV Meetings.

The Philippines successfully championed the inclusion of a section on the institutional strengthening of ASEAN in the core elements of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision. The Philippines has emphasized the importance of institutional reform

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especially for cross-pillar and cross-sectoral coordination, which would greatly contribute to the HLTF-ACV's holistic approach on the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision.

PH Hosting of ASEAN Events / Conferences

The Philippines hosted in Manila the following meetings and conferences, highlighting PH engagement on key priorities for cooperation within ASEAN:

- Third ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Sharing on 18-20 May 2022 was co-chaired by the Philippines, the United States and Australia, and was held in hybrid format. The activity was the last iteration of the workshop, the first of which was held physically in 2019 in Malaysia, while the second one was held virtually in 2021. Among the topics covered were challenges in counter-terrorism and aviation security in the region, tools such as Advance Passenger Information or API and Passenger Name Record or PNR, risk assessments and information sharing, watchlisting and its redress and human rights considerations, and sharing of best practices.



Participants of the Third ARF Workshop on Aviation Security and Information Security gather for a photo

- ARF Tabletop Exercise on Response Capabilities to CBRN Incidents on 13-15 June 2022 was co-chaired by the Philippines, the United States and the Republic of Korea. The three-day exercise focused on what international assistance ARF partners could provide prior to and during a biological incident, as well as critical national public health response best practices.



Participants of the ARF Tabletop Exercise on Response Capabilities to CBRN Incidents gather for a group photo.

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- East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Maritime Cooperation on 30 August - 01 September 2022 was held with the theme: “Technical and Scientific Cooperation towards Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Oceans”. The activity was attended by scientists, technical experts, diplomats, and representatives from EAS Participating Countries, as well as UN agencies (UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCAP) and other stakeholders in the EAS maritime sector. The Department also hosted a related meeting in 2019 entitled EAS Workshop on Maritime Cooperation: Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries Management on 17-19 November 2019 in Manila, which is the first EAS initiative on sustainable fisheries implemented under the Manila Plan of Action.



Delegates and speakers of the EAS Workshop on Maritime Cooperation join Undersecretary Ma. Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro for a group photo during the Opening Ceremony

- 12th ASEAN Maritime Forum and 10th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum on 06-07 December 2022 provided a venue for discussion on various cross-cutting maritime issues of common concern among ASEAN Member States (for the AMF) and with EAS Participating Countries (for the EAMF). The 12th AMF undertook a stocking of maritime-related activities in ASEAN, review of the implementation of the 1982 UNCLOS in its 40th anniversary, and exchange of views on regional maritime developments. As a Track 1.5 platform, the 10th EAMF, featured expert presentations and discussions on ASEAN’s implementation of UNCLOS, implications of sea-level rise, information exchange mechanisms, and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the region.



The Heads of Delegations to the 10th EAMF gather for a group photo



DFA-ASEAN Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Espiritu chairs one of the sessions during the 12th AMF

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Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo delivers his keynote message during the dinner that was held to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 UNCLOS.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Ratification of the RCEP Agreement

The Department of Foreign Affairs was instrumental in the Philippine Senate's concurrence on the President's ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement. This mega-trade agreement, which encompasses all ASEAN Members and its five free trade partners, namely, Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand, is a major step forward in strengthening ties between our regional neighbors.

The promotion and attainment of economic security is one of the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy. The Philippines' membership in RCEP is consistent with the mandate to achieve the foreign policy pillar through deepened economic engagements with the international economic community. RCEP will serve to enhance the movement of goods, services, and capital within the region and is expected to bring great benefit to the region's 2.29 Billion people, including the 110 million Filipinos, here and abroad.

The Philippines in APEC

The DFA led the Philippine Delegation in various ministerial and senior-level Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meetings; bilateral meetings with the APEC Executive Director and Senior Officials from Peru, Australia, Russia, China, and USA; and, dialogues on health, women and the economy. The Department also facilitated the President's participation in the APEC leaders-level meeting:

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UMAIER, led by APEC Senior Official Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta, attended a series of Bilateral Meetings in 2022 with the APEC Executive Director and Senior Officials from Peru, Australia, Russia, China, and USA

- APEC First Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM 1), 14-25 February 2022. APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo headed the Philippine Delegation in the APEC 2022 Virtual Meetings on SOM Committee on ECOTECH, Budget and Management Committee, and Policy Support Unit Board, as APEC National Secretariat oversaw other committees and working group meetings. Senior Officials had continued discussions on how to implement the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and Aotearoa Plan of Action via projects and initiatives through economic and technical cooperation referencing and expanding on the 1996 Manila Action Plan Agenda (MAPA).



APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo heads the Philippine Delegation in the APEC 2022 Meetings on SOM Committee on ECOTECH, Budget and Management Committee, and Policy Support Unit Board, as ANS oversaw other committees and working group meetings

- APEC Second Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM 2), 09-20 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. APEC Senior Official Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta headed the Philippine delegation with APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Tamayo to the Second Senior Officials' Meetings to endorse the proposals of the Philippines for a study and public dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on the maritime industry and crews and for a dialogue and compendium on inclusive travel towards a better normal.

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- APEC Ministers' Responsible for Trade Meeting, 21-22 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo presented at the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting about the Philippines' upcoming APEC projects in ensuring inclusive travel in the better normal, and in studies and policy dialogues on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the maritime sector and crews, areas of priority of the Philippines in APEC.



APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo presented at the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand about the Philippines' upcoming APEC projects in ensuring inclusive travel in the better normal, and in studies and policy dialogues on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the maritime sector and crews, areas of priority of the Philippines in APEC

- APEC Third Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM 3), 16-31 August 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Leading the Philippine delegation in APEC, Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta engaged with APEC member economies during the Third APEC Senior Officials meeting. The discussions among senior officials revolved around host Thailand's priorities such as the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, and the Bangkok Goals on Bio-Circular Green Economy, among others. The Philippines actively engages in the work of the Safe Passage Task Force which ensures the revival of safe cross-border travel. Philippine initiatives in this area include projects on maritime crew and maritime industry, and a compendium of practices in establishing safe passage towards a better normal.



APEC Senior Official Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta headed the Philippine delegation with ANS Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Tamayo and APEC Team to the Third Senior Officials' Meeting to discuss empowerment of MSMEs, access to climate finance, and capacity building and technical assistance towards transition

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- APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting, 19 August 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary, Ma. Esperanza Christina Frasco, headed the Philippine delegation, accompanied by Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary Verna Buensuceso, DOT Assistant Secretaries and the APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo to discuss concerns on the tourism sector of the APEC region, which was one of the most affected sectors during the pandemic, with the Philippines supporting the continuous opening up borders and facilitation of seamless travel across destinations to spur economic activity and people-to-people connectivity.
- APEC High-Level Policy Dialogue on Health and the Economy, 24-26 August 2022 in Phuket, Thailand. APEC National Secretariat Director General Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo together with the Department of Health Undersecretary Abdullah Dumama, Jr. headed the Philippine delegation to the High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy to engage in a conversation themed “Open to Partnership. Connect with the World. Balance Health and the Economy”.
- APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry (MMRF5), 23-25 August 2022 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo headed the Philippine delegation to the Fifth APEC Meeting of Ministries Responsible for Forestry and represented in-person the Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, to discuss the way forward of the Forestry Sector in the region, especially in the post COVID-19 era.
- APEC Food Security Ministerial Meeting, 26 August 2022. The Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban led the Philippine delegation and the APEC National Secretariat attended virtually at the 7th APEC Food Security Ministerial Meeting (FSMM) where the Implementation Plan of the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 was agreed and adopted.
- APEC Women and the Economy Forum (WEF): High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy (HLPDWE), 07 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. DTI Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona led the Philippine delegation, accompanied by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and APEC National Secretariat Director General Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo at the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women and the Economy to emphasize that advancing women’s economic empowerment contributes to strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth of all.
- SME Ministerial Meeting and APEC SME Week, 09-10 September 2022 in Phuket, Thailand. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona headed the Philippine delegation, accompanied by representatives from DFA at the SME Ministerial Meeting and APEC SME Week to share the Philippines’ efforts on facilitating capital provision for MSMEs such as the credit risk database initiative with Japan International Cooperation Agency and the DTI’s RiseUp multipurpose loan for MSMEs.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

- APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting (FMM), 19-20 October 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Philippine delegation was headed by Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, accompanied by DOF Assistant Secretary Neil Adrian Cabiles, other DOF personnel and the APEC National Secretariat to the Finance Ministers' Meeting to highlight the Philippines' priority goal for digitalization of tax administration and to affirm its commitment in continuing digitalization of operations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in order to enhance inflow of revenues and allow the government to stretch the fiscal space for its COVID-19 response programs.
- APEC Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM), 15-16 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. APEC 2022 Thailand kicked off the APEC Economic Leaders' Week in Bangkok, beginning with the Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM) with APEC Senior Official Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta heading the Philippine delegation with APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Tamayo to discuss priorities on safe passage of APEC maritime crew, capacitating MSMEs for inclusive growth, including implementation of recommendations from the final review of the Boracay Action Agenda.
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial Meeting, 17 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, together with Secretary for Trade and Industry Alfredo Espino Pascual, attended the APEC Ministerial Meeting as they shared the view of APEC economies for sustainable and inclusive growth to define our common path in charting unprecedented global challenges faced today.
- APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting on 18-19 November 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The President, together with Leaders of APEC Economies, concluded APEC 2022 at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, chaired by Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha under the theme "Open to Opportunities, Connect in All Dimensions. Balance in All Aspects." Accompanying President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. from DFA during the meeting were Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations and APEC PH Carlos D. Sorreta and UMAIER Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo.
- Informal Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM), 07-09 December 2022 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. APEC Philippines Senior Official Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta headed the Philippine Delegation in the APEC 2022 Informal Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM), hosted by the United States to propose its theme for APEC 2023, "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All", as it aims to focus on the region's interconnectivity, innovation, and inclusivity.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., together with APEC Leaders attend an outstanding Informal Dialogue with Guests chaired by Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, under the theme of “Promoting Sustainable Trade and Investment between APEC and its Trading Partners”. Accompanying President Marcos from DFA during the meeting were Secretary Enrique Manalo, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations and APEC PH Senior Official Carlos D. Sorreta, and DFA-UMAIER Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo.

Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM)

As Chair of the Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM), the APEC National Secretariat organized **four (4) TBAM Meetings and one (1) Special TBAM Meeting** in 2022 to discuss priority areas, activities and proposed actions of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum and its member economies.



Fourth Technical Board on APEC Matters (TBAM 4) Meeting led by APEC National Secretariat Director General Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The Philippines in the UN

International Agreements, Joint Declarations, and other Similar Documents

- Adoption of the Resolution to conclude a Global Plastics Pollution Treaty, 02 March 2022, Nairobi, Kenya. 175 nations, including the Philippines, agreed to begin writing a global treaty that would restrict the explosive growth of plastic pollution
- First Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. On 28 November-02 December 2022, the Philippines participated in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution at Punta del Este, Uruguay. The Philippine delegation was composed of government officials from the DENR and DFA. The Philippines called on Member States to address the root causes of plastic pollution rather than dwell on end-of-pipe solutions and emphasized that avoidance is the key. We also emphasized the need for global control measures that go beyond national and regional measures, which have proven insufficient to date.
- Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, 24 March 2022. The Philippines ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), reaffirming its support for efforts to address unregulated transfers of conventional arms and their illicit diversion to non-state actors, which pose a grave threat to global peace and security. PH signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on 25 September 2013 and ratified it on 24 March 2022, making the Philippines the first ASEAN country to ratify the said treaty.
- Ratification of Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) instruments, 10 May 2022. The Philippines ratified the Amendment to Article 1 and Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) on 10 May 2022. PH is the first ASEAN state to ratify the Amendment to Article 1 and the second ASEAN state to ratify Protocol V.
- Signing of the Legal Framework on the Complementary Pathways (Cpath) for Rohingya Refugees, June 2022. The Philippines signed the inter-agency Legal Framework on the Complementary Pathways (Cpath) for Rohingya Refugees in June 2022. Through the pilot Cpath, eligible Rohingya refugees are able to resettle in the Philippines through tertiary education. This program is being implemented in partnership with higher educational institutions and the private sector. The first batch of six Rohingya refugees arrived in September 2022. This initiative adds to the country's long humanitarian tradition supported by progressive policies and mechanisms that promote and protect the rights of refugees, stateless persons, and asylum seekers. The Philippines is a sanctuary to over 1,500 asylum seekers and refugees, having welcomed over a hundred in 2021 alone.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

- Deposit of the Philippines' Instrument of Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, 07 July 2022. The Philippines deposited the Instrument of Ratification to the convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts (UNECC) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 July 2022, at the sidelines of the 55th Annual Conference of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The Philippines signed the Convention on 25 September 2007 and the Instrument of Ratification on 31 May 2022.
- Signing of the Joint Declaration between the Philippines and UNIDO, 29 September 2022. The Philippines and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a Joint Declaration on 29 September 2022 reaffirming their commitment to advance sustainable economic development, particularly in the areas of food security, renewable energy, access to technology and innovation and partnership through trade and investment. The Joint Declaration was signed by Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos D. Sorreta and UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller during the latter's official visit to the Philippines.



Signing between DFA Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos D. Sorreta and UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller

- Deposit of the Philippine's Instrument of Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, 3 November 2022. On 03 November 2022, the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations deposited the instrument of ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and the instrument of accession to the 1958 Agreement to the United Nations in New York. With the ratification, the Philippines can pursue eliminating HFCs, which are currently used as replacements for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and CFCs), which are powerful greenhouse gasses. The ratification bolsters the Philippine pursuit of a climate-resilient and sustainable economy. It also strengthens the Montreal Protocol as a powerful tool against climate change.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

Participation in ongoing negotiations for international agreements/conventions

PH Participation in negotiations for the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

In 2017, the General Assembly (GA) decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), under the auspices of the UN, to consider the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the elements and to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.



Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Maria Angela A. Ponce delivers the Philippines' closing statement at the 5th Intergovernmental Conference on a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) at the United Nations Headquarters which took place from 15 to 26 August 2022. (Photo from New York PM)

The IGC-5, which was held in August 2022, was expected to be the last session for the BBNJ, given that this was already an additional session to the four sessions originally provided for by the GA and there was no provision for a sixth session. However, as consensus on a final text was not reached, the IGC President ended suspending the Session. The GA later authorized the reconvening on 20 February–03 March 2023.

At the IGC-5 closing session, the Philippines highlighted (1.) Its commitment to the BBNJ process; (2.) The distinct challenges of archipelagic states in terms of CBTMT; (3.) The need to address the fundamental principles and core issues in the Agreement over which there is no convergence in a manner that is inclusive, transparent and cognizant of the limitations and needs of all delegations; and (4.) The importance of concluding an Agreement that protects marine biodiversity in the ABNJ, provides for fair and equitable sharing of benefits and a CBTMT framework that facilitates the meaningful participation of developing States in the global effort to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The Department continues to host the inter-agency meetings in preparation of the official sessions, and to actively participate in the BBNJ negotiations. The further resumed IGC-5 session will be held on 19–20 June 2023 at UN Headquarters, New York. It is expected that the signing will take place sometime during the 78th session of the UNGA High-Level Week, which starts on 19 September 2023.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

PH Participation in negotiations for the Pandemic Treaty – Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) Meeting of the Pandemic Treaty, 05-07 December 2022

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO's 194 Member States adopted decision SSA2(5) entitled "Decision SSA2(5) on The World Together: Establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response" which established the INB to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement or another international instrument under the Constitution of the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response during its special session in December 2021, also known as the "pandemic treaty." The output of the INB process is intended to be a historic document that will help ensure that present and future generations are safe from the devastating effects of pandemics such as COVID-19.

The Department hosted the preparatory inter-agency meeting on 29 November 2022 to brief the concerned agencies such as DOH, NEDA, DTI, DOF, DENR, DA, DILG, DSWD, DOLE, DOJ, DICT and DBM, among others on the proposed Pandemic Treaty and also facilitated the PH delegation's participation, consolidated inputs and was instrumental in finalizing the Philippine statements articulating the PH positions on the conceptual zero draft of the Pandemic Treaty at the 3rd Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) Meeting held on 5-7 December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

PH Participation in the Negotiation for the draft text of UN Cybercrime Convention through an Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes (AHC-Cybercrime), February-March 2022

The Philippines participated in the negotiation for a new convention through the AHC-Cybercrime. The First Session of the AHC-Cybercrime was held from February to March 2022, where the Philippines expressed in its statement its decision to take an active part in the collective effort to draft the first universal and comprehensive international instrument to combat cybercrime. Envisioned outputs are (a) the finalized and approved draft text of a UN cybercrime convention and (b) an approved draft UN General Assembly resolution to which the draft convention will be annexed for adoption at the 78th UNGA Session in 2023.

Financial Contributions

Approval of the FY 2023 International Commitments Fund (ICF) Mandatory Contributions

UNIO, as the ICF Secretariat, convened the ICF Panel Review, chaired by the DFA, last March 2022 to endorse the ICF FY 2023 budget of PHP 3,678,325,187.00 funding Philippine memberships to 183 international organizations. ICF FY 2023 was approved by the Office of the President on 20 July 2022.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The Department, through UNIO, has also contributed to humanitarian response plans that used the ICF or the President's Contingency Funds. The Yemen Humanitarian Response is a yearly pledge the Philippines contributes under its ICF at the sum of USD 100,000.00 a year. Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis is another response plan that's part of the ICF Voluntary Contributions with the Philippines also pledging a sum of USD 100,000.00 annually.



The ICF Panel is co-chaired by the DFA and DBM with Members from NEDA, DOF and the Office of the Executive Secretary.

The UNOCHA/UNHCR: Joint launch of the Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is one example wherein USD 50,000.00 is to be pledged this year during the event that will be sourced from the Presidential Contingency Fund. This is similar to last year's pledge to the Humanitarian Flash Appeal for Ukraine where the Philippines pledged USD 100,000.00 that was sourced from the FY 2021 Presidential Contingency Fund.

Candidatures

[PH Election to the Governing Councils of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific \(SIAP\) and the Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technology for Development \(APCICT\), 24 and 26 May 2022, Bangkok, Thailand](#)

The Philippines was elected to the Governing Councils of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) on the sidelines of the 78th ESCAP on 24 and 26 May 2022. Elections for the Governing Councils of the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) and the Asian and Pacific Center for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) were also held on 24 May 2022.

[Election of NAMRIA Deputy Administrator Efren P. Carandang to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf \(CLCS\) for term 2023-2028](#)

Philippine candidate to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), Deputy Administrator Efren P. Carandang of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), was elected for the term 2023-2028 at elections held at the UN General Assembly Hall in New York on 15 June 2022.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The CLCS is a body of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) tasked to facilitate the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The Philippines' re-election to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Region E (Asia and Australasia for the term 2023-2026).

The Philippines won a seat in its bid for re-election at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council under Region E (Asia and Australasia) for the term 2023-2026 at elections on 03 October 2022 held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 at the Palace of Parliament, Bucharest, Romania. The ITU is a United Nations specialized agency in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that the Philippines has been a member of since 1912. The ITU Council is the Union's governing body tasked to decide on the day-to-day activities in between the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences. The ITU Council prepares the strategic and policy planning of the Union, ensures proper and efficient implementation of programs and activities, and approves the budget of the Union.



The Philippine delegation led by the Secretary of Information and Communications Technology Ivan John Uy (center). The delegation included representatives from DFA-UNIO and Geneva PM.

PH Chairmanship of Key Meetings

PH's Chairmanship of the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (9th APFSD), 28-31 March 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

The 9th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development was chaired by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua of the Philippines, with the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific." The forum included the election of members and the presentation of the ESCAP Secretariat's update on the progress toward achieving the SDGs in Asia and the Pacific. It also organized round tables on the challenges and priority actions of certain goals and considered the experiences of Member States, including the Philippines, in their respective preparations of Voluntary National Reviews for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2022.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

PH Chairmanship of the 55th Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development, 25-29 April 2022

Former Ambassador and now the Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo was elected Chair of the 55th session of the UN Commission on Population and Development. The PH chairmanship reaffirmed the strong commitment of the Philippines to protecting and advancing the gains of the 1994 Program of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which underscores the integral and mutually reinforcing linkages between population and development.

PH Chairmanship of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS8)

The Philippine delegation to the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS8) held on 27 June to 01 July 2022 in New York underscored the importance of responsible disposal of weapons and mainstreaming of a gender perspective by including gender and youth-based action plans in the implementation of the said Programme of Action (PoA). BMS8 was chaired by the Philippines under the leadership of former Ambassador and Permanent Representative Enrique A. Manalo of the Philippine Mission, now Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.

9th Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Review Conference (RevCon) held on 28 November - 16 December 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland

At the 9th BWC Review Conference, the Philippines, through Geneva PM Third Secretary Jonelle John S. Domingo, served as the Vice-Chair of the Drafting Committee of the Final Document.

PH Participation in Key Meetings, Conferences, and Forums

Third PH Voluntary National Review (VNR) during the 2022 ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, 05-07, 11-15 and 18 July 2022, New York, U.S.A.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo presented the Philippines' third Voluntary National Review during the High Level Political Forum on 12 July 2022 where he highlighted the Philippines' progress towards achieving SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 14: Life below water, SDG 15: Life on land, and SDG 17: Partnerships. During his presentation, he also underscored the Philippines' commitment to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The Philippines was one of 45 countries that presented their VNRs during the forum. During the forum, the Philippines also served as one of the Co-Chairs, together with Morocco, of the Group of Friends of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) which assisted VNR presenters in its preparations for their VNRs including the convening of workshops, preparatory coordination meeting and identifying “friends” for the VNR presenters.

PH contributions to the Substantive Sessions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), 14 February to 11 March 2022

The Philippines participated in the 2022 Substantive Sessions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) held from 14 February to 11 March 2022. Composed of over 150 Member States, the C-34 is a unique forum that brings together all UN troop-and-police-contributing countries (T/PCCs), financial contributors, and host nations to address challenging and sensitive peacekeeping issues. PH, through NYPM Minister Angelito Nayan, served as a co-facilitator for the chapters on Politics and Safety & Security.

53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC53), 28 February 2023 - 02, and 04 March 2022

The Philippines, represented by the Philippine Statistics Authority, delivered 13 interventions during the 53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which highlighted the Philippines’ best practices in statistical data management and emphasized the importance of identifying indicators for development that transcend traditional yardsticks such as GDP and GNI. During the session, the Philippines emphasized how innovations in data collection, management, and analysis can contribute to sustainable development.

PH Participation on the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) held in New York, USA on 14-25 March 2022

The Philippine delegation to the CSW66 was headed by then Permanent Representative to the UN, then Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Chairperson Sandra Sanchez-Montano and included representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Agriculture, DFA-UNIO, among others, in addition to representatives from NYPM. The delegation participated actively in Ministerial Roundtables, interactive dialogues, and side events and delivered statements that outlined Philippine initiatives relevant to the CSW theme.



DFA-UNIO Director Christina Gracia Rolamckernan at the CSW Feedback Forum

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum, 19–20 April 2022, New York, U.S.A.

The Philippines participated in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum on the theme of ECOSOC and the 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”. Urdaneta City University Professor Jefferson M. Delmendo and Loyola High School Don Carlos, Bukidnon High School Teacher Previa Tirza H. Saac represented PH youth and delivered the Youth PH Statement.

The forum provided a platform for young leaders to engage in a dialogue among themselves and with Member States on advancing youth priorities and vision at the national, regional and global levels in order to identify effective ways in strengthening COVID-19 recovery efforts.

2022 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, 25–28 April 2022, New York, U.S.A.

The 2022 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Financing for Development Follow-up (FfD) Forum is an intergovernmental process with universal participation aimed at reviewing financing for development outcomes and means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the 2023 FfD Forum, the Philippines shared its experience and best practices in financing development during the pandemic for economic recovery and the achievement of the country's development goals. The country emphasized the need for efficient and sound fiscal policies, international assistance to improve vaccine access, and cooperation to achieve green, resilient, and inclusive development.

The Philippines also highlighted its Comprehensive Tax Reforms Program and the importance of robust and shock-ready fiscal positions to ensure a sustainable and inclusive recovery. Additionally, the country expressed support for the FFD outcome document but disassociated from a paragraph that excluded the recognition of the challenges faced by middle-income countries in trade logistics disruption.

78th Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Session, 23–27 May 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

The 78th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in Bangkok with the theme “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.” Discussions were held on strengthening regional cooperation to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and build resilience in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The Philippine delegation was led by Secretary of the National and Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Karl Kendrick T. Chua, who delivered a special message from former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. The Philippine government shared its efforts towards ending extreme poverty and promoting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Philippines was also elected to the Governing Councils of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and the Asian and Pacific Training Center for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) during the session.

PH Participation at the First Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons- First Meeting of States Parties (TPNW-IMSP) was convened on 21- 23 June 2022 at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria. The Philippine delegation was headed by Ambassador Irene Susan B. Natividad, CDA of the Philippine Embassy in Vienna and Acting PR to the UN in Vienna, as well as representatives from UNIO, Geneva PM, and Vienna PM.

PH Participation at the Tenth Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (10th NPT RevCon), 01-26 August 2022, New York, U.S.A.

The Tenth Review Conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (10th NPT RevCon) was convened on 01- 26 August 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The 2022 10th NPT Review Conference and 191 NPT States have failed in their ultimate goal of reaching a consensus and adopting the final substantive outcome document at a time of heightened global geopolitical tensions when the world needs an NPT consensus outcome document the most. The official Philippine delegation was headed by OUMAIER Acting Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta, with representatives from UNIO, Geneva PM, and Vienna PM.

PH Participation at the 8th Conference of State Parties (CSP8) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), 22-26 August 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

The 8th Conference of State Parties (CSP8) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) was held on 22-26 August 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Philippines participated for the first time as a State Party, its ratification of the ATT having taken effect on 22 June 2022. In his statement, Permanent Representative Evan Garcia emphasized the Philippines' commitment to the Treaty even before its ratification, as well as views on how vital the Treaty is to global peace and security.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, 10–13 October 2023, Rome, Italy

The President and Secretary of Agriculture Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. delivered a message via video recording on the Ministerial Segment on Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis – The State of Food Security in the World 2022 during the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. In his speech, the President underscored the importance of overcoming the threats to global food security, the need for a collective response in helping address hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, and the critical role of FAO in ensuring the unhampered flow of food and agricultural commodities for the benefit of all.

Department of Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban also delivered the Philippine Statement during the Plenary Session of the CFS50, where he reiterated the President’s message in calling for a coordinated effort to address widespread food insecurity. He also emphasized the inextricable link between climate change and food insecurity, highlighting how agriculture-dependent developing countries are the most vulnerable to shocks induced by climate change and conflict.

World Food Forum, 17 October 2022, Rome, Italy

Dr. William D. Dar, former Secretary of Agriculture, delivered remarks as a keynote speaker in the opening of the World Food Forum (WFF) on 17 October 2022. The WFF is a multistakeholder forum coordinated by FAO and aims to encourage greater youth involvement in developing robust and resilient agrifood systems. Dr. Dar’s address focused on the topic “Transformation of rice-based agrifood systems in the Philippines. Dr. Dar urged all stakeholders to work together in order to accelerate the transformation of our agrifood systems to achieve the Agenda 2030. He encouraged the youth to become agri-fisheries leaders, scientists and researchers, as well as influence policymakers and non-profit organizations to take action against the threats of climate change in food security.

United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 27), 06–18 November 2022, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

The Philippine delegation worked relentlessly to embed and safeguard the country’s positions on climate change negotiations which are reflected in the draft outcome document of the UNFCCC COP27, particularly on the breakthrough agreement to provide “loss and damage” funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters. This agreement is significant and critical for the Philippines to secure climate finance. Other notable achievements for the Philippines include the retention of emission avoidance (EA) as one of the mitigation options; the introduction of the words “scientific knowledge” instead of “information” to enhance the text to include “indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge”, among others.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



Ambassador Ezzedin Tago delivers the Philippine National Statement at COP27 (left); The Philippine delegation led by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga with representatives from DENR, DFA, DOF, DA, DILG, and CCC (right)

Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention of Biological Diversity and other related meetings held on 07-19 December 2022 in Montreal, Canada

The Philippine delegation in its national statements reaffirmed our firm commitment to continue the work to address remaining gaps and to implement the ambitious and transformative Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which recognizes the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as well as the synergies of addressing biodiversity loss and climate change.



The Philippine delegation led by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga (fourth from left) with representatives from DENR, DFA, DOST, and DA

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was finally adopted after extended discussions, consultations and negotiations held from 2019 to 2022. The framework envisions that “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

Courtesy Calls and Visits

Joint Courtesy Call of the Heads of Philippine-based UN Office, 09 September 2022, DFA-Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini (BAM)

The UN Country Team paid a joint courtesy call to Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo to update the Department on their programs and priorities in the country and to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership between the Philippine Government and the UN Country Team (UNCT).

During the call, Secretary Manalo urged the UNCT to work in a coordinated and integrated manner in order to maximize their impact on the ground. He also urged the UNCT to work closely with the DFA, NEDA, and other Philippine government agencies in crafting the next UN Cooperation Framework and to make sure that this Cooperation Framework is anchored on the Philippine Development Plan.



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo receives the joint courtesy call of the Heads of the Philippine-based UN Office urging them to work closely together with Philippine national agencies

Courtesy Call of World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on President Ferdinand Marcos, 25 October 2022

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General (DG) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on the President on 25 October 2022 at the sidelines of the WHO Regional Meeting for the Western Pacific held in Manila on 24-28 October 2022.

UNIO facilitated the arrangements for the meeting with the President. The call provided an opportunity for the President to discuss PH efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO support for national health initiatives and priorities, activities of the Manila-based WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), and other issues, such as the proposed global pandemic treaty.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus paid a courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos on 25 October 2022



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo (left) and World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General (DG) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right)

Courtesy call of Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific on the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 25 October 2022, DFA- OSEC Conference Room

Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, traveled to the Philippines for an official visit on 22–28 October 2022.

Ms. Wignaraja paid a courtesy call to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs on 25 October 2022. Ms. Wignaraja inquired regarding the DFA perspective on the emerging priorities of the country, explored new opportunities for cooperation in support of the SDGs and discussed the UNDP programs in the Philippines. Ms. Wignaraja welcomed the Secretary's views on the shared priorities between the Philippines and UNDP, particularly on COVID-19 response and recovery, climate action, renewable energy transition, and the development trajectory of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region

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in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Ms. Wignaraja assured the Secretary that the strategic priorities of the UNDP's Country Programme Framework for the next development framework will continue to support the Philippines' national priorities.

Country Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Mama Fatima Singhateh, 28 November-09 December 2022

UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children Mama Fatima Singhateh visited the Philippines on 28 November to 09 December 2022. The Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS) and CWC are the lead agencies for the country visit.



Photos during the visit of UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, Mama Fatima Singhateh

Human Rights Reviews, Reports, and Revalidas

The Department facilitated the participation of Secretary of Justice (SOJ) Jesus Crispin Remulla during various human rights reviews and revalidas in Geneva, Switzerland where he underscored the new Administration's full cognizance of the pressing human rights challenges and its determination to address them, with the overarching objective of dispensing "real justice in real time". He cited that DOJ has initiated efforts toward the transformational reforms of justice mechanisms and processes, with an emphasis on inclusivity and social justice. Among these key efforts include the following:

- **Decongestion of jails** and ensuring humane treatment for **Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs)** including through a comprehensive administrative review of all prisoner records to facilitate releasing those whose detention was no longer justified. Around 5,000 PDLs are targeted for release by June 2023.
- Enhanced coordination between **prosecutors and law enforcement** to streamline investigative processes, facilitate case build-up in order to improve the quality of cases and chances of success in prosecution.
- Continued work of the **DOJ Review Panel on cases of deaths arising from the anti-illegal drug campaign**. Strengthened witness protection program is pursued to encourage CSOs, witnesses, and families of victims to come forward and file appropriate cases. Forty-six (46) police officers were charged in court from the 302 cases which were referred to the NBI for case buildup. From the

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past drug operations, 222 police officers were found administratively liable and suspended from the service.

- Strengthening programs on **rehabilitation, prevention, education and assistance to drug victims and their families** as part of the anti-illegal drug campaign, as directed by President Marcos, and
- Furthering the State's commitment to the **UN Joint Program on Human Rights (UNJP)** which provides an inclusive platform for cooperation with multi-stakeholders on programs on accountability, rule of law, and human rights.

The 51st Human Rights Council Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Philippines (HRC51-EID), 5 October 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

The HRC 51 Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on PH which was held on 5 October 2022 marked the completion of the HRC mandate on PH or the formal termination of the HRC resolution 45/33 on "Technical cooperation and capacity-building for human rights promotion and protection in the Philippines." This is a platform on which the state will impart a strong message through the Enhanced Interactive Dialogue, our continued and unwavering commitment to accountability, human rights and rule of law. The Philippine delegation was led by Secretary of Justice Jesus Crispin Remulla.

- Online Publication of the Philippine Human Rights Report 2020-2022
- Conduct of Virtual Diplomatic Briefings on Human Rights in Manila and Geneva
- Demarches by Philippine Foreign Service Posts



Philippines' Constructive Dialogue/ Revalida with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Revalida), 13-14 September 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

CRC Revalida is part of the State's obligatory reporting to human rights treaty bodies on its compliance to Conventions to which the Philippines is a State Party. The Revalida presents an opportunity to address issues pertaining to the State's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Philippine delegation was led by CWC Undersecretary Angelo M. Tapales.

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Philippines' Constructive Dialogue/Revalida with the Human Rights Committee, 10-11 October 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

ICCPR Revalida is part of the State's obligatory reporting to human rights treaty bodies on its compliance with Conventions to which the Philippines is a State Party. The Revalida presents an opportunity to address issues pertaining to the State's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Philippine delegation was led by Secretary of Justice Jesus Crispin Remulla.



4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Philippines, 14 November 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

The UPR is considered the "crown jewel" of the UN human rights mechanisms in that it provides a platform where the human rights records of all 196 UN member states are reviewed by peers in a constructive manner. The Philippine delegation was led by Secretary of Justice Jesus Crispin Remulla.



The Philippine delegation led by Secretary of Justice Jesus Crispin Remulla (center) with the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva Permanent Representative and Ambassador Evan P. Garcia (right)

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Special Events

[Joint Ceremonial Exchange of Notes for the Japan-funded initiatives with the World Food Programme \(WFP\) and the Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\), 31 August 2022, DFA Lobby](#)

The Department hosted the Joint Ceremonial Exchange of Notes between the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Japanese Embassy for two projects aimed at rehabilitating typhoon-affected farming and fishing communities in the Philippines as well as boosting agricultural productivity in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The initiatives, collectively worth around Php 350 million in investments, are expected to benefit approximately 4,000 small-scale coconut farming and fishing households (around 20,000 individuals) in Regions VII, VIII and XIII, as well as 7,500 smallholder fisher and farmer families (37,500 individuals) in BARMM.



Ceremonial exchange of notes with the World Food Programme (left) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (right)

[United Nations Day Reception, 24 November 2022, DFA-Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini](#)

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo hosted a merienda-cena reception to commemorate the 77th founding anniversary of the United Nations on 24 November 2022 at the DFA-Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini. The event was coordinated by the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations (UNIO). A total of 82 guests attended the event which included the Diplomatic Corps, Heads of International Organizations and other representatives of PH government agencies.



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo delivering his welcome speech for the UN Day 2022

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Minister and Senior Official-Level Bilateral and Multilateral Engagements

Minister and senior official level bilateral and multilateral engagements were also pursued by the DFA, including the following:

- Working Visit of Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, 13-15 February 2022, Manila. Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. met with Minister Jaishankar and discussed cooperation in defense and security, maritime security, renewable energy, health, space, cybersecurity, counterterrorism, and trade and investment.

Former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (right) receives Indian Minister of External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (left) during his Working Visit in February 2022. (DFA-OPCD Photo by Philip Fernandez)



- Inaugural Philippines-UK Consular Dialogue, 16 February 2022, Pasay City, Philippines. OEA Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda headed the Philippine delegation to the Inaugural PH-UK Consular Dialogue held on 16 February 2022 via videoconference. The Dialogue was held to discuss issues of common consular concerns, including PH's that zeroed in on passport issues, civil registry concerns, assistance to nationals and other general concerns (e.g., points of contacts, regular meetings with UK Consular officials).

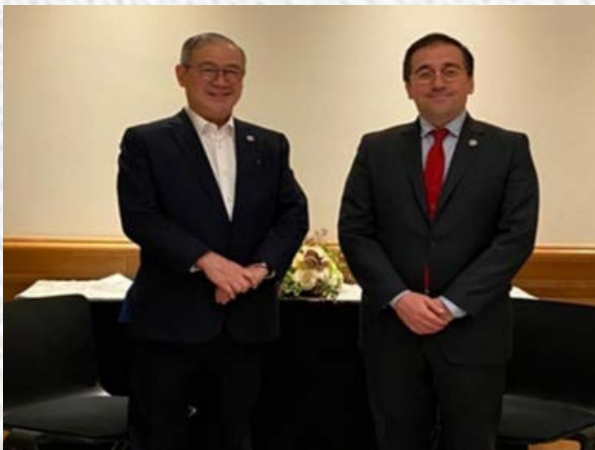


Inaugural Philippines-UK Consular Dialogue, 16 February 2022, Pasay City

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- Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, 22 February 2022, Paris, France. Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. attended the Forum, which was co-chaired by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and EU High Representative and Vice President (HR/VP) Josep Borrell. Twenty-seven (27) EU Foreign Ministers and around thirty (30) Foreign Ministers from the Indo-Pacific region participated in the Forum to identify areas for cooperation in light of the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Global Gateway Strategy.
- Bilateral Meeting between former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., and his Spanish counterpart, Jose Manuel Albares, at the sidelines of the Ministerial Forum on the Indo-Pacific, 22 February 2022, Paris, France. Both officials discussed bilateral and multilateral matters, particularly areas of defense, economic, and development cooperation, as well as shared cultural and consular concerns. They also discussed updates on the Philippines' COVID-19 response, leading Locsin to thank Spain for its vaccine donation. Locsin and Albares also exchanged views on regional and international issues such as developments in the West Philippine Sea / South China Sea and PH-EU relations.



Former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (left), and his Spanish counterpart, Jose Manuel Albares (right), during their bilateral meeting at the sidelines of the Ministerial Forum on the Indo-Pacific, 22 February 2022, Paris, France

- Working visit of H.E. Yang Yanyi, Representative of State Councilor and Foreign Ministry Wang Yi, 27 February 2022. H.E. Yang Yanyi conducted a four-day working visit to the Philippines and met with Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro to discuss a wide range of topics concerning ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations.
- Official Visit to Morocco for the 2nd PH-Morocco Political Consultations, 17 March 2022. Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. took his introductory official visit to Morocco on 17 March 2022 where he was received by the Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita. During the visit, several agreements were concluded including formalizing the establishment of a bilateral political mechanism (political consultations), air agreement, cooperation between foreign diplomatic institutes, and news agency agreement.
- Visit of former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. to Huangshan, Anhui Province, China, 02 to 04 April 2022. Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs

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Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. met with State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and they exchanged views on the South China Sea issue, and believed that maritime issues should be put in a proper place in bilateral relations. SCFM Wang Yi said that China is ready to work with other parties to take the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) as an opportunity to pool consensus on peace and stability, step up consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC), and make joint efforts to build the South China Sea into a sea of peace and cooperation. Secretary Locsin said that the Philippines is ready to strengthen communication and make joint efforts with China.



Former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. (left), and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during the former's visit to Huangshan, Anhui Province, China on 02 to 04 April 2022.

- PH-Japan Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting, 9 April 2022, Tokyo. Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and Secretary for Defense Delfin Lorenzana met with their Japanese counterparts Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa and Defense Minister Kishi Nobuo for the first 2+2 Meeting between the two countries. The high-level 2+2 mechanism – the second for PH and the ninth for Japan -- is a key aspect of the strong PH-Japan Strategic Partnership, and is a natural progression in their deepening political and security engagement 65 years into their diplomatic relations. To further strengthen overall defense relations, the 2+2 agreed to explore frameworks to facilitate reciprocal visits and provisions of logistical support through a possible reciprocal access agreement / status of visiting forces agreement, and an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement / mutual logistics support agreement. However, as these frameworks need time, the two defense ministers agreed to prioritize concluding an umbrella Terms of Reference (TOR) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) to allow them to conduct military-military HADR activities without having to conclude a TOR for each activity.

During this visit, then Secretary Locsin and then Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana paid a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

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Left photo: Former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. met face-to-face officially for the first time with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa in a bilateral meeting following the inaugural 2+2 Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting on 09 April 2022. (Photo courtesy of MOFA, Japan); Right photo: Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and then Secretary for Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana meet with Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio (Photo courtesy of MOFA, Japan)

- Courtesy Calls of US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 9 June 2022. Discussed during the meetings are the Philippines' economic priorities under the new administration, regional developments, people-to-people ties, human rights and good governance. Deputy Secretary Sherman expressed eagerness to work with the then-presumptive president and cited the shared history of the longtime treaty allies.



Then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. meet with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman on 9 June 2022. (Photo courtesy of OPCD)

- Official Visit of Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. to India, 23-26 April 2022. On 23-26 April 2022, then Secretary Locsin undertook an official visit to India and participated in the 7th Edition of the Raisina Dialogue.

The Secretary shared his thoughts on the current world order and how it is still being held together by liberalism, and the role of national interest in the behavior of states and democracies. Later that day, the Secretary joined other Foreign Ministers attending the Dialogue in a joint courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Secretary also had a bilateral meeting with Indian Foreign Minister

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Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The two officials discussed important progress in various bilateral cooperative activities since their February 2022 meeting, and also looked into new areas of cooperation such as cybersecurity and science and technology. The two Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual concern.

Secretary Locsin and Minister Jaishankar witnessed the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters, which aims to strengthen, promote and develop cooperation and mutual assistance on matters pertaining to customs between the two parties.



Then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. spurs momentum in Bilateral Ties with India Visit. SFA receives a warm welcome from Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (right) upon his arrival at the Hyderabad House (left photo), followed by a bilateral meeting (right photo). (Photos courtesy of Ministry of External Affairs, India)

- Prague High-level Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific, 13-14 June 2022, Prague, Czech Republic. The Prague High-level Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific was organized by the Czech Republic in view of its six-month Presidency of the EU Council which commenced on 01 July 2022. Then OEA Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda of the Office of European Affairs represented the Philippines in the Dialogue. The event was conceptualized as a “bridging event” between the French and Czech presidencies and sought to deepen the EU’s engagement in the Indo-Pacific. Six roundtable discussions were organized over two days, with Assistant Secretary Ledda delivering an intervention during Roundtable II: Synergies in Indo-Pacific Strategies.
- Visit of H.E. Amar Belani, Algerian Vice Minister for Western Sahara and the Maghreb Countries, 15 June 2022. Algerian Vice Minister for Western Sahara and the Maghreb Countries Amar Belai visited the Philippines as part of an official trip to several ASEAN countries in line with the Algerian government’s thrust to expand relations in the Southeast Asian region. Undersecretary for Bilateral and

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ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro and Vice Minister Amar Belani at the DFA on 15 June 2022 in which both officials reviewed the status of relations and outlined a plan to reinvigorate ties including the conduct of regular high-level visits and exchanges.

- Visit of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, 05-06 July 2022. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister (SCFM) Wang Yi paid a courtesy call on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., and the two officials discussed agriculture, energy, and their commitment in maintaining a strong bilateral relationship between the two countries.



During the bilateral discussions on 06 July 2022 between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and SCFM, Secretary Manalao outlined his priorities with regard to Philippines-China relations, including strengthening economic ties and the closing of the trade gap between the two countries, and the revival of people-to-people exchanges through tourism, the resumption of flights, and the exchanges of students, teachers, and workers as the two countries move towards a post-pandemic normal. In his remarks, SCFM Wang said that China looks forward to working with the Philippines on key aspects of the bilateral relations, specifically on cooperation in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, energy, and people-to-people exchange. The two ministers also exchanged views on regional issues over a working lunch, in particular ASEAN-China relations and China's Global Development Initiative.

SCFM Wang also paid courtesy calls on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte and National Security Adviser Clarita R. Carlos.

- Official Visit of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, 06 August 2022. On 06 August 2022, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the Philippines and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs echoed the message of the President on the imperative of attracting capital-intensive investments in infrastructure, as well as to mitigate the effects of the food security issues arising from climate change and the conflict in Ukraine. Both Secretaries agreed to flesh out further opportunities for enhanced cooperation that would support efforts to promote resilient supply chains, health systems, and infrastructures, as well as opportunities to collaborate in marine resource management and clean energy, particularly nuclear energy. This will be pursued bilaterally and as a country partner within the context of the United States-led Indo-Pacific Economic

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Framework (IPEF). They also discussed better methods to address current and emerging security threats and cross-cutting challenges.

U.S. Secretary of State Blinken also called on the President who expressed that the relationship of the Philippines and the U.S. will continue to evolve in the face of current changes.



United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken paid a courtesy call on President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on 21 November 2022 at Malacanang Palace (Photo courtesy of the Office of the President's Official Facebook Page)



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a virtual meeting on 6 August 2022

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- Visit of the U.S. Congressional Delegation, 17–19 August 2022. U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA) led a bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation on a swing of visits around the region, including the Philippines on 17–19 August 2022. The delegation includes four (4) other legislators, Representatives Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa).

The delegation met with Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and discussed among others issues related to China, climate change, and human rights.

- Official Visit of H.E. Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, 26–29 August 2022. During Minister Liu’s meeting with Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, the two sides discussed infrastructure, agriculture, energy, and people-to-people cooperation, as raised by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, as the two countries pursue a new “golden age” in relations under the new Administration. Other issues discussed were maritime cooperation, Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, Taiwan, and climate change. Minister Liu also paid courtesy calls on Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Senator Aquilino Martin Pimentel, and Senator Imee Marcos.

- Meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Dendias at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, 17 September 2022. Secretary Manalo and FM Dendias discussed opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of defense, maritime, and people-to-people engagements, among others.



- Meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Norwegian Foreign Minister Annika Huitfeldt, United Nations General Assembly, 19 September 2022. Secretary Manalo and FM Huitfeldt discussed Norway’s expertise on renewable sources of energy, particularly on hydro, solar and offshore wind, building on President Marcos’ meeting with Ambassador Jahnsen held in August 2022. The meeting also explored avenues of cooperation on enhancing academic and university exchanges and the mutual recognition of academic credentials, specifically for Filipino nurses and healthcare workers.

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- Visit of the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 28-29 September 2022. His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud met with Secretary Enrique A. Manalo who expressed his appreciation for the Foreign Minister's visit noting the depth of PH-KSA relations which was seen in numerous high-level visits and partnerships in various sectors. Prince Faisal affirmed that the Kingdom will continue to work hand-in-hand with the Philippines on areas of mutual interest. The two Ministers discussed various areas of cooperation with the end goal of strengthening PH-KSA bilateral ties.



Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo meets with H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the latter's visit to the Philippines

- Philippines-France Inter-Parliamentary Meeting and meetings at the sidelines, 25-27 October 2022, Paris, France. An 8-member delegation from the Philippine Senate, led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, visited Paris for inter-parliamentary engagements, one of the pillars of Philippines-French relations. The delegation met members of the French lower house, the National Assembly, as well as their counterparts in the French Senate, the latter led by Senate President Gérard Larcher. Discussion revolved around post-pandemic economic recovery, as well as the status of current and exploration of future areas of cooperation. The Philippine delegation also met with representatives of French companies to discuss possible partnerships that may lead to investments, job creation, and transfer of technology and know-how to the Philippines and Filipinos.

The Philippine Senate, led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, with Ambassador to France Junever Mahilum-West during the Philippines-France Inter-Parliamentary Meeting and meetings at the sidelines held on 25-27 October 2022 in Paris, France



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- PH-EU Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM), 27 October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. The PH-EU IPM meeting was co-chaired by MEP Daniel Caspary, Head of DASE delegation of the European Parliament (EP), Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” M. Angara, Head of the Philippine Senate delegation, and Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto, Head of the House of Representatives delegation. The two sides discussed global and regional security issues including the situation in Ukraine as well as recent developments in PH-EU bilateral cooperation.



The Philippine delegation, led by Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara and Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto, during the PH-EU Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM) held on 27 October 2022 in Brussels, Belgium

- Inbound High Level Visit through the Nigeria Trade Mission in Manila, 14 -18 November 2022. The 1st PH-Nigeria Business Forum and Women in Leadership Summit was organized by the Nigerian Embassy in Manila in cooperation with the Office of Middle East and African Affairs in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Philippines-Nigeria Diplomatic Relations and was held from 14 to 18 November 2022 at Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati. It was attended by several prominent Nigerian dignitaries namely, Minister of State Niger Delta, Minister of Women Affairs and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Niger Delta.
- Inbound High Level Meeting through the successful Iraqi Trade Mission - Erbil Business Delegation to Kurdistan, Iraq, 23-28 November 2022. The Philippine Embassy in Baghdad, in cooperation with the Philippine Honorary Consul in Kurdistan, brought the first ever Iraqi-Kurdistan diplomatic and trade mission to the Philippines to showcase Philippine products and business opportunities in the country. The Kurdistan officials met with counterparts from the Departments of Trade and Industry and Tourism, and held B2B meetings with representatives from the healthcare (HIMAP or Healthcare Information Management association of the Philippines) and real estate sectors in the Philippines (SMDC). Part of the itinerary of the delegation included visits and meetings at the following business destinations: top furniture makers in Makati City, Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ), Peter Paul Philippines’ coconut water processing facility. The delegation also had an orientation and product tasting/tour of Philippine craft distillers Inc., coconut farm/Lambanog facility.

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- [Briefing for EU Missions on PH Compliance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers \(STCW\) Convention, 1978, as amended, 09 December 2022, Manila.](#) DOTR-MARINA organized a briefing for EU Missions in Manila on the Philippines' compliance with the STCW Convention on 09 December 2022 at Manila Diamond Hotel. Secretary Enrique A. Manalo of DFA delivered the opening remarks, while Secretary Jaime Bautista of DOTR delivered the closing remarks. MARINA led the briefing with a presentation on PH compliance with the STCW convention.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo delivers his remarks during the Briefing for EU Missions on PH Compliance with the STCW Convention held on 09 December 2022 at the Manila Diamond Hotel

- [Bilateral Meetings at the Sidelines of the UNGA, September 2022.](#) Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo met with Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Park Jin, Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah, UAE Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, Serbian Foreign Minister Nikola Nikola Selaković, Greek Foreign Minister Nikolaos Dendias and Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau.



Bilateral Meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Hungarian Foreign and Trade Minister Peter Szijjarto at the sidelines of the UNGA 77 HLW, 21 September 2022, New York, U.S.A.

- [Bilateral Meetings at the Sidelines of the ASEAN Special Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 27 October 2022.](#) Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo held bilateral meetings with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai.

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- Bilateral Meetings at the Sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 11-13 November 2022. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo held bilateral meetings with Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Indian Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, and Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo congratulates Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Ukraine's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit on 10 November 2022 in Phnom Penh.



- Bilateral Meetings at the Sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 18 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand. Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo met with French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, and discussed opportunities to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, defense, and energy, among others.



Bilateral Meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna at the sidelines of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 18 November 2022, Bangkok, Thailand

- Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Meetings
 - Virtual Senior Officials' Meeting, 17 May 2022. Senior Official Undersecretary Lourdes Yparraguirre of DFA-OUMAIER joined the IPEF Senior Officials' Meeting virtually to discuss preparations for the planned launching of the IPEF during the U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to Japan and South Korea on 20-24 May 2022 and to convey the Philippines' priorities for capacity building and enhancing the competitiveness of MSMEs.

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- IPEF Ministerial Meeting, 23 May 2022. The DFA joined the IPEF Ministerial meeting virtually to discuss details on the envisioned cadence of engagements between lead officials and technical experts post-launch of the IPEF. There was a strong consensus on the need to maintain the momentum from the Leaders' launch of the IPEF in order to work quickly towards future negotiations on the IPEF Pillars: Trade (Pillar I), Supply Chain (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III), and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).
- IPEF First Chief Negotiators' Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting, 13 - 14 July 2022, Singapore. The DFA, as co-chair of the Philippines' inter-agency mechanism with DTI, and representatives from BOI, DOF, DOE, and DOJ attended the IPEF Chief Negotiators Meeting and Senior Officials Meeting, as Chief Negotiators engaged on the draft ministerial texts for Pillars I-IV and Senior Officials held detailed discussions on the scope and substance of the pillars with the guidance of the zero-draft ministerial statements.
- IPEF Ministerial Virtual Meeting, 26 - 27 July 2022. The DFA attended the IPEF Ministerial Meeting virtually with representatives from DTI, DOJ, DOE, and BOI to advance the scoping exercise to negotiations through intensive engagements among the Senior Officials and technical experts and finalize the ministerial statements for Pillars II-IV.
- IPEF Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting, 06-09 September 2022. The DFA, as co-lead of the Philippines' inter-agency mechanism, and representatives from DTI, BOI, DOF, DOE, and DOJ attended the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) Ministerial and Senior Officials Meeting. Senior officials and chief negotiators achieved consensus during the scoping discussions of the following IPEF Pillars: Trade (Pillar I), Supply Chain (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III), and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).
- Virtual Ministerial Meeting on the Economic Benefits of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), 20 December 2022. DTI Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo and DFA-UMAIER Assistant Secretary Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo led the Philippine delegation to the Virtual Ministerial Meeting on the Economic Benefits of the IPEF to highlight the Philippines' interest in preferential market access, inward investments especially on rare metals and green technology, and the significance of information sharing among members.
- Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) 2022 Annual Conference, 21 April 2022. The Secretary General of Boao Forum for Asia, Li Baodong, invited then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to deliver a message during the Opening Plenary of the 2022 Annual Conference of the Boao Forum for Asia scheduled on 21 April 2022 via pre-recorded video. The theme and topic of the 2022 Annual Conference is "The World in COVID-19 & Beyond: Working Together for Global Development and Shared Future".

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The speech of the President highlighted the action taken by the Philippines to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The President also called to strengthen cooperation in the areas of ensuring the resumption of travel that is safe, seamless and inclusive, access to vaccines and other life saving medicines, maintaining robust and resilient supply chains, digital transformation policies that are inclusive, and cooperation towards the utilization of clean energy.

- Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Senior Officials Meeting, 08 August 2022. Senior Officials engaged in a discussion to finalize the rotation of ACD Chairmanship and General Rules of Procedure. Member countries continue to cooperate to finalize the Bahrain Declaration on “Post-Pandemic Sustainable Recovery” in time for the ACD Ministerial Meeting. The ministerial meeting will be convened upon finalization of the next ACD Chair.
- OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum, 10th Steering Group Meeting on 17-18 October 2022, Hanoi, Vietnam. Philippine Senior Official and Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Carlos D. Sorreta joined OECD members, some ASEAN Member States, OECD Council and Secretariat, international organizations, OECD Business Network, and high-level representatives of the business sector during the OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum for the 10th Steering Group Meeting of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) held in Hanoi, Vietnam to focus on discussions about strengthening supply chain resilience and enhancing collaboration between government and businesses for resilient economies.



Philippine Senior Official and UMAIER Undersecretary Carlos D. Sorreta attended the OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum for the 10th Steering Group Meeting of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) held in Hanoi, Vietnam to focus on discussions about strengthening supply chain resilience and enhancing collaboration between government and businesses for resilient economies

- Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12). The Department of Foreign Affairs participated in the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in Geneva from 12-16 June 2022. The MC12 can be considered one of the most productive among the recent MCs held, with wider consensus on ministerial declarations

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than past MCs. The Philippines' positions on issues discussed do not depart from the position of most of the Members that delivered interventions. MSMEs, the Philippines' chief advocacy in the WTO, was not discussed in the thematic sessions. Other notable initiatives where no thematic session was devoted to are domestic regulations, gender and trade, trade and environment, and government procurement.

The Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body in the WTO. It convenes every two years, with Buenos Aires, Argentina hosting the previous edition in 2017. The MC12 was originally scheduled to take place in June 2020 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan and rescheduled to December 2021 in Geneva but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the major outcome documents of the Ministerial Conference are the following:

- WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement – prohibits the provision of subsidies to illegal unregulated and unreported fishing (IUUF) and overcapacity and overfishing (OCOF);
 - Ministerial Decision on the Waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) provision on COVID-19 vaccines – aims to temporarily suspend patents on COVID-19 vaccines so they may be reproduced to stabilize the global supply of vaccines and to help ensure accessibility to vaccines by developing and least developed countries; and
 - General Council Decision on E-commerce Work Programme – extends the moratorium on customs duties for electronic transmissions.
- Bilateral Political Consultations and Joint Committee Meetings. To enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen areas of cooperation, the DFA led the following senior official-level bilateral political consultations and joint committee meetings with the United Kingdom, Georgia, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Australia, Qatar and Japan:
 - 2nd PH-Australia Foreign Ministry Consultations, 28 February 2022;



The members of the Philippine and Australian delegations discuss bilateral and regional matters during the 2nd Philippines-Australia Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC)

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- 2nd PH-Austria Political Consultations, 10 March 2022 virtual;



- 2nd PH-Morocco Political Consultations, 17 March 2022;
- 7th Senior Officials Meeting of the PH-Indonesia Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, 11-12 April 2022;



DFA Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro (Left) meets her counterpart Director General for Asia-Pacific and African Affairs Abdul Kardir Jailani (Right) of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 2nd PH-EU Joint Committee Meeting, 26 April 2022;



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- 13th PH-India Policy Consultations and 4th Strategic Dialogue, 17-18 August 2022;



13th PH-India Policy Consultations



4th PH-India Strategic Dialogue

- 1st PH-Qatar Joint Consultation Meeting on Political Consultation, 23 August 2022;
- 7th PH-Hungary Political Consultations, 26 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary;



- 12th PH-Israel Joint Commission Meeting, 05 September 2022;
- 5th PH-Japan Vice Ministerial Strategic Dialogue, 07 September 2022;
- 2nd Meeting of the PH-EU Sub-Committee on Good Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights, 6 October 2022;

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- 5th PH-Germany Political Consultations, 17 October 2022;

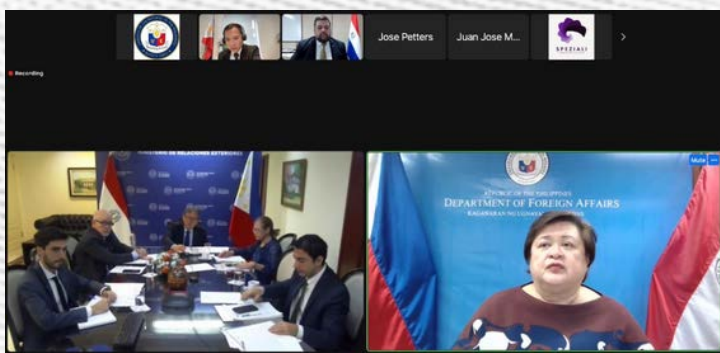


- 2nd PH-Georgia Political Consultations, 27 October 2022;

Undersecretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro meets with Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Khvtisiashvili for the 2nd PH-Georgia Political Consultations on 27 October 2022 in Manila where they discussed boosting bilateral relations particularly in areas of maritime, economic, environment, tourism, education and culture



- Inaugural PH-Paraguay Bilateral Consultations, 21 November 2022;



The Inaugural PH - Paraguay bilateral consultation meeting (BCM) was held in virtual format on 21 November 2022

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- 6th PH-Australia Strategic Dialogue, 25 November 2022; and



- PH-UK High Level Political Talks, 25 November 2022.



- [Hague Conference on Private International Law \(HCCH\) Asia Pacific Week Manila 2022, 18-20 October 2022](#)

The Department co-hosted with the Supreme Court, the Philippine Judicial Academy, and the University of the Philippines College of Law the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) Asia Pacific Week Manila 2022 on 18-20 October 2022. Delegates, numbering more than 500, included participants from Member States of the HCCH, non-Member Contracting States, and other interested States. The Conference acknowledged the increasing frequency of cross-border activities involving private international law and recognized the need for robust legal frameworks to support such activities, including the HCCH Conventions and Instruments. Participants then committed to promote the visibility and scope of the HCCH Conventions, and their effective implementation through the use of technology. The Philippines has been a member of the HCCH since 2010 and is a party to five out of 39 HCCH Conventions, namely the Intercountry Adoption Convention, Child Abduction Convention, Service Convention, Child Support Convention, and the Apostille Convention.

B. OTHER MEETINGS/CALLS/VISITS/EVENTS

Australia

- Virtual meeting between Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Deputy Secretary and Senior Official Meeting Leader Katrina Cooper, 04 May 2022
- Participation of Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro as guest of honor in the Philippines-Australia Friendship Day Reception, 19 May 2022
- Farewell call of Australian Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO on the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Awarding of the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Datu (Grand Cross) Gold Distinction, 30 May 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO on President-Elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 17 June 2022
- Farewell call of Australian Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO on the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 21 June 2022
- Participation of then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. to the "A Toast to Mateship and Bayanihan" Reception, 23 June 2022
- Farewell call of Australian Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO on Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro, 27 June 2022
- Farewell call of Australian Ambassador Steven J. Robinson AO on Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial, 27 June 2022
- Mabini Dialogue on the "Asia Power Index" by Lowy Institute Dr. Susannah Patton, in collaboration with the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), 09 August 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador-designate HK Yu on the Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial, 12 August 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador-designate HK Yu on Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro, 12 August 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador-designate HK Yu on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 22 August 2022
- Phone call between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, 09 September 2022
- Participation of Undersecretaries Jesus S. Domingo and Carlos D. Sorreta to the Dinner Meeting hosted by the Australian Embassy in Manila in honor of Australian Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Dr. Tobias Feakin, 22 September 2022
- Presentation of credentials of Australian Ambassador HK Yu, 11 October 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Office of National Intelligence Director General Andrew Shearer on Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Affairs Jesus S. Domingo, 21 October 2022
- Dinner meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Australian Ambassador HK Yu, 31 October 2022

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- Phone call between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, 07 November 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador HK Yu on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 07 November 2022
- Meeting between Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial and Australian Ambassador HK Yu on the proposed official visit of Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, 08 November 2022
- Courtesy call of Australian Ambassador HK Yu on First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, 22 November 2022

Austria

- Farewell call of Austrian Ambassador Bitia Rasoulion on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 28 July 2022, Pasay
- Presentation of credentials of Austrian Ambassador Johann Brieger, 11 October 2022, Manila

Bangladesh

- Courtesy call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by the Bangladesh Ambassador F.M. Borhan Uddin, 19 August 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte by Bangladesh Ambassador F.M. Borhan Uddin, 7 November 2022, Manila
- Video message of Secretary Enrique A. Manalo at the Seminar "50 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh and the Philippines: Achievements, Challenges and Potentials," 17 November 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte by Bangladesh Education Minister Dipu Moni, 24 November 2022, Manila

Belarus

- Courtesy call of Belarusian Non Resident Ambassador Valery Kolesnik on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 28 November 2022, Manila

Brunei Darussalam

- Courtesy call on Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial by then Brunei Ambassador Johariah Wahab, 14 March 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Undersecretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro by then Brunei Ambassador Johariah Wahab, 14 March 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Brunei Ambassador Johariah Wahab, 6 June 2022, Manila
- Farewell call on then Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. Jr. by Brunei Ambassador Johariah Wahab, 22 June 2022, Manila
- Farewell call on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Brunei Ambassador Johariah Wahab, 26 July 2022, Manila

Cambodia

- Introductory call on then Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. by Cambodian Ambassador-Designate Phan Peuv, 05 May 2022, Manila

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- Presentation of credentials and courtesy call on then President Rodrigo R. Duterte by Cambodian Ambassador-designate Phan Peuv, 25 May 2022, Manila
- Bilateral meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Prime Minister Hun Sen at the sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 10 November 2022, Phnom Penh
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Prak Sokhonn at the sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 10 November 2022, Phnom Penh

China

- Telesummit of then President Rodrigo R. Duterte with President Xi Jinping on 08 April 2022. Then President Rodrigo Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping held an hour-long telephone summit where they discussed the South China Sea issue and the situation in Ukraine. The two leaders also reviewed the bilateral relations between their two countries during the Duterte administration.
- Phone call between President Xi Jinping and then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., 18 May 2022

Denmark

- Courtesy call of Danish Ambassador Grete Sillasen on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 13 June 2022, Mandaluyong
- Presentation of credentials of Danish Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 13 October 2022, Manila

European Union

- Courtesy call of EU Ambassador Luc Veron on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 30 May 2022, Mandaluyong
- Lunch meeting of then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. with EU Ambassadors in Manila, 24 June 2022, Makati
- Courtesy call of the EU Ambassador Luc Veron on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 11 August 2022, Pasay
- Courtesy call of EU Ambassador Luc Veron on Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Affairs Jesus S. Domingo, 13 September 2022, Pasay
- Courtesy call of EU Ambassador Luc Veron on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 21 September 2022, Mandaluyong
- Lunch meeting of Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo with EU Ambassadors in Manila, 01 December 2022, Makati

Finland

- Courtesy call of Finnish Ambassador Juha Pyykko on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 15 June 2022, Mandaluyong

France

- Courtesy call of French Ambassador Michèle Bocoz on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 30 May 2022, Mandaluyong City

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- Courtesy call of French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz on then Vice President-elect Sara Z. Duterte, 29 June 2022, Pasay City

Germany

- Courtesy call of German Ambassador Anke Reiffenstuel on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 07 June 2022, Mandaluyong

Greece

- Courtesy call of Greek Ambassador Ioannis Pediotis on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 14 October 2022, Pasay City

Hungary

- Courtesy call of Hungarian Ambassador Titanilla Toth on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 15 June 2022, Mandaluyong
- Courtesy call of Hungarian Ambassador Titanilla Toth on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 15 September 2022, Pasay

India

- Courtesy call on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by H.E. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Special Envoy of President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 1 July 2022, Manila
- Congratulatory phone call on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 5 August 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Hon. Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India, 18 August 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by the Indian Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran, 19 August 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte by the Indian delegation led by Hon. Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India, 24 August 2022, Manila
- Meeting between Vice President Sara Z. Duterte and Indian Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran, 21 September 2022, Manila

Indonesia

- Courtesy call by then Ambassador-designate Agus Widjojo on Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial, 17 March 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call by Indonesian Ambassador Agus Widjojo on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 01 September 2022, Manila
- Presentation of credentials to then President Rodrigo R. Duterte by Indonesian Ambassador Agus Widjojo, 25 May 2022, Manila
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi at the sidelines of State Visit to Indonesia, 04 September 2022, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and

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Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi at the sidelines of the 77th UNGA, 21 September 2022, New York

Ireland

- Courtesy call of Irish Ambassador William Carlos on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 13 June 2022, Mandaluyong
- Courtesy call of Irish Ambassador William Carlos on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 17 August 2022, Mandaluyong

Italy

- Courtesy call of Italian Ambassador Marco Clemente on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 17 August 2022, Pasig City
- Courtesy call of Italian Ambassador Marco Clemente on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 14 October 2022, Pasay City

Republic of Korea

- Phone call between then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. and ROK Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, 08 February 2022

Japan

- Annual Planning Conference on the Repatriation of War Remains, 02 June 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Japanese Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa, 23 May 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. by Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 29 June 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on then Vice President-elect Sara Z. Duterte by Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 29 June 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on former President Rodrigo R. Duterte by Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 30 June 2022, Manila
- Courtesy call on Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 30 June 2022, Manila
- Phone call of Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 12 July 2022
- Courtesy call of Japanese Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 27 July 2022, Manila
- Turn-over of Donations for North Luzon Earthquake Victims, 01 August 2022, Manila
- Phone Call of Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo with Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa, 17 August 2022
- Courtesy call of Japanese Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 21 September 2022, Manila
- Dinner of Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo with Japanese Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa, 28 November 2022

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Laos

- Farewell call on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte by Ambassador Songkane Luangmuninthone, 17 August 2022, Manila
- Farewell call on Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Ambassador Songkane Luangmuninthone, 31 August 2022, Manila
- Presentation of credentials and courtesy call on Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Lao Ambassador-designate Sonexay Vannaxay, 5 December 2022, Manila
- Introductory call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Lao Ambassador Sonexay Vannaxay, 28 December 2022, Manila

Malaysia

- Phone call between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, 01 July 2022
- Farewell call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by then Malaysian Ambassador Norman Bin Muhamad, 02 September 2022
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato' Sri Saifuddin Bin Abdullah on the sidelines of the 77th UNGA, 22 September 2022
- Phone call between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, 25 November 2022

Micronesia

- Bilateral Meeting between Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo José A. de Vega and the Federated States of Micronesia Justice Secretary Jose Gallen on the lifting of the Philippines' deployment ban to Micronesia, 12 December 2022

Mongolia

- Presentation of credentials of H.E. Enkhbayar Sosorbaran, Non-Resident Ambassador of Mongolia to the Philippines, 05 December 2022
- Courtesy call of H.E. Enkhbayar Sosorbaram, Non-Resident Ambassador of Mongolia to the Philippines, Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 15 December 2022

New Zealand

- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and International Economic Relations Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, 08 April 2022
- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 17 June 2022
- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 25 August 2022
- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, 25 August 2022
- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, 21 September 2022

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- Courtesy call of New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Affairs Jesus S. Domingo, 05 October 2022

Norway

- Courtesy call of Norwegian Ambassador Bjørn Staurset Jahnsen on 15 June 2022, Mandaluyong, and farewell call on 12 August 2022, Manila on President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Papua New Guinea

- Courtesy call of Papua New Guinea Ambassador Betty Palaso on the Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Nathaniel G. Imperial, 20 May 2022
- Participation of Papua New Guinea Ambassador Betty Palaso to the Luncheon hosted by the First Lady for Lady Ambassadors, 03 August 2022
- Courtesy call of Papua New Guinea Ambassador Betty Palaso on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Mandalo, 12 August 2022

Poland

- Courtesy call of Polish Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* Jarosław Szczepankiewicz on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 17 June 2022, Mandaluyong

Romania

- Courtesy call of Romanian Ambassador Raduta Dana Matache on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 15 June 2022, Mandaluyong
- Courtesy call of Romanian Ambassador Raduta Dana Matache on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Mandalo, 24 October 2022

Russia

- Courtesy call of Russian Ambassador Marat Pavlov on then President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr., 13 June 2022, Manila

Singapore

- Working visit of then Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. to Singapore, 23–31 January 2022
- Courtesy call on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by Singaporean Ambassador Gerard Ho Wei Hong, 06 June 2022

Spain

- Courtesy call of former Spanish Ambassador Jorge Moragas Sánchez on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 07 June 2022, Mandaluyong City
- Farewell call of former Spanish Ambassador Jorge Moragas Sánchez on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 02 August 2022, Manila
- Presentation of credentials of Spanish Ambassador Miguel Utray Delgado, 13 October 2022

Sweden

- Courtesy call of Swedish Ambassador Anika Thunborg on then President-elect

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Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., 13 June 2022, Mandaluyong

Switzerland

- Courtesy call of Swiss Ambassador Alain Gaschen on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 10 June 2022, Mandaluyong

Sri Lanka

- Farewell call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Sri Lankan Ambassador Shobini Gunasekera, 05 December 2022

Timor-Leste

- Farewell call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Timor-Leste Ambassador Jose Gaspar Dos Reis Correia Piedade, 15 September 2022

Thailand

- Symbolic turn-over of USD65,000 donation of the Thai Government for the Victims of Typhoon Odette, 02 March 2022, Manila
- Presentation of credentials and courtesy call by Thai Ambassador-designate Tull Traisorat on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 22 July 2022, Manila
- Introductory call on Vice President Sara Z. Duterte by Thai Ambassador Tull Traisorat, 24 August 2022, Manila
- Introductory call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Thai Ambassador Tull Traisorat, 5 October 2022, Manila
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai at the sidelines of the the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, 27 October 2022, Jakarta
- Bilateral meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at the sidelines of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 17 November 2022, Bangkok
- Participation of Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega as guest of honor in the National Day Reception of Thailand, 05 December 2022, Manila

The Netherlands

- Presentation of credentials of Dutch Ambassador Maria Alfonsa Magdalena Geraedts on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 13 October 2022

Türkiye

- Farewell call on President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. of and conferment of the Order of Sikatuna on former Turkish Ambassador Artemiz Sumer, 25 August 2022, Manila
- Presentation of credentials of Turkish Ambassador Niyazi Evren Akyol, 13 October 2022, Manila

Ukraine

- Courtesy call of Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister H.E. Dmytro Senik on former

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Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., 09 June 2022, Manila

United Kingdom

- Courtesy call of British Ambassador Laure Beaufils on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 30 May 2022, Mandaluyong

Vatican

- Courtesy call of Papal Nuncio Most Reverend Charles John Brown on then President-elect Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., 10 June 2022, Mandaluyong City

Vietnam

- Courtesy call on Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo by Vietnamese Ambassador Hoang Huy Chung, 17 August 2022, Manila
- Participation of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte as guest of honor in Vietnam's National Day Reception, 08 September 2022, Manila
- Bilateral meeting between President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at the sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 10 November 2022, Phnom Penh
- Bilateral meeting between Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son at the sidelines of the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits and Related Summits, 10 November 2022, Phnom Penh
- Visit to the Philippines of National Assembly President Vuong Dinh Hue, 23-25 November 2022, Manila. The following were arranged:
 - Courtesy Call on the President
 - Courtesy Call on the Vice President
 - Bilateral Meeting with the Senate President
 - Bilateral Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives

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C. AGREEMENTS SIGNED

To strengthen the Philippines' bilateral relations with other countries, maximize the potential for mutually-beneficial gains, and protect overseas Filipinos, the DFA forged agreements with bilateral partners, especially after every state visit of the President. These centered on defense, culture, counterterrorism, trade and investments, technology and data protection, and migrant workers' protection:

With Australia

- Executive Programme (2022-2026) of the 1977 Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Commonwealth of Australia

With Canada

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Yukon on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos under the Yukon Nominee Program;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Alberta on the Recruitment of Filipino Nurses.

With France

- Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) and the French National Institute of Origin and Quality (INAO) on Intellectual Property Cooperation for Geographical Indications (GIs), signed on 27 July 2022.

With Greece

- Executive Program for Cultural Cooperation between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Hellenic republic for 2022-2025 signed on 5 May 2022.

With Hungary

- PH-Hungary Agreement on vocational education and training (VET) at the sidelines of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, 19 May 2022, New York, USA



Bilateral meeting and signing of PH-Hungary agreement on vocational education and training (VET) at the sidelines of the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, 19 May 2022, New York, USA

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With India

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Ministry of Ayush, Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the Field of Ayurveda and other Traditional Systems of Medicine signed on 19 April 2022 in New Delhi
- Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, signed on 24 April 2022 in New Delhi

With Indonesia

- Plan of Action between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (2022-2027), signed on 05 September 2022;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defense and Security, signed on 05 September 2022;
- Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, signed on 05 September 2022;
- Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Development and Promotion of the Creative Economy between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, signed on 05 September 2022;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine National Police and the Indonesian National Police on Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Transnational Crime and Capacity Building, signed on 6 December 2022 by the Indonesian side in Jakarta and on 12 December 2022 by the Philippine side in Manila

With Israel

- PH-IL Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (IPPA), 7 June 2022 to strengthen bilateral economic relations covering national treatment, most favored nation treatment, free transfers, rules-based expropriation and compensation, and investor-state dispute settlement under the IPPA

With Japan

- Exchange of Notes on *COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Loan Support (CCRESL) Phase 2 Assistance Package* for PH's COVID-19 Response, 18 April 2022, amounting to JPY 30-billion loan (approximately USD254.38 million or PhP13.333 billion);
- Exchange of Notes for grant projects for the BARMM and the PCG, 9 June 2022;
- Exchange of Notes for the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS), 16 September 2022

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With Republic of Korea

- Framework Arrangement on Economic Development and Cooperation Fund concerning the provision of ODA loans up to USD 3 billion from 2022 to 2026, signed on 21 December 2022

With Mongolia

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of National Defense of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defense of Mongolia concerning Defense Cooperation and Exchanges

With Niue

- Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and Niue, 27 September 2022

With Pakistan

- Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed on 5 May 2022 in Manila

With Singapore

- Arrangement concerning the Assignment of a Team to the Regional Counter-Terrorism Information Facility (CTIF) in Singapore between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Singapore Armed Forces, signed on 05 September 2022;
- MOU between the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and Enterprise Singapore, A Statutory Board Established under the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore, for collaborative opportunities for Investment Promotion for Singaporean companies, signed on 06 September 2022;
- MOU between the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Singapore for Cooperation in the Field of Digital Cooperation, signed on 07 September 2022;
- Joint Communiqué between the Department of Migrant Workers of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Singapore on the Recruitment of Filipino Healthcare Workers, signed on 07 September 2022;
- Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between the National Privacy Commission (NPC) of the Philippines and the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) of Singapore on Cooperation in Personal Data Protection, signed on 07 September 2022;
- Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and Public Utilities Board, signed on 07 September 2022

With the United States of America

- Clean Energy Demand Initiative (CEDI) Letter of Intent, signed on 9 March 2022 in

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Houston, Texas, USA;

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation, signed on March 10, 2022 in Washington DC, USA;
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Health of the Republic of the Philippines and the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States of America on Health and Medical Services, signed by USG on 07 March 2022 in Washington DC and PHG on 19 April 2022 in Manila.

D. ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY EFFORTS

Food Security Cooperation

The DFA assisted the Department of Agriculture and the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) in operationalizing the President's directive to explore government-to-government arrangements for the procurement of fertilizers, in line with the prioritization of food security and increased agricultural productivity. Contributing to efforts at stabilizing the supply of much-needed fertilizer in the Philippines, the DFA mobilized its Foreign Service Posts and Geographic Offices to establish linkages between the PITC, on one hand, and foreign government agencies and state-owned enterprises in several urea-producing countries, on the other, that led to productive talks and negotiations.

Pacific Business Mission to the Philippines, 15-19 August 2022

Philippine Ambassador to Australia Ma. Hellen B. De La Vega led a Pacific Business Mission to Manila, Pampanga, and Bataan from 15 to 19 August 2022 to explore business opportunities in the Philippines. Organized by the Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Sydney, the mission aimed to link the Australian Delegation---composed of state officials and business executives---with their Philippine counterparts and establish business networks.

The Australian Delegation were briefed on trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines, incentives offered to foreign investors, and the potential of booming Philippine industries, among others. This was followed by one-on-one meetings to facilitate trade and investment outcomes. The highest-ranking delegate of the Pacific Business Mission was Hon. Zoe Lee Bettison, Minister of Tourism and Multicultural Affairs in the South Australian Malinauskas Labor Government.

The Joint Science and Technology and Educational Exchange Committee (JSTEC) Meeting, 26 October 2022

The DFA has been undertaking efforts to harmonize the country's S&T cooperation with external partners which led to the establishment of the Joint Science and Technology and Educational Exchange Committee (JSTEC) which promotes a whole-of-government approach in pursuing S&T cooperation with international partners. The interagency meeting last 26 October 2022 was attended by officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Investment (DTI), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

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Malagos Chocolate Gift Sets for Distribution as Representation Items to Select Foreign Service Posts and PH Honorary Consular Officers

The DFA distributed Philippine-made chocolate products to select Foreign Service Posts (FSPs), particularly those with Honorary Consular Offices (HCOs) under their jurisdiction or those with little to no access to Philippine-made products in their local markets, as a means to support these FSPs' economic diplomacy activities. The PH chocolates were given as gifts or tokens when making representations with economic stakeholders from the public and private sector in their respective host countries, as a way to showcase export-quality Philippine-made products to FSPs. FSPs with HCOs helped raise the perception of the Philippines as a source of high-quality food products that meet the standards even in exacting foreign markets.

The network of accredited HCOs has proven beneficial in the efficient and effective implementation of Philippine foreign policy's political-security, economic and ATN/consular pillars. The Economic Diplomacy Division (EDD-OIER) endeavors to tap into the honorary consular office network as a "force multiplier" for the Department's economic diplomacy efforts, particularly as a gateway for the introduction of high-quality Philippine export products in their respective jurisdictions.

As EDD-OIER's objective is to conduct an expeditious, high-impact project, the distribution of locally-made Malagos Chocolates to FSPs with HCOs was undertaken for the following reasons:

- Familiarity of foreign markets with the brand, Malagos Chocolate having pioneered and built an extensive overseas distribution and sales network;
- International recognition of the brand through multiple awards;
- Stable manufacturing capacity, allowing for bulk production even in pandemic conditions;
- Halal certification for its pure chocolate bars and powder, allowing for consumption in Muslim-majority countries; and
- Proven record of the manufacturer as a PHILGEPS-compliant supplier, with past successful partnerships and supply contracts with the Department including a number of FSPs.

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E. CULTURAL DIPLOMACY EFFORTS

Implementation of Multi-Sensory Virtual International Cultural Projects

Using online platforms, the DFA conducted virtual cultural events, including Fiesta Filipinas, Move with Malong, and Move with Pinas, to reach out to the Filipino diaspora abroad and foreign nationals in various countries. In these projects, curated kits were sent to the participants to make them feel and experience tangibly Philippine culture.

The activities and accompanying kits promoted the Philippines' culture and heritage, including its history, cuisine, historical and tourist spots, festivals, dances, and regional products. Moreover, in support of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032), an online forum was conducted to inform participants on the state of indigenous languages in the Philippines.

In general, the virtual projects fostered a positive image of the Philippines on the world stage and raised awareness of its rich culture, notwithstanding the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

The links to recent virtual cultural projects are as follows:

- Fiesta Filipinas - <https://youtu.be/mVJF9PSOMnQ>

Fiesta Filipinas Season 1:



Left photo: DFA launches "Fiesta Filipinas: An Online Celebration of Philippine Festivals" hosted by Mr. Paolo Abrera and Ms. Chal Lontoc, with virtual participation of then DFA - Office of Strategic Communications and Research Acting Head of Office Ms. Marie Yvette Banzon-Abalos, DOT Undersecretary for Tourism Regulation, Coordination and Resource Generation Roberto P. Alabado III, and media from the Philippines and other parts of the world; Right photo: The finale episode of Fiesta Filipinas Season 1 featured the Lami-Lamihan Festival of Lamitan City, Basilan in the Mindanao islands of the Philippines. Hosts Paolo Abrera and Chal Lontoc-Del Rosario welcomed about 300 live participants to the event.

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Fiesta Filipinas Season 2:



Fiesta Filipinas host Chal Lontoc-Del Rosario and local wanderer Jon Guelas interview bisitas about their Fiesta Filipinas experience.

- Move with Malong - https://youtu.be/8TyIIX08Q_Y

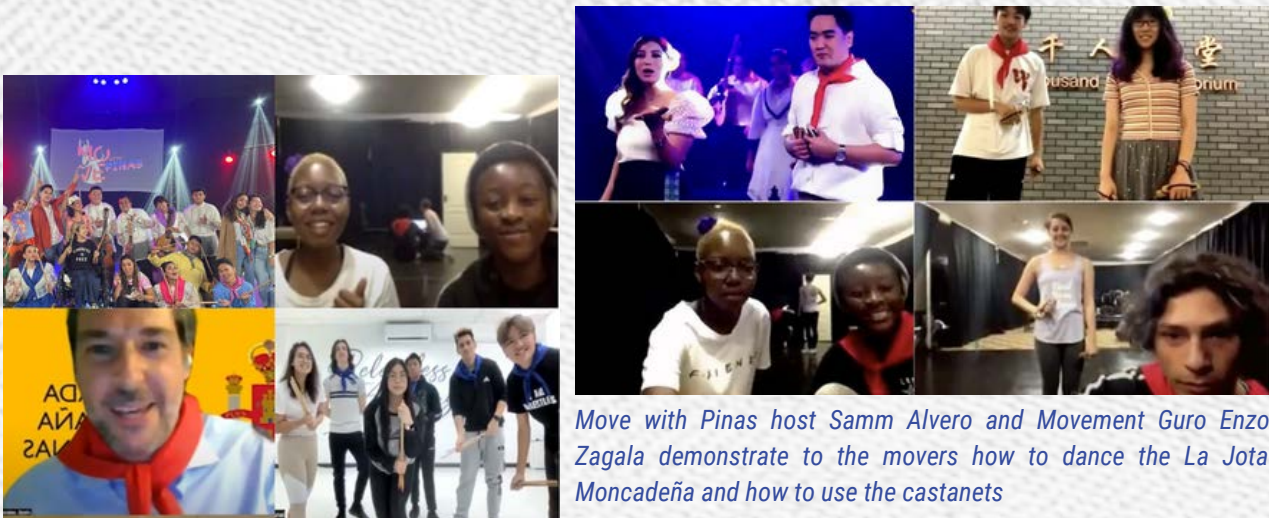


Move with Malong host Chal Lontoc-Del Rosario interviews movers from all over the world on their experience dancing with the malong

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- [Move with Pinas - https://youtu.be/3yeiYHwJRUU](https://youtu.be/3yeiYHwJRUU)



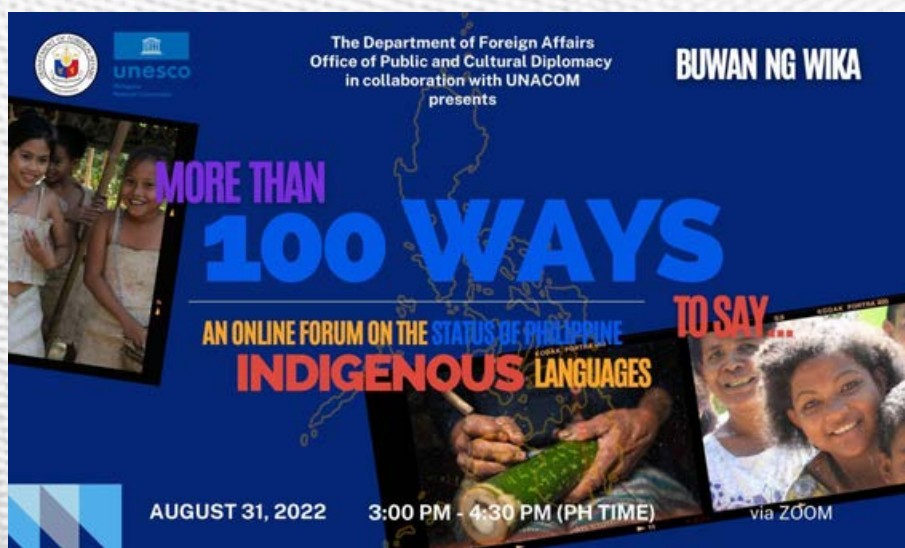
Move with Pinas host Samm Alvero and Movement Guro Enzo Zagala demonstrate to the movers how to dance the La Jota Moncadeña and how to use the castanets

Movers from all over the World share their Move with Pinas experience



From the stage to their Zoom screens, Movers strike their best Sakuting poses

- More than 100 Ways to Say: An Online Forum - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICxH6DnfPPk&t=54s>



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F. PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

Affirmation of the Award on the South China Sea Arbitration (Arbitral Award)

The DFA commemorated the **6th Anniversary of the Award on the South China Sea Arbitration on 12 July 2022**. As an affirmation of UNCLOS' dispute resolution mechanisms, the Award upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf.

Through the DFA's consistent efforts to promote respect for UNCLOS and the recognition of the Award, a number of key countries began to refine their positions on the South China Sea (SCS) to adhere to or reflect the Award. In the case of the USA, Australia, Indonesia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Japan, and New Zealand, they had cited the 2016 Award in their communications to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

Operationalizing the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The DFA, through its Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (MOAO), **led the Philippine Delegation in all the related meetings**, including the utilization of UNCLOS—a super year for Oceans—to **expand and articulate the Department's commitment to the UNCLOS Framework and towards effective maritime cooperation with all parties**, in the following contexts:

- **Peaceful Settlement of Disputes: Delimitation** - As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines has overlapping maritime jurisdictions with several states, and pursues delimitation negotiations. In line with this, the DFA led the Intersessional Meeting in preparation for the 5th Technical Panel Meeting (TPM) between the Philippines and Palau in February 2022, followed by the virtual meeting on 10 March 2022.



MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce (right) and Minister Charles Obichang of the Palau Ministry of Public Infrastructure Industries (left) sign the Record of Discussions for the intersessional meeting on 10 March 2022, resuming constructive discussions to prepare for the 5th Technical Panel Meeting on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

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The DFA also led the Philippine Delegation to the 2nd Preparatory Meeting between the Philippines and Indonesia on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary on 11 March 2022, which was followed by the First Special Meeting of the Joint Permanent Working Group of Maritime and Ocean Concerns in Bali in July 2022 and the signing of the Principles and Guidelines on 5 October 2022. The Philippine Delegation likewise commenced technical discussions on delimitation with Japan in September 2022.



DFA-Assistant Secretary of Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office, Maria Angela A. Ponce (left), and H.E. Ambassador Bebeb A.K.N. Djundjuna (second from right), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia sign the Record of Discussion for the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the Delimitation of Continental Shelf Boundary between the Philippines and Indonesia. (DFA-MOAO photo)



MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce and Director Andreano Erwin of the Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Andreano Erwin sign the Records of Discussion of the First Special Meeting of the Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns on the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf Boundary held on 06-07 July 2022 in Bali, Indonesia

The Governments of the Republic of the Philippines, represented by MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce, and the Republic of Indonesia, represented by H.E. Ambassador Andreano Erwin, Director for Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sign the Principles and Guidelines for continental shelf delimitation on 05 October 2022.



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- **Peaceful Settlement of Disputes: Regional Mechanisms** – The DFA led the Philippine Delegation to the 35th (March 2022), 36th (May 2022) and 37th (October 2022), and 38th (March 2023) Meetings of the ASEAN China Joint Working Group on the Implementation on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (JWG-DOC), **working towards a legally binding Code of Conduct on the SCS**. The Philippines has offered to host a meeting in Manila in 2023 as its tangible contribution to the process.
- **Common Heritage of the Oceans:** The DFA participated in the 5th Inter-Governmental Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (IGC on the BBNJ) at the UN Headquarters in August 2022, which was reconvened from February to March 2023 and succeeded in arriving at an agreement on the text of the BBNJ Agreement. The text is to be translated and adopted later in the year, and promises to be unique in that the “Treaty of the High Seas” provides for a mechanism wherein developed countries commit to sharing information, revenue and support capacity building mechanisms and technology with developing countries, in the true spirit of the high seas being part of the common heritage for all. The DFA also participated in the 2nd UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon in June–July 2022 **to highlight the Philippines’ advocacies on marine environment protection and preservation**. Furthermore, the DFA supported the work of the Philippine Delegation to the International Seabed Authority Council in March 2022 and to the 7th Our Oceans Conference in Palau in April 2022, and conducted a Deep Seabed national workshop on 16 December 2022, to start the conversation around the need for a national policy on the development of the deep seabed. Work on the deep seabed is planned throughout 2023, in coordination with the ISA.
- **Ocean Governance:** The DFA supported the Philippine Delegation to the meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), particularly at the 8th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping in February 2022; the 109th Session of the Legal Committee; the meetings of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds; the 105th and 106th Sessions of the Maritime Safety Committee; the 46th Session of the Facilitation Committee; the 78th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee; and, the 127th and 128th Sessions of the IMO Council. The participation of the Philippine Delegation in these meetings was intended **to ensure alignment of national implementation, strategies and programs with international commitments**.
- **Bilateral Maritime Dialogues and Fora: To strengthen cooperation on maritime concerns**, the DFA launched maritime dialogues with the USA in April 2022 and with the Republic of Korea in September 2022. The Department also conducted the 2nd Maritime Dialogue with Australia in June 2022. The inaugural PH-UK Maritime Dialogue was convened in February 2023. Dialogues with Japan, the United States, Australia, ROK, and the inaugural India dialogue are planned

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

throughout the year, further expanding the and deepening cooperation with major maritime bilateral partners.



Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Maria Angela Ponce (center right) and U.S. Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary Jung Pak (center left) lead discussions in the inaugural Philippines- U.S. Maritime Dialogue

MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce (front row, sixth from left) and Acting First Assistant Secretary Justin Whyatt of the US and Indo-Pacific Strategy Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (front row, fourth from left) lead discussions in the 2nd Philippines- Australia Maritime Dialogue held on 03 June 2022 in Canberra, Australia



MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce and Ambassador of the Philippines to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ma. Theresa B. Dizon-de Vega co-lead the Philippine delegation to the inaugural PH-ROK Maritime Dialogue held on 21 September 2022 in Busan, ROK

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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce and Ambassador of the Philippines to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ma. Theresa B. Dizon-de Vega co-lead the Philippine delegation to the inaugural PH-ROK Maritime Dialogue, which included officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of National Defense, National Security Council, and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. They are joined by their ROK counterparts.

In **supporting the maritime interests of the Philippines**, the DFA led the following:

- Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo), September 2022. Over 70% of Philippine Foreign Service Posts and Regional Offices participated in activities aimed at raising awareness on environmental protection, ocean governance, and on the UN's Sustainable Development Goal to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development." The DFA also exhibited the Dandelions installation created by artist Olivia d'Aboville, as well as launched an online gaming platform on archipelagic awareness and a website featuring the efforts of the Philippine Delegation to advocate for the Archipelagic Doctrine in the outcome document of UNCLOS 3 in 1982;
- Convened the one-day Forum on Philippine Milestones in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), with the unveiling of the Commemorative Stamp at the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS on 09 December 2022; and,

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo (left) and Assistant Postmaster General Francis T. Cereno (right) lead the unveiling of the image that would appear in the Commemorative Stamp at the event celebrating the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS, held on 09 December 2022 at the Manila Diamond Hotel.



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Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation



DFA and PHLPST officials during the unveiling of the image that would appear in the Commemorative Stamp at the 40th Anniversary of UNCLOS on 09 December 2022 at the Manila Diamond Hotel (from left to right): DFA-UMWA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega, DFA-UNIO Assistant Secretary Kira Christianne Danganan-Azucena, Ambassador Victor G. Garcia III (Ret.) member of the Philippine Delegation to UNCLOS III in 1982, Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, Assistant Postmaster General Francis T. Cereno, DFA-MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce and DFA-OFMS Assistant Secretary Domingo P. Nolasco

- Hosted, with DFA-ASEAN, the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) on 06-07 December 2022 and the National Consultations on Deep Seabed Mining Consultations on 16 December 2022.



The DFA, led by MOAO Assistant Secretary Maria Angela A. Ponce, conducts the National Consultations on Deep Seabed Mining Consultations on 16 December 2022.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

- Participation in National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea (NTF WPS): The **DFA is a member of the National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea**, chaired by the National Security Adviser and the National Intelligence Coordinating Authority. The meetings of the Task Force result in actionable items, including the processing of reports for diplomatic protest to assert PH rights, protect and defend the national interest. As chair of the Diplomatic, Political and Legal Working Group, the DFA reviews **all incidents reported that are determined to be violations of UNCLOS, the 2016 South China Sea Arbitration, the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and other maritime laws and regulations, domestic or international. Incidents are reviewed and processed by the Department for the purpose of filing diplomatic protests, and creating a legal record.**

The DFA also supports and contributes to the work of the military engagement working group, the socio-economic working group and the information working group, that are more directly involved and have the front line assets able to enact immediate actions in the governance of the maritime jurisdiction, protection, defense and promotion of interests in the WPS.

- The DFA also supported and participated in the legislative hearings on maritime governance, enforcement, environment, and seafarer related bills, conducted by the Committees on Transport, Foreign Relations, Migrant Workers, and the Special Committee on the West Philippine Sea

Protection of Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

The Department continues to file diplomatic protests against the illegal presence and operations of Chinese vessels in Philippine maritime zones. In 2022, a total of 195 Notes Verbales were lodged against Chinese violations of Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction, including illegal radio challenges and flare warnings, prolonged presence, and unauthorized marine scientific research, among others. Three (3) Notes Verbales were also lodged with the Vietnamese Embassy for construction, reclamation and illegal fishing activities.

In addition to written diplomatic protests, the Department summoned Chinese Embassy officials five (5) times at various levels to deliver verbal demarches against Chinese maritime intrusions.

G. COVID-19-RELATED INITIATIVES AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES

Facilitation of International Humanitarian Assistance

The DFA, being the lead agency of the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster (PIHAC), has taken the lead in consolidating and monitoring international humanitarian assistance for the Philippine Government, most recently on IHA related to the North Luzon earthquake, COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon “Odette” (“Rai”). It oversaw the monitoring, consolidation and reporting of the following IHA related to COVID-19, and various disasters:

NORTH LUZON EARTHQUAKE (JUL - SEP 2022)

While the monetary value of the received international humanitarian assistance offers is not available, the current total monetary value of ongoing offers from foreign governments and international organizations is approximately USD 437,743.20.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE (FEB 2020 - SEP 2022)

The current total monetary value of the international humanitarian assistance towards the country's pandemic response that the DFA has processed is approximately USD 23,409,775.60.

STY ODETTE (DEC 2021 - SEP 2022)

The current total monetary value of the received international humanitarian assistance offers is approximately USD 51,183,337.17, while the ongoing offers from foreign governments, international organizations, and the private sector is approximately USD 50,470,548.81

Moreover, the DFA notes the further extension of the Declaration of a State of Calamity Throughout the Philippines due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (The DFA is a member of the NDRRMC, which assessed the situation and made the recommendation.) The President approved the further extension from 13 September 2022 to 31 December 2022, as issued under the Presidential Proclamation No. 57 on 12 September 2022. The extension will enable the National Government and Local Government Units to continuously deliver COVID-19 related interventions, such as, but not limited to, COVID-19 vaccination program, utilization of appropriate funds, including the Quick Response Fund, in their disaster preparedness and response efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, monitor and control prices of basic necessities and prime commodities, and provide basic services to the affected populations.

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

The Department facilitated the following:

1. **Four (4) ODA loans and grants** from Japan totaling **JPY 31.02 billion (around USD 230 million)** for COVID-19-related donations and recovery assistance, social development in Mindanao, and capacity-building;
2. Framework Arrangement with the Republic of Korea signed on 21 December 2022 concerning the provision of ODA loans up to **USD 3 billion** from 2022 to 2026;
3. Donation of **20,000 metric tons of urea** from the Chinese Government;
4. Turn-over of **USD 65,000 donation** of the Thai Government for the Victims of Typhoon Odette, 2 March 2022;
5. Turn-over of **USD 25,000** donation from Mauritius for the Victims of Typhoon Odette, April 2022; [OMEAA]
6. Turn-over of **837,200 non-medical respirator masks** from the Canadian Government.

Facilitation of Turnover Donation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Department of Health

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KS Relief), donated USD 1.5 million cash donation to support the development of health facilities in Marawi City, Province of Lanao del Sur. The donation aims to provide financial assistance for the installation of medical devices, instruments and equipment, and training of medical personnel in Marawi City. Saudi Arabia also donated USD 1.7 million worth of medical and personal protective equipment to support the response measures of the Philippine Government against COVID-19.



From left to right: Health Assistant Secretary Romeo Ong, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alfonso A. Ver, Dr. Shalimar Rakiin, Acting Foreign Secretary Lourdes O. Yparraguirre, Ambassador Hisham Alqahtani, Dr. Abdullah Saleh Almoallem, and Undersecretary Leopoldo Vega during the official turnover of donation from Saudi Arabia on 19 May 2023

Organizational Outcome 1

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

Facilitation of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Donation of RT-PCR Test Machines and Related Kits

Through the collaboration of the DFA, the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), the Philippines received from the UAE government 50 units of Bioer LineGene 9600 Plus RT-PCR Machines, 25 units of Auto Pure 96 Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, 250,000 units of ANDiS Fast SARS-CoV-2 RT-qPCR Detection Kits (V5.1), and 250,000 units of ANDiS Viral RNA Auto Extraction and Purification Kits, with an approximate total cost of US\$ 3 million.



Then Philippine Ambassador to UAE Hjayceelyn Quintana (left), UAE Ambassador Mohamed Obaid Alqataam Alzaabi (center), and OMEAA Assistant Secretary Alfonso A. Ver during the handover of the UAE donation of RT-PCR test machines and related kits to the Philippines on 01 August 2022

Pursuant to Section 5 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 11639, otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act for FY 2022, the DFA favorably recommended to the Office of the President the acceptance of the donations from the UAE. On 01 August 2022, the Office of the Executive Secretary issued its approval of the donations. During the celebration of the 48th anniversary of PH-UAE relations on 19 August 2022, the UAE donations arrived at the NAIA Terminal 3. H.E. Mohamed Obaid Salem Alqataam Alzaabi, Ambassador of the UAE to the Philippines, Hon. Alfonso A. Ver, DFA Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs, and H.E. Hjayceelyn M. Quintana, Ambassador of the Philippines to the UAE, witnessed the unloading of the shipment.

Facilitation of PH's acceptance of 6 million doses of pediatric Pfizer vaccines donated by Australia

The Department, through the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs, facilitated Australia's donation of six (6) million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in support of the Philippines' resumption of face-to-face classes.

Organizational Outcome 1

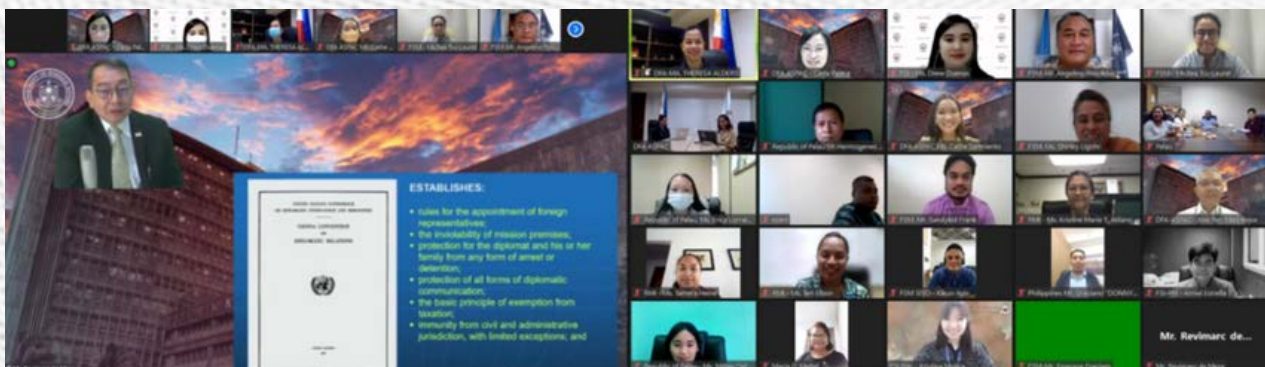
Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote National Development and International Cooperation

Other COVID-19 related donations

The Department facilitated donations from Israel which included Php 575,000 for the Makati Medical Center Foundation Inc, 16,000 units of antigen test kits for DND, and NUF water filtration device for the Mindanao Development Authority.

Other Assistance-Related Initiatives

- **Philippines' donation of US\$ 100,000 to Pakistan** for flood relief and rehabilitation efforts for the country's flood relief and rehabilitation efforts. The unprecedented and devastating flooding in Pakistan inundated 70% of the districts around the country, affecting more than 33 million people.
- **Philippines' donation of US\$ 10,000 to Tonga's disaster relief effort** for its post-disaster response. Tonga experienced a tsunami and eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano on 15 January 2022. The Tongan Government estimated that 85% of Tonga's population of 105,000 had been directly affected by the eruption and tsunami.
- **Philippines' donation of US\$ 10,000 to Nauru's COVID-19 Response.** Nauru issued an official statement on 17 June 2022 on the first outbreak of COVID-19 in the country and requested assistance from the Philippines in its efforts in maintaining, containing and managing the outbreak.
- Inaugural virtual seminar-workshop on protocol, social graces, and etiquette for 30 selected diplomats from the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands on 26-27 October 2022 under the South-South technical cooperation.



Former Deputy Chief of Presidential Protocol Revimarc L. de Mesa explains the importance of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations as the bedrock of diplomacy during the Inaugural Seminar Workshop on Protocol, Social Graces, and Etiquette on 26-27 October 2022

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged,
and Consular Services Improved

A. ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINOS



The DFA remains committed to assisting Filipino nationals abroad, as the third pillar of the Philippine foreign policy, providing them with various forms of assistance. Until the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is fully constituted, the DFA will continue providing Assistance to Nationals (ATN) services, including funding for these services from the ATN Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF), for Filipino migrant workers, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11641.

Acting Underscretary Eduardo José A. de Vega (left) and his predecessor, IOM Regional Director for Asia Sarah Lou Y. Arriola (right), who served as Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs until 30 June 2022

Repatriation Efforts

For the period of January to December 2022, the DFA mounted **12 charter flights** which repatriated **3,686 overseas Filipinos**, including migrant workers, 94.74% of whom were from the Middle East, predominantly from Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The last DFA chartered flight for the year was on 16 December 2022, through which the DFA's OUMWA brought home 380 undocumented and distressed overseas Filipinos from Jeddah, KSA.

Overall, the DFA repatriated a total of **7,426 distressed overseas Filipinos** in 2022, both on chartered flights and on other commercial flights. The repatriation services included the payment of return flights to the Philippines and the settling of immigration penalties. Most of the repatriates are migrant workers who lost their jobs or had escaped from abusive employers and, subsequently, overstayed without having the means to pay for their return to the Philippines. Many of them were already staying at Immigration detention centers after having been arrested for overstaying and working without appropriate work permits.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved



DFA personnel assist 100 repatriates on DFA-chartered flight from Bahrain, January 2022.



DFA personnel assist 201 repatriates on DFA-chartered flight from Qatar, February 2022.



DFA personnel assist 329 repatriates on DFA-chartered flight from UAE and Kuwait, 09 February 2022.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved



Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes (center) with the Filipino repatriates waiting for the chartered flight at the international airport in Dubai. The DFA-OUMWA, together with the Foreign Service Posts in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, organized a sweeper flight to repatriate Filipinos from these countries (15 February 2022)



DFA-UMWA Principal Assistant Kristine Dinar Sison (extreme left, in red jacket), with DFA-UMWA ATN Officers Abdul Rahman Pacasum (left, in red jacket) and Patricia Ancheta (standing in foreground, in red jacket) during the DFA-chartered flight for distress Filipino migrants from Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on 24 March 2022

Ambassador Meynardo LB. Montealegre (second from the right) of the Philippine Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam and Honorary Consul General Le Thi Phung (third from the right) assisted at the boarding of distressed overseas Filipinos of the DFA-chartered flight at the airport in Hanoi, Vietnam



DFA repatriates 194 distressed overseas Filipinos from Vietnam and Thailand, including 49 minors on 24 March 2022.

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Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved



Arrival of 333 OFWS on board a DFA Chartered Flight from Kuwait, including four (4) infants and two (2) medical repatriates, on 26 May 2022. This was followed by another chartered flight on 31 May 2022 bringing home 209 distressed Filipinos from Kuwait which include 4 children and 4 medical repatriates.



DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega (left of center, in red DFA jacket), with DFA-UMWA ATN Officer Ashurry Macasindil (left), with repatriates from Kuwait on 02 August 2022

UMWA personnel (in red DFA jackets) meet on 20 July 2022 OFW repatriates and their dependents from Sri Lanka whose jobs were affected by the economic crisis in the said country.



Personnel from the DFA-UMWA welcome repatriates from Lebanon and Kuwait upon their arrival at NAIA Terminal 3.

The DFA also repatriated **453 overseas Filipinos from Ukraine** when the Russian military operations commenced in the country in February 2022. The Philippine Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, in coordination with the Philippine Honorary Consul in Kiev, helped Filipinos cross the border to Poland, from where they were repatriated to the Philippines. The Philippine Embassy in Budapest, Hungary, in coordination with the Philippine Honorary Consul in Chisinau, Moldova, helped other Filipinos, including

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seafarers, to cross over through Moldova to Hungary, from where they were also repatriated.



Six (6) Filipino nationals arrive from Ukraine on 18 February 2022



Former Secretary for Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. welcomes 13 overseas Filipinos from Ukraine upon their arrival at the Polish border on 01 March 2022. The OFs were brought to the Polish border from Lviv, Ukraine through the efforts of the Philippine Embassy in Warsaw, Poland.



Philippine Ambassador to Poland Leah Basinang-Ruiz with a group of Filipinos who opted to be repatriated to the Philippines at the international airport in Warsaw. The group was part of a larger group of Filipinos who evacuated from Kiev, Ukraine.



Former DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola, and Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes, together with an UMWA team, meet the repatriates from Ukraine.

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Twenty-five (25) Filipinos evacuated from Ukraine to Moldova headed for Bucharest, Romania on 03 March 2022 for their eventual repatriation to the Philippines.



Left photo: Deputy Chief of Mission Mardomel Celo D. Melicor (front row, second from left) of the Philippine Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, and Minister Counsellor Jeerasak Pomsuwan (front row, third from left) of the Royal Thai Embassy, join hands to show ASEAN solidarity as they pose in front of Thai and Filipino evacuees before leaving in the bus from Lviv, Ukraine to Warsaw, Poland.

Right photo: Ambassador Frank R. Cimafranca of the Philippine Embassy Budapest in Hungary, with the Filipino seafarers of MV Global Aglaia.



Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Kristine Leilani R. Salle (left, in red DFA jacket) and OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes (left of center, in red DFA jacket), welcome the arriving Filipino seafarers from Ukraine.

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Transfers of Filipinos from Sabah

Prior to the implementation of the lockdown in Malaysia and Sabah in 2021, the DFA, through the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and UMWA, has been coordinating with the Sabah Immigration Department for the transfer of Filipinos from the four (4) Immigration Depots in Sabah: Kota Kinabalu, Papar, Sandakan, and Tawau. The DFA, together with local government units such as Zamboanga and Tawi-tawi, continually assisted the returning Filipinos from Sabah until April 2021, when the need to repair the vessels used for transport brought a temporary halt to the process. The transfers resumed in September 2022. In total, the DFA assisted **6,164 Filipino returnees from Sabah** in 2022. As of writing, the DFA continues to work with the Sabah Immigration Department to facilitate the transfer of Filipinos from Sabah.



DFA-UMWA personnel (in red DFA jackets) assist Filipino returnees from Sabah at NAIA on 07 September 2022.



Two hundred (200) Filipino returnees from Sabah arrive in Zamboanga on 07 September 2022 on board MV Alesa



DFA-UMWA Assistant Director Kenneth Jim Joseph Jimeno (third from left) and ATN Desk Officer Ashurry Macasindil (leftmost), together with officials from the Zamboanga Port and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, meet the transferees from Sabah

Legal Assistance Provided

In 2022, the LAF was utilized to assist **6,467 overseas Filipinos with legal cases**

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abroad. This included hiring the professional services of lawyers or legal firms abroad, or renewing their contracts, to work on said legal cases.

Acquittals / Pardon

Among the beneficiaries of the LAF, **approximately 135 OFWs** were acquitted in 2022 after undergoing a full criminal trial process through which the courts found them not guilty of the crimes they were charged with. Most of these acquittals occurred in the Middle East, where access to legal aid, public defenders, or counsels de officio is limited.

The DFA, through UMWA, also used the LAF to assist convicted overseas Filipinos by requesting pardons for them from the respective host governments. In 2022, the DFA successfully obtained around **69 pardons** for Filipinos convicted of drug trafficking, prostitution, and theft, among other offenses.

Death Penalty Updates

In 2022, the DFA monitored a total of **81 legal cases** involving overseas Filipinos which carried the death penalty. All of them, with the exception of two (2), were on various stages of appeal from years back when the convictions were promulgated. Of the two cases on the final and executory stage, one is in Saudi Arabia and the other is in Indonesia.

In August 2022, UMWA transmitted a copy of the letter signed by President Ferdinand Marcos addressed to the King of Saudi Arabia, which requested for intercession from the King regarding the pending execution of a convicted overseas Filipino worker. In November 2022, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through a Note Verbale dated 09 November 2022, informed the Philippine Government that the execution of the OFW would be delayed until the end of 2023. The delay of the execution was granted in order for the Philippine Government and the relatives of the OFW to discuss the possible execution of a tanazul and payment of diyyah. The tanazul is an act of forgiveness on the part of the heirs of the victim and the diyyah is the payment of blood money.

Coordination Efforts with the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)

The passage of R.A. 11641 at the end of 2021 created the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), which subsumed into one national agency the offices that have functions related to Filipino migrant workers. With the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) as the subsisting agency, the other offices subsumed included the International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) – which also has oversight of the Philippine Overseas Welfare Offices (POLOs) abroad – of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP), the and the Office of the

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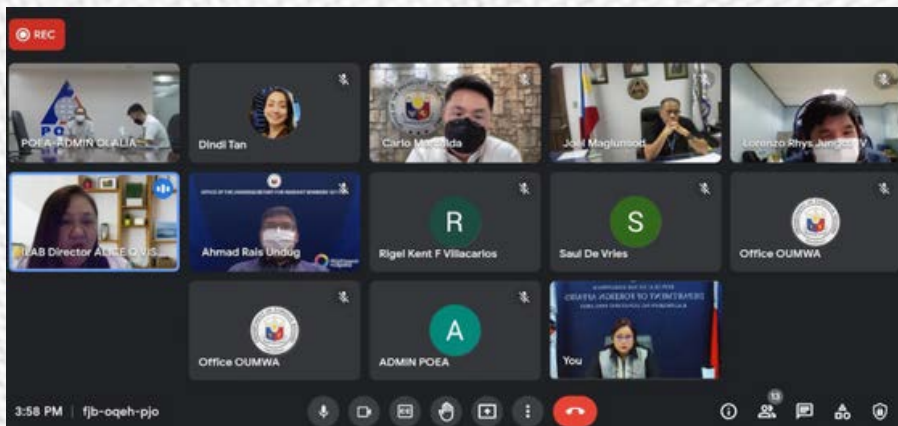
Social Welfare Attaché (OSWA) of the Department of Social Welfare of Development (DSWD). The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) was also transferred from the DOLE to the DMW as an attached agency.

With respect to the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA-UMWA), only its functions related to assisting distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) will be transferred to the DMW. The same law provides for the retention by the DFA of all the Foreign Service personnel, as well as the ATN Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF). The DFA will continue assisting distressed overseas Filipinos who are not OFWs. In countries where there are no POLOs – which will eventually be renamed Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs) – the DFA, through its Foreign Service Posts (FSPs), will continue assisting distressed OFWs as well, until the DMW is able to set up the MWOs.

These were the **DFA's roles in the Transition Committee of the DMW**:

Headed the Transition Committee

As the designated Chair of the Transition Committee, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola convened and guided the actuations of the Committee. She maintained an active leadership role in the deliberations of the body even after the appointment of a DMW Secretary.



Transition Committee Meeting on the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 11641, April 2022

UMWA acted as the Secretariat that performed the administrative and record-keeping tasks of the Transition Committee.

Headed the Technical Working Group

UMWA Special Assistant (SA) Lorenzo Rhys G. Jungco IV was nominated as the lead of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Transition Committee. In the said capacity, SA Jungco convened experts from the different offices that would eventually comprise the DMW to answer specific queries of and perform tasks as assigned by the Transition Committee. UMWA Acting Director Lorenz Fernand D. Dantes and Principal Assistant (PA) Ahmad Rais T. Undug likewise became members of the TWG. They furnished information and advice regarding specific concerns, particularly those pertaining to the DFA.

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Led the Drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 11641

SA Jungco, ably assisted by Acting Director Dantes and PA Undug, took the lead and actively participated in the formulation and finalization of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11641, which was the version approved by the President. UMWA officers provided information, advice, and options on the formulation of the IRR. More importantly, UMWA officers provided tact and diplomacy in resolving numerous divergent interests to achieve an acceptable compromise among the concerned agencies.

Assisted in Crafting DMW's Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern

UMWA officers gave advice and suggestions on how the DMW should be structured, based on the experiences of the DFA. Further, the ideal staffing pattern for overseas operations was shared with the agencies and offices that will comprise the DMW.

Assisted in Formulating the DMW's Budget

UMWA officers likewise assisted in the process of effectively constituting the DMW by sharing information on the financial aspects of ATN operations to the TWG and Transition Committee. Under the new administration, Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega, Senior Special Assistant Roy B. Ecraft, and Special Assistant Jungco, and Assistant Director Dantes continued to attend Transition Committee Meetings on the execution of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 11641.

UMWA also attended Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Board Meetings. Its officials were also part of the Philippine Delegation during the visit of DMW Secretary Susan Ople to Saudi Arabia on 11-13 September 2022. Together with the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh and the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, they assisted Secretary Ople and other DMW officials in their meetings with key Saudi officials and Filipino community groups.



DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega (upper third from left) at an OWWA Board meeting to ensure adequate social protection and proper provision of public service to Filipino migrant workers.

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UMWA is in the process of preparing a training program on Assistance-to- Nationals (ATN) for DMW officials and staff as part of the DFA's turnover of responsibilities to DMW. UMWA is also in coordination with the DMW leadership, providing the latter with advice on certain strategic and operational matters of common interest.



DFA-UMWA Senior Special Assistant Jose A. Cabrera (center front, in light blue shirt) delivered a lecture on "Opportunities in the Middle East and Crisis Hotspot in the Middle East and Africa" during a training for DOLE personnel who have served or will serve in Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs). These DOLE personnel belonged to units that will be subsumed under the DMW once it was fully constituted

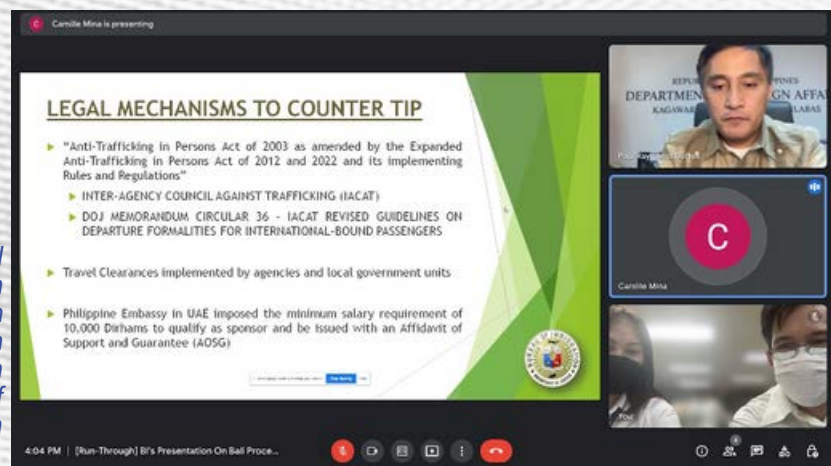
Combatting Trafficking in Persons

Anti-TIP Efforts

In 2022, the DFA flagged the cases of 478 human trafficking victims abroad, of which 103 were male and 375 were female. Aside from assisting the trafficking victims whenever possible, which ultimately led to their repatriation to the Philippines, the DFA sent 141 reports and letters to refer all cases to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), for the latter to lead the investigation into the traffickers and illegal recruiters and file appropriate cases.

Preparatory Meeting on Bali Process Roundtable scheduled on 07-08 September 2022, held on 25 August 2022

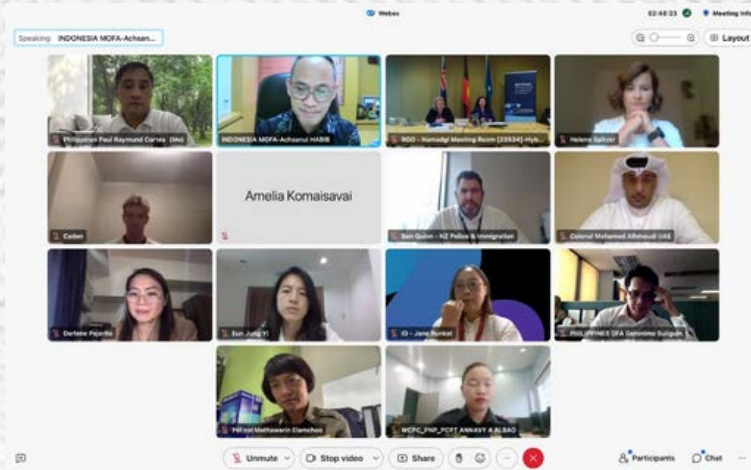
DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes (upper right), with DFA-OMWA Director Geronimo Suliguin and Legal Officer Adhara Khaye Celerian (lower left), attending the preparation meeting hosted by the Bureau of Immigration for the Philippine Delegation to the Bali Process Roundtable



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Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group's (TIPWG) Regional Webinar, 29 to 30 August 2022



DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes (top left of screen) with DFA-OMWA Director Geronimo Suliguin (rightmost of the third row of the screen) attended the Day 1 of the Bali Process TIPWG on the Role of Technology in Facilitating and Combating Trafficking in Persons

Constructive Dialogue on Irregular Migration, People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons of the Bali Process



Left photo: DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes (right) and DFA-OMWA Director Geronimo Suliguin (left) attend the 20th Anniversary Roundtable of the Constructive Dialogue on Irregular Migration, People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, organized by the Bali Process Regional Support Office, held on 07-08 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand on 7-8 September 2022. Right photo: DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Cortes (center right) with Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Millicent Cruz-Paredes (center left) and members of the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

56th Regular Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) Meeting, 20 December 2022



DFA-OMWA Anti-Trafficking Unit led by Assistant for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes attend the 56th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) on 20 December 2022.

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Virtual Meeting between DFA and the Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros on the Trafficking Victims in Myanmar, 13 November 2022

DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes (top center), DLLU Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez (top right), UCSCA Acting Undersecretary Jesus Domingo (middle left), Vice Consul Peter John De La Fuente of the Philippine Embassy in Yangon (center), Senator Risa Hontiveros (middle right), Chargé d'Affaires Enrique Voltaire Pingol of the Philippine Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar (lower right), discuss the status of rescuing the trafficking victims who reached out first to Senator Hontiveros' office for assistance during the virtual meeting on 13 November 2022.



Repatriation of Trafficking Victims forced into working in Cyberscamming Operations in Southeast Asia

DFA-UMWA flew to Thailand in November 2022 to meet twelve (12) Filipino human trafficking victims from Myanmar. Working together with the Office of the Police Attaché and the Assistance-to-Nationals Section of the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok, DFA-UMWA facilitated the repatriation of the 12 victims and brought them home safely on 21 November 2022. The 12 Filipinos were recruited as back-end office workers in Thailand. However, upon arriving in the country, they were swiftly taken to Myanmar where they were made to work in online catfishing/scamming business. Via social media, they were lured to join through promises of an all-expenses-paid trip to Thailand where a high-paying job with no required work experience allegedly awaits them. A few days into their work, their employers started threatening them with physical harm and even death if they did not meet their "investment" quotas.

Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Eduardo Jose A. de Vega personally welcomed the 12 repatriates at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon their arrival.

In a privilege speech delivered by Senator Risa Hontiveros on 21 November 2022, she thanked the Department for assisting and repatriating the said Filipino human trafficking victims.



DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega, (fourth from the left) DFA-UMWA Acting Director Armand Dulay (second to the left), with DFA-UMWA ATN Officers Alcano (second to the right) and Franz Ludwig Bernardo (rightmost), welcomed and assisted the arrival of twelve (12) overseas Filipinos, who were victims of TIP, on 21 November 2022.

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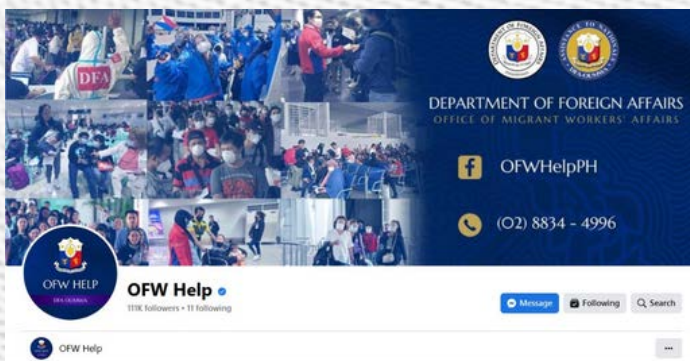
In response to the rise in trafficking cases related to forced labor in cyber scamming, DFA-OUMWA put out this infographic:



U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report 2021

On 20 July 2022, the US Department of State issued its 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, which included **the Philippines among the Tier 1 countries for the 7th consecutive year**. The Tier 1 ranking indicates that, from the United States’ point of view, a country fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

The report stated that the Philippines retained its ranking because “the government continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period, considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its anti-trafficking capacity.” It acknowledged the whole-of-government efforts of the DFA and other member agencies of the IACAT. It also lauded the DFA for ensuring interagency coordination of services for repatriated Filipino trafficking victims, mentioning in particular its allocation of PHP 1 billion for ATN funds for airfare, meal allowance, shelter, medical care, and other needs of OFWs.



The Report further noted that the funds used to support overseas shelters for trafficking victims awaiting the resolution of their cases or their repatriation, as well as the potential victims of human trafficking—majority of whom were victims of illegal recruitment—identified by the Foreign Service Posts. It likewise cited the DFA-UMWA’s OFW HELP Facebook page for overseas Filipinos who are in distress, and for their next-of-kin requesting assistance.

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ATN Missions Abroad

DFA-OMWA conducted several ATN missions abroad, which includes the ATN audit of Foreign Service Posts and meeting with the Filipino communities.

DFA-UMWA ATN Mission in Abu Dhabi, and Dubai, UAE, February 2022



In the photo: DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes conducts ATN Audit In Dubai, meets Filipinos in the Philippine Consulate's shelter. DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Cortes together with former Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain and then Office of Middle East and African Affairs Assistant Secretary Alfonso A. Ver as well as other Philippine Consulate General officials also met with 30 members of the Filipino Community from various organizations in Dubai on 09 February 2022 at the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai.



DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes and then DFA Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Alfonso A. Ver conduct an ATN Audit at the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 13 February 2022



Hours before a scheduled repatriation flight, DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes accompanied by DFA Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Alfonso A. Ver as well staff and officials of the Philippine Consulate in Dubai (Dubai PCG) visited the Dubai Hospital yesterday in order to secure the necessary clearances for the medical repatriation of a Filipino stretcher patient suffering from lymphoma. The Filipino stretcher patient, together with an estimated 349 distressed Overseas Filipino repatriates from Riyadh, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, would join the DFA-chartered humanitarian flight scheduled for 15 February 2022.

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DFA-UMWA ATN Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, October 2022

Acting Undersecretary Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega (center) leads the DFA-UMWA Team during its ATN mission in Geneva Switzerland in October 2022. Also in photo are Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva (Geneva PM) Evan P. Garcia (right of Acting Undersecretary de Vega), Geneva PM officials and staff, and members of the Filipino Community in Geneva



DFA-UMWA ATN Mission in Tunisia, November 2022



DFA-UMWA represented by Acting Directors Lorenzo Cris Vidal (fourth from the right, standing) and Kenneth Jim Jimeno (third from the right, standing), with ATN officer Lorana-Tiu (second from the right, standing), conducted a Filipino Community meeting in coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Libya, led by CDA Alan Roi Gabriola (center-sitted) with ATN Officer Mendoza (leftmost standing)

DFA-UMWA ATN Missions in Kuwait, Iraq and Syria, December 2022



Clockwise from top: (1) DFA-UMWA Acting Director Dulay (second the right) conducts an ATN hospital visitation for OFW Jenelyn Catimbang Paas, who is a Filipino household service worker (HSW) in Kuwait and suffered a stroke. (2) DFA-UMWA Acting Director Dulay (front most) and then Charge d'Affaires Vida Verzosa (left most) distribute financial assistance and spent Christmas Day with the Filipino community in Aleppo, Syria. (3) DFA-UMWA Acting Director Dulay (left most) conducts a visit of the Women and Juvenile Prison in Erbil, Iraq to check on the condition and to provide welfare assistance to three Filipino household service workers who were detained for absconding from their employers.

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DFA-UMWA also conducted ATN missions in the following countries:

- Libya, March 2022;
- Spain, October 2022;
- Canada, October 2022;
- Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama, November 2022;
- New York and Washington DC, USA, November 2022;
- Lebanon and Israel, November 2022
- Casablanca and Rabat, Morocco, November 2022;
- Cairo, Egypt, November 2022;
- Ireland, December 2022;
- New Zealand and Fiji, December 2022; and
- Jordan and Oman, December 2022.

Bilateral engagements on overseas Filipino workers

DFA-UMWA Meeting with UAE Officials, 12 February 2022



DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes leads the DFA-UMWA Team who met with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) on 12 February 2022 to discuss the proposal to conduct a forum on labor market mobility and flexibility.

DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund Cortes met on 12 February 2022 with Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) Abdullah Ali Al Nuiami to discuss the proposal to conduct of a forum on labor market mobility and flexibility. In the meeting, both the Philippines and UAE agreed to schedule a forum that would serve as an important migration roadmap building from the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labor Cooperation signed in September 2017 and the MOU on Cooperation in Combatting Human Trafficking signed in September 2019 and on the road to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022.

DFA-OMWA and DFA-ASPAC Meeting with the Embassy of New Zealand, 22 September 2022

OMWA chaired the DFA meeting with the Embassy of New Zealand in Manila to discuss issues related to the recruitment of Filipino nurses in New Zealand.

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Left to right: New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell, Deputy Chief of Mission Tim Given, ASPAC Principal Assistant Cathe Ryne Denice S. Aguilar, Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Paul Raymund P. Cortes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia and Pacific Affairs Maria Anna Lilia De Vera-Schinazi



DFA-UMWA Meeting with Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), 11 November 2022

DFA-UMWA, led by Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega visited Mexico and met with the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) on 11 November 2022. Among the officials from the SRE who had separate meetings with the DFA delegation were Counsellor Fernando Gonzales Saiffe (Director General for Asia and the Pacific), Minister David Simon Figueras (Director General for Consular Protection and Strategic Planning), Ms. Lucia Antonio Perez (Coordinator for Migratory Services), and Ms. Evelyn Vera Barreto (Coordinator for Consular Services). The issues discussed include free trade, agriculture, climate change, migrant protection, and the exchange of best practices in providing consular services to overseas nationals.



Philippine and Mexican officials exchanged views and areas of cooperation during a visit on 11 November 2022 to Mexico City by a delegation from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), headed by Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega

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Multilateral Engagements on Migration

The Philippines' Voluntary National Review (VNR), 21 March 2022

The Philippines is one of the Champion Countries of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which has become a key reference for its international migration policies and is actively implementing it at the national level. The Philippines took stock of its progress in implementing the GCM through submissions of its GCM Voluntary Review in 2022, ahead of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

The VNR serves as a government-led stocktaking of the progress made in the achievement of the GCM objectives. It consists, among others, the country-level implementation plans and status of all 23 Objectives. It was built on the Voluntary GCM Review submitted by the Philippine government in October 2020 for the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the GCM Implementation held in March 2021.

International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17–20 May 2022



*Front row, from right: Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., head of the Philippine delegation to the IMRF, Madame Maria Lourdes B. Locsin, DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola
Back row, from left: Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva Evan P. Garcia, and former Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York Enrique A. Manalo*

The Philippines participated in the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which is the primary intergovernmental global platform that discusses and shares progress on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), including as it relates to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event was conducted on 16–20 May 2022 at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York under the auspices of the President of the UN General Assembly.

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs headed the Philippine delegation, which was composed of government officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other agencies with migration-related functions such as the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

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During the IMRF General Debate, Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. delivered remarks on the progress of the PH implementation of the GCM goals:

- Landmark reforms to adopt the GCM such as the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) Chapter 2I and the enactment of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) legislation;
- Prioritization of migrants' vaccination and vaccination certificates and establishment of "green lanes" for seafarers;
- Campaigns for repatriation, labor mobility, efforts against trafficking and the *kafala* system; and
- Commitment to uphold the rights of migrants' workers across the globe.

There were four (4) Round Table discussions during the IMRF. The Department participated in two of the Round Tables, and then Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola also served as speaker for the PH during a side-event, "Accelerating GCM Implementation at the Regional and National Levels," organized by the UN Regional Commissions.

The IMRF produced an outcome document called the GCM Progress Declaration, which reflected the Philippines' priorities. It recognized the value and dignity of all migrant workers in all sectors, emphasizing the importance of promoting fair labor conditions and decent work and upholding international labor standards. It also acknowledged the risks associated with irregular migration and the need for a concerted international response and multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination.



Left photo: Former DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola (second from left) as one of the panelists at the IMRF Roundtable 1 - Discussion on reviewing the GCM objectives 2 - Minimize adverse drivers; 5 - Regular pathways; 6 - Recruitment and decent work; 12 - Screening and referral; and 18 - Skills development and recognition; Right photo: DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes served as an intervenor during the IMRF 2022 Roundtable 2 - Discussion on reviewing the following GCM objectives: 4 - Legal identity and documentation; 8 - Save lives; 9 - Counter smuggling; 10 - Eradicate trafficking; 11 - Manage borders; 13 - Alternatives to detention; and 21 - Dignified return and reintegration.

IMRF Side Events

The PH also co-organized two side-events with other countries at the IMRF related to the PH's active campaign for *kafala* reform:

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- **Securing Safe Migration Pathways: Facilitating Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Combating of International Migrants**, co-organized with Qatar featuring DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes as PH speaker; and
- **Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Improving Labor Migration Governance for Migrant Workers in the Middle East**, co-organized with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia featuring former Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola as PH speaker.

Second Session of the International Dialogue on Migration (IDM): "Overlapping global crises: the impacts of food insecurity and climate change on migration and displacement", 24 to 25 October 2022, Geneva, Switzerland



Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega assured the UN of the continued active participation of the Philippines in various areas of cooperation in advancing migrants' rights during the IDM panel moderated by IOM Deputy Director General Amy Pope

This IDM Session focused on the theme: "Overlapping global crises: the impact of food insecurity and climate change on migration and displacement," highlighting the complex interlinkages between climate change, food security, and human mobility. Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs de Vega, who headed the Philippine delegation, served as a speaker in the panel discussion on "Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable to economic adversity: upskilling, financing jobs and the green economy."

In his address, Undersecretary de Vega highlighted the following:

- The various assistance packages provided by the Philippine government to Filipino migrants in vulnerable situations, such as the mass repatriations of over two (2) million overseas Filipinos affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the provision of financial and welfare assistance to distressed overseas Filipinos;
- PH's efforts to facilitate labor mobility, particularly during the pandemic, as well as in combatting trafficking and wage theft. These include bilateral discussions and agreements with countries of destination for the protection of Filipino migrants. Mechanisms to regulate the conditions for their recruitment and decent work were mentioned to be in accordance with the GCM and true to the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches;

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

- The role of the Philippines as a GCM Champion Country was underscored, as evidenced by the establishment of the DMW. Most importantly, the phenomenon of climate change was highlighted as a driver of migration and its effects at the international level; and
- The new administration's initiative to make the agricultural sector a top priority due to its adverse impacts that can force people and communities to move. The importance of migration policies being preventive from existing issues and challenges was stressed so that migration can be a matter of choice rather than their survival.

DFA-UMWA Meeting with IOM Director General at Sidelines of IDM, 24 October 2022



In his meeting with IOM Director General DG António Vitorino on the sidelines of the IDM, DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega discussed the following:

- The significant role played by the IOM as a staunch partner of the Philippine government in the adoption and implementation of the GCM, which is the key reference for migration policies in the Philippines. For this, he called for an enhanced cooperation between the Philippines and IOM for an improved international migration governance;
- The continued support of PH for its joint project with the IOM named Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance (BRIDGE), which looks at the needs and protection of overseas Filipino workers throughout the migration cycle; and
- DG Vitorino's intention to maintain the IOM's Manila Administrative Center (MAC) as a global support in the areas of finance, human resources management and information technology.

IDM Side Event

The DFA organized the forum on "Strengthening Migrant Protection: Addressing Wage Theft Against Migrant Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic" held on 15 November 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. It was co-organized with the Governments of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The said UN event, co-organized by the governments of the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, discussed the phenomenon of wage theft and its effects on migrant workers and migration processes. It is successfully joined by high-level officials from the governments of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and the International Organization for Migration, International Labor Organization, and the Migrant Forum in Asia.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved



Snapshots during the forum on "Strengthening Migrant Protection: Addressing Wage Theft Against Migrant Workers During the Covid-19 Pandemic" held on 15 November 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA organized by the DFA with the Governments of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Eduardo Jose A. de Vega leads the Philippine delegation to the event

Meeting with IOM in Morocco during the DFA-OUMWA ATN Mission in Rabat, November 2022



Group photo of the DFA-UMWA delegation team, composed of DFA-UMWA Acting Directors Lorenzo Cris Vidal (third from the right) and Kenneth Jim Jimeno (second from the left), with ATN officer Lizel Lorana-Tiu (leftmost), with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Rabat, Morocco representatives

Partnerships with Stakeholders

Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting (SCM) on Assistance to Nationals (ATN), 21 June 2022

DFA-UMWA organized the Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting (SCM) on Assistance to Nationals (ATN) on 21 June 2022. The SCM on ATN was attended by representatives from 10 government agencies, two (2) civil society organizations, and three (3) industry groups whose mandates include or are focused on the promotion and protection of overseas Filipinos. Within the Department, representatives from 16 offices and the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) also participated in the SCM. The forum discussed the following issues:

- The Global and Regional Context of Labor Migration citing Philippine experience;
- The Whole of Government Approach in the Implementation of the Global

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

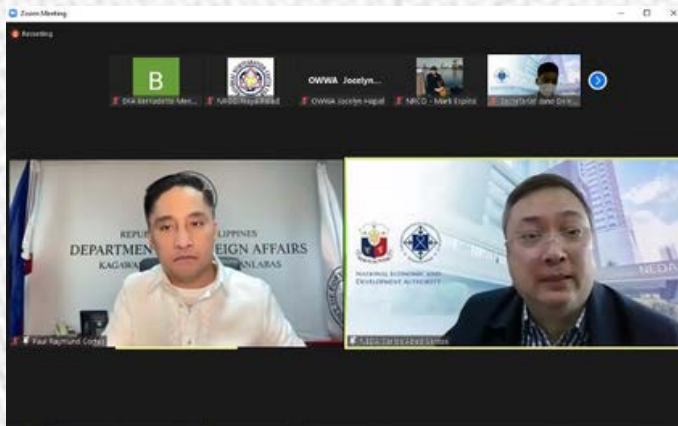
Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Mission;

- The Migratory Experience from the Gender Approach;
- The Legislative Framework and Instruments for the Protection of Filipino Migrant Workers: Creation of a New Department of Migrant Workers;
- ATN in the Digital Age: The Communication Challenge; and
- Identifying Gaps in Data Gathering/Analysis with a Focus on Human Trafficking Victims.



DFA-UMWA, led by then Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Sarah Lou Y. Arriola and DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes, conducts, the SCM on ATN on 21 June 2022.

Sub-Committee on International Migration and Development (SC-IMD) Meeting on 29 June 2022



Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund Cortes (left) presenting as SC-IMD co-chair the highlights and updates on Philippine migration and development, along with fellow co-chair then NEDA Assistant Secretary (now Undersecretary) Carlos Bernardo O. Abad Santos (right) at the SC-IMD regular meeting held online on 29 June 2022.

Forum on Strengthening Philippine Migration Policy through Effective Partnerships, 04 August 2022, DFA-Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini (BAM)

The Forum on Strengthening Philippine Migration Policy through Effective Partnerships held on 04 August 2022 at Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini (BAM) was intended to highlight the great contributions of DFA's partners and various migration stakeholders in the country in further strengthening the Philippine migration governance. It gathered key actors and stakeholders in migration governance in the Philippines, including the members of the UN Network on Migration such as the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and IOM, representatives of migrant-serving agencies such as DOLE and DMW, and members of civil society organizations.

Organizational Outcome 2

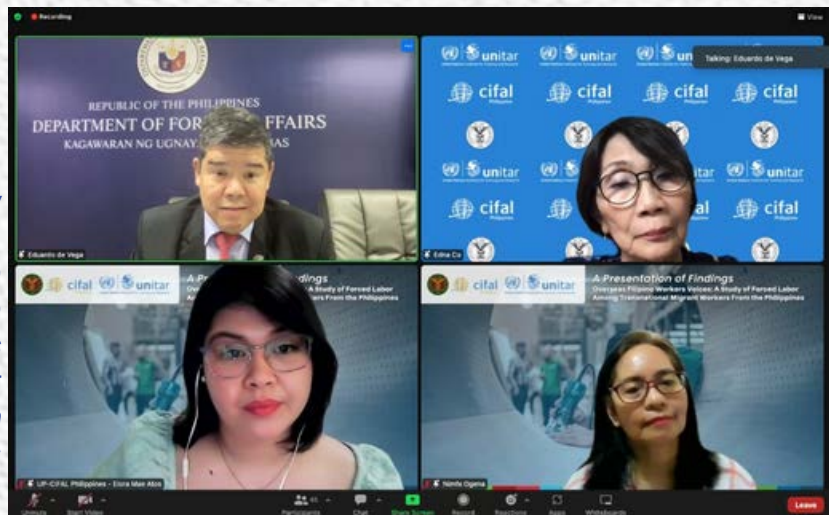
Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved



Participants of the Forum on Strengthening Philippine Migration Policy through Effective Partnerships, 04 August 2022

OFW Voices: A Study of Forced Labor Among Transnational Migrant Workers from the Philippines on 11 August 2022

DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega (upper left) dialogues with the University of the Philippines - Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders (International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders) (UP-CIFAL) on their research presentation on issues related to migrant workers.



DFA-OUMWA Virtual Meeting with House of Representative Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino representing OFW Party List, 12 September 2022



DFA-UMWA Acting Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega (bottom left of screen) and DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul Raymund P. Cortes (top center of the screen) discuss ATN-related matters raised by the constituents of OFW Partylist Representative Marissa “Del Mar” P. Magsino during the virtual meeting on 12 September 2022.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

Forum entitled "Strengthening Migrant Protection: Addressing Wage Theft Against Filipino Migrant Workers", 23 September 2022, Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

STRENGTHENING MIGRANT PROTECTION: ADDRESSING WAGE THEFT AGAINST FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS

WELCOME REMARKS
Eduardo José A. de Vega
Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, DFA

Panel 1: Identifying Wage Theft and the Philippines' Experience

Yuko Tomita
Acting Head of Programme, IOM

Marie Allyssa Dacasin
National Project Coordinator, BRIDGE

Melissa Mendizabal
Labor Attaché, ILAB-DOLE

MODERATOR:
Kristine Leilani R. Salle
Deputy Assistant Secretary, DFA

Panel 2: Ways to Address and Prevent Wage Theft against Migrant Workers

Carmelita G. Nuqui
President, PMRW

Eric D. Dollete
Chief, Legal Assistance Division, DMW

Ellene A. Sana
Executive Director, CMA Philippines

MODERATOR:
Paul Raymund P. Cortes
Assistant Secretary, DFA

Event Details:
Friday
23 September 2022
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
The Linden Suites
Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
To be streamed
live on OFW Help
Facebook Page

DFA-UMWA's forum entitled "Strengthening Migrant Protection: Addressing Wage Theft Against Filipino Migrant Workers" held on 23 September 2022 at the Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City and streamed live on the OFW Help Facebook Page

Forum entitled "The Global Compact for Migration and the Paris Climate Agreement: Exploring the Nexus between Migration Conflict and Climate Crisis", 23 September 2022, Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION AND THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT: EXPLORING THE NEXUS BETWEEN MIGRATION CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CRISIS

WELCOME REMARKS
Eduardo José A. de Vega
Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, DFA

Panel 1: Recognizing Climate Change as a Compelling Factor to Migration

Elenida DR. Basug
Director, DIENR

Troy Dooley
Officer-in-Charge, IOM Philippines

Bjoern Surborg
Cluster Coordinator, GIZ Philippines

MODERATOR:
Kristine Leilani R. Salle
Deputy Assistant Secretary, DFA

Panel 2: A Roadmap for Resilience: Solutions for People to Stay and to Move Safely in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change

Rachel Anne Herrera
Commissioner, CCC

Neil Adrian Cabites
Assistant Secretary, DOF

William Gois
Regional Coordinator, MFA

MODERATOR:
Paul Raymund P. Cortes
Assistant Secretary, DFA

Event Details:
Friday
23 September 2022
2:00 - 4:00 PM
The Linden Suites
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
To be streamed live on
OFW Help Facebook Page

DFA-UMWA's forum "The Global Compact for Migration and the Paris Climate Agreement: Exploring the Nexus between Migration Conflict and Climate Crisis" held on 23 September 2022 at the Linden Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City and streamed live on the OFW Help Facebook Page

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

Meeting of the Planning Committee on International Migration and Development on the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, 27 September 2022, Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini, Ground Floor, DFA Main Building

DFA-OMWA Assistant Secretary Paul P. Raymund Cortes, DMW Assistant Secretary Levinson Alcantara, and then NEDA Supervising Officer (now Assistant Secretary) Reynaldo Cancio, presiding the meeting and workshop of the planning committee on international migration and development for the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, held at the DFA Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini on 27 September 2022.



Social Media Engagement

OFW TOWNHALL
25 August 2022
2:00 PM Manila time
9:00 AM Tel Aviv time
Via OFW Help Facebook Live
LIVE FROM ISRAEL

Hosts
EDUARDO JOSÉ DE VEGA (Ambassador for Migrant Workers Affairs)
PAUL RAYMUND CORTES (Assistant Secretary)
KRISTINE LEILANI SALLE (Deputy Assistant Secretary)

Special Guests
REICHEL QUINONES (Charge d'Affaires, Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv)
LOURDES LEVI (Ambassador, Economic Liaison Office and Consulate (ELOC))
EVA PORNEL (Filipino in Israel)
ARCHIE MARMALEJO (President, OFWES LUNGO SA BANGALADESH and HONG KONG LATHUK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (LAKES))

OFW TOWNHALL
05 September 2022
2:00 PM Manila time
12:00 pm Dhaka time
Via OFW Help Facebook Live
LIVE FROM BANGLADESH

Hosts
EDUARDO JOSÉ DE VEGA (Ambassador for Migrant Workers Affairs)
PAUL RAYMUND CORTES (Assistant Secretary)
KRISTINE LEILANI SALLE (Deputy Assistant Secretary)

Special Guests
CHRISTIAN HOPE V. REYES (Charge d'Affaires, Philippine Embassy in Manila)
ABDULLA SALIH (Ambassador, Consulate General in Manila)
RIZZA RONSAIRO (President, Filipino Student Alliance in Bangladesh (FSA))
WILMA AGCAOILI (President, Association of Filipinos in Sri Lanka (AFISL))

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Online Town Hall Meeting with the Filipino communities in Israel on the transition of ATN services for OFWs from the DFA to the DMW (left poster) and Online Town Hall Meeting with the Filipino communities in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on the effects of the economic downturn in Sri Lanka and the transition of ATN services for OFWs from the DFA to the DMW (right poster). Online Town Hall Meetings with the Filipino communities in Ukraine, Poland and Hungary on the situation in Ukraine and the transition of ATN services for OFWs from the DFA to the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) were also conducted.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

Upholding the Rights of Women and Efforts to prevent, mitigate and eliminate Violence against Women Migrant Workers



DFA-UMWA Celebration of Women's Month and International Women's Day on 08 March 2022

DFA-UMWA poster on the campaign on Violence Against Women (VAW)

International Recognition of VaxCertPH

The DFA is the **focal agency facilitating engagements with foreign countries and other relevant foreign entities on the recognition and acceptance of the PH-issued digital vaccine certificate (DVC) for COVID-19, or VaxCertPH**, through bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements. It also serves as a focal point in facilitating the acceptance of foreign countries on the utilization of public keys.

The DFA, with assistance of Foreign Service Posts (FSPs), continuously coordinates with foreign governments for the recognition and interoperability of the COVID-19 vaccine certificates. The DFA submits a copy of the vaccine certificates of the foreign governments to the Department of Health - Bureau of Quarantine for the Bureau's information and reference. The DFA assisted PH efforts in the inclusion of the VaxCertPH in the European Union Digital Covid19 Certificate (EU DCC) system. The DFA is currently facilitating the inclusion of the VaxCertPH in the ICAO Health Master List. As of 31 December 2022, the VaxCertPH is recognized and accepted in 94 countries and territories. The digital vaccine certificate is compliant with both the Digital Infrastructure for Verifiable Open Credentialing (DIVOC) and the EU DCC standards.

Overseas Voting

Overseas Voting for the 2022 National Elections yielded a **40.24% voter turnout**, or **683,035 voters** cast their ballots out of the 1,697,215 total registered voters.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

The 40.24% voter turnout (or 683,035 voters) includes the valid and invalid ballots, and the late ballots that were received by postal mail past the election deadline (9 May 2022, 7 p.m. Philippine time). This meets the target of 40% voter turnout in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017–2022 in the area of protecting the rights, promoting the welfare and expanding opportunities for Overseas Filipinos (Chapter 21).

This is the **highest voter turnout in OV history** in terms of number of voters (683,035), and in terms of percentage (40.24%) since 2004 when overseas voting was first implemented. The voter turnout is much higher than the voter turnout for the 2016 Presidential elections (432,706 voters or 31.45%).



Training on the General Instructions for the Implementation of Automated Election System (AES) for Overseas Voting for Purposes of the 2022 National and Local Elections in Los Angeles, U.S.A on 22 to 24 March 2022



Training on the General Instructions for the Implementation of Automated Election System (AES) for Overseas Voting for Purposes of the 2022 National and Local Elections in Athens, Greece on 28 March to 01 April 2022

B. DELIVERY OF CONSULAR SERVICES

Passport processing and other consular services have been at the forefront of the DFA's commitment to serving the Filipino people. For 2022, the DFA accomplished the following on consular services:

Passports

Passport production in 2022 **increased by 63.15%** (4,127,863 issued passports) compared to passport production in 2021 (2,530,085 issued passports). Breakdown of passport issuance at various issuing sites is as follows:

Passport Issuing Site	No. of Passports Issued	
	2021	2022
DFA Manila (ASEANA)	159,798	336,756
NCR Consular Offices	302,620	492,095
Temporary Off-site Passport Service (TOPS)	290,804	1,184,753
Regional Consular Offices (RCOs)	819,379	1,409,971
Foreign Service Posts (FSPs)	957,484	704,288
TOTAL	2,530,085	4,127,863

The Passport Director's Office facilitated the issuance of **6,050 passport certifications** for the year of 2022.

The Individual Processing Section rejected **28,936 passport applications** for the year of 2022. Applications are usually rejected due to the following reasons:

- Submission of incomplete requirements
- Submission of fake documents
- Erroneous entry in application form

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

The Passport Director's Office issued **81 Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents (MRCTDs)** to refugees and none to stateless persons for 2022.

It established **six (6) additional Temporary Offsite Passport Services (TOPS) Sites** in Pampanga, Bulacan, Iloilo, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro, bringing the total to 20 sites;



Former DFA-OCA Assistant Secretary Senen T. Mangalile led the inauguration of TOPS in: (clockwise) Robinsons Place Angeles, Angeles City, Pampanga (04 April 2022); Robinsons Starmills, City of San Fernando, Pampanga (04 April 2022); Robinsons Place Iloilo, Iloilo City (27 April 2022); and SM CDO Downtown Premier, Cagayan de Oro City (04 May 2022)

With the aim to better serve the public and bring consular services closer to the people, on 5 September 2022, an **additional Consular Office was inaugurated and opened in Kidapawan, Cotabato**, bringing the total number of COs to 36 – 6 at NCR, 17 at Luzon, and 13 at Visayas and Mindanao. CO Kidapawan is expected to cater to about 200 passport applicants daily, or approximately 4,400 a month. The opening of additional Consular Offices will address the growing demand for passports and other consular services, and will help decongest the existing passport offices at the DFA particularly at the DFA Aseana and Consular Offices in the National Capital Region.



Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Affairs Jesus S. Domingo and DFA-OCA Assistant Secretary Henry S. Bensurto Jr. (5th and 4th from right) with (from left to right) Mr. Ronan Eugene C. Garcia (former RDC XII-MEDAFG Chairperson), Head of Consular Office Kidapawan Nadjefah Mangondaya, RD Teresita Socorro C. Ramos of NEDA 12 (Acting RDC XII Chairperson), Board Member Ivy C. Dalumpines-Ballitoc of the Province of Cotabato (representing Gov. Emmylou J. Taliño-Mendoza), Board Member Joseph A. Evangelista (former Mayor of Kidapawan City), Mayor Jose Paolo M. Evangelista of Kidapawan City, Mr. Reynaldo Pagal (representative of Cong. Rudy S. Caoagdan) and Vice Mayor Melvin E. Lamata, Jr. of Kidapawan City, during the opening of the Consular Office in Kidapawan on 05 September 2022

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

Authentication Services

The DFA had issued a total of **596,085 Apostille Certificates** from January–December 2022 at OCA–ASEANA, DFA NCR East, DFA NCR West, DFA NCR South, DFA NCR Northeast, CO Pampanga, CO Davao, CO Cebu, CO Iloilo, CO La Union, and CO Cagayan de Oro. In comparison, **288,004 Authentication Certificates** were processed for the same period in 2021. This represents an increase of more than **106.97%**.

The DFA likewise coordinated with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for the **creation of Digital Certificates of Signing Officers** in preparation for the implementation of the e-Apostille.

The DFA was **recognized by the Department of Trade and Industry** for providing an enabling environment for exporters through the use of its Apostille online portal, featuring a separate category for exporters/ businesses requiring services.

Security features of the Apostille have been improved which include guilloche border, micro numismatic bespoke background design (eagle), microtext (with deliberately misspelled words), visible and UV reactive fibers, DFA emblem in gold metallic ink, customized DFA hologram, and Quick Response code.

The Authentication Division has engaged in various meetings with the 13 Partner Government Agencies for the e-Apostille spanning from 03 February – 07 April 2022.

A capacity building activity on e-Apostille was conducted last 25 May 2022. This is in coordination with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and The Hague Conference on Private International Law for PRC Officials and Staff.

On 28 May 2022, the Authentication Division conducted its first in-person seminar-workshop on Fraud Detection, Cybercrime and Data Privacy Awareness for Authentication Division personnel.

The Authentication Division conducted an in-person Authentication/Apostille Training for CO Iloilo from 06 to 10 June 2022, CO Cagayan de Oro from 20 to 24 June 2022, and CO La Union from 04 to 08 July 2022.

The Division also concluded an In-Depth Certification Program for the following NCR COs, namely, CO NCR West from 18 to 29 July 2022, CO NCR East from 01 to 12 August 2022, CO NCR Northeast from 15 to 26 August 2022, and CO NCR South from 29 August to 09 September 2022.

Continued discussions with Finland, Austria, Greece and Germany were conducted, with regard to their objections to the Philippine Apostille.

A Committee has been created for the proposed increase of Authentication Fees.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

The Division has conducted its first Year-End Consultations and Updates on Authentication Services with other Consular Offices. The Year-End Consultations were convened to present the accomplishment reports, best practices, updates on the APIS, concerns, and future projects in 2023.

Visa and Civil Registry Services

As of 31 December 2022, the DFA had issued **78,212 visas**, **222 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards (ABTCs)**, **60,589 ABTC foreign pre-clearances** were approved, and **58,163 Civil Registry Documents**.

In 2022, the Consular Records Division (CRD) transmitted to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), total of 58,163 civil registry reports (Report of Birth, Report of Marriage, Report of Death) received from foreign service posts, Legal Instruments, Petitions for Correction of Clerical Errors (under RA 9048), Supplemental Reports Conversions to Islam. Also included the transmittal to the Bureau of Immigration of the Renunciation of Philippine Citizenship from MECO- Taiwan.

A total of **774 applications for delayed registration** of reports of birth/marriage/death were received from January to December 2022 and **85 Certifications**.

The Visa Division also attended/convened a total of 127 Meetings, Forums, Trainings, Seminars, Workshop, International Conferences and Other Events for the period of 01 January – 31 December 2022, 25 of which were Inter-agency meetings with other government officials to discuss visa policies, including the following:

- APEC Senior Official Meeting 3 BMG held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 20-22 August 2022, and 25th DGICM held in Singapore on 23-26 August 2022;
- Regular meetings:
 - Technical Working Group on Senate and House Bills involving Philippine Immigration Act;
 - Technical Working Group meeting on the implementation of Republic Act No. 11337, otherwise known as the Innovative Startup Act;
 - Regular Meeting on Joint Memorandum Circular on Rules and Procedures governing foreign nationals intending to work in the Philippines;
 - Annual APEC Senior Officials Meeting 1 and 3 (SOM1&3) & for Business Mobility Group – Discussion on business mobility among APEC economies;
 - DFA and Bureau of Immigration (BI), and other Partner Agencies, Technical Working Group – Centered on the exchange of views, including clarification of issues inquired by Foreign Service Posts and other matters of mutual concern that enhanced inter-agency cooperation;
 - Meeting of ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Department and Heads of Consular Affairs Division (DGICM) – Discussions focused on ASEAN Common Visa (ACV) and people mobility within ASEAN member states;

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

- Joint Consular Consultation Meetings (JCCM) with Indonesia, Japan, China, India, Korea, Pakistan, Iran – Regular bilateral dialogue and cooperation mechanism at the level of heads of consular offices in foreign ministries;
- Meeting of the Working Group to Study Consular Assistance by ASEAN Missions in Third Countries to National of ASEAN Member States (4th DWGCA). Technical Working Group on Medical Tourism;
- Technical Working Group on Cruise Tourism;
- Technical Working Group on Visa Recommendations for Tourism (China and India);
- Regular meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Foreign Students.

Upgrade of OCA-Aseana Facility

In its efforts to continuously upgrade and to improve its services to the transacting public, on 12 October 2022, DFA-Aseana inaugurated the newly installed service elevators and escalators and held a media conference regarding the most recent developments in OCA.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo (center), Undersecretary for Administration Antonio A. Morales (left) and Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs (OCA) Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. (right), lead the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony to Officially Inaugurate OCA's newly installed service elevators and escalator (Photo credit: OPCD)



OCA Assistant Secretary Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. responds to media inquiries during the Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) Media Conference (Photo credit: OPCD)

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

Other Accomplishments

Signing and dissemination of the Department Order No. 2022-020 dated 14 December 2022 on the Issuance of 9 e) visas to Foreign Government Officials

The Department Order covers the Office of Consular Affairs–Visa Division (OCA–Visa) and all Philippine Foreign Service Posts of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including honorary consular offices, authorized to issue 9(e) foreign government officials’ visas. Issuance of single and multiple–entry shall conform to the classification and procedure as prescribed.

Exchange of Notes with the Canadian Embassy

The Department approved the Exchange of Notes with the Canadian Embassy in October 2022 for 9 (e) diplomatic visa extensions to Canadian diplomatic agents in the Philippines, which shall be valid until the conclusion of their tour of duty, and the conclusion of an agreement on the same via an Exchange of Notes, on the basis of reciprocity. The Visa Division officials met the Officials from the Canadian Embassy in September 2022 to discuss this matter.

Training/Briefing on Visa Issuances for Personnel due for Foreign Posting

Eighteen (18) DFA personnel due for foreign postings were trained/briefed on guidelines and practices on visa issuances.

Continuing accomplishment since 2019 Machine Readable Visa (MRV) Sticker Bearing New Design

Pursuant to the approval of the Cabinet during the 40th Cabinet Meeting in Malacañang on 05 August 2019, DFA procured 500,000 MRV stickers, bearing new design, and subsequently distributed it to all Philippine Foreign Service Posts. Posts started issuing the new stickers in November 2019.

The new MRV contains enhanced security features and anti-counterfeiting technology to ensure that Philippine visas are globally inter-operable and remain compliant with International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

For 2022, the DFA procured 296,296 MRV stickers.

Modernization and Streamlining of the Visa Application and Issuance Process

In conjunction with the release of the new MRV stickers, DFA launched the Online Visa Application System (OVAS) on 16 June 2020. This online portal for visa applications will allow Foreign Service Posts and the Home Office to connect with each other.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

The OVAS and its back-end system, and the Philippine Visa Management System, were first implemented in Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) in China to process the visa application of Chinese nationals who were granted exemption from entry restrictions. Since 2020, FSPs have been using OVAS-PVMS for the issuance of 9(a) visas.

The OVAS and PVMS were rolled out to all other FSPs worldwide, except the Philippine Honorary Consulates, on 21 September 2021.

Additional Improvements on Passport Services and Other Consular Services

Following the easing of pandemic threat, and discontinuation of constraints to mobility, the **DFA was able to establish and implement the following additional improvements to its passport services and other consular services in 2022**, geared toward providing ease of access to these services and further facilitating the passport application process:

Improvements on Passport Services

- Increased passport appointment slots allocation

To immediately meet the increasing demand for passport services for Filipinos, especially following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the DFA has opened over **803,440 passport appointment slots from October to December 2022** through the passport Online Appointment System (OAS).

- Implementation of 100% capacity of Consular Offices
- Reintroduction of the Courtesy Lane facility nationwide
- Conduct of Passport-On-Wheels (POW)

In order to bring passport services closer to the people, especially in areas without Consular Offices, the DFA has conducted Passport-on-Wheels (POW) services in various sites in the Philippines. A total of **126 POW services** were conducted in various sites in the Philippines for the year 2022. These POW activities resulted in **66,141 ePassports** issued to applicants.

- Opening of Passport Renewal Centers (PaRCs) abroad

In a bid to make the passport renewal process for overseas Filipinos easier and more accessible, the DFA-OCA signed agreements with VFS Global and BLS International to open Passport Renewal Centers (PaRCS) in areas that are far from Foreign Service posts. These service providers handle the non-sensitive, non-discretionary and non-complex elements of Passport Renewal.

Organizational Outcome 2

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged, and Consular Services Improved

VFS currently manages **13 PaRCs**: three (3) in Saudi Arabia (Al Khobar, Riyadh, Jeddah); two (2) in UAE (Abu Dhabi, Dubai); Kuwait; Marseilles; Dublin; Belfast; Edinburgh; Cardiff; Los Angeles; and Singapore while BLS manages three (3) PaRCs in Qatar, Italy, and Malaysia. The DFA-OCA's current agreement with VFS Global will run until 2026, and 2022 for BLS.

From 01 July to 31 August 2022, **12,352 passports** have been processed and released at PaRCs.

Improvements on Authentication Services

In April 2022, an **agreement between OCA-Aseana and APO Production Unit Inc. (APU)**, was to further improve and streamline the processes of the authentication services such as the quality of authentication certificates and more efficient appointment system.

99% of documents applied for Authentication were released within the prescribed period of **1 working day (expedite) and 3 working days (regular)**. Release dates were adjusted since 10 November 2022, which was from 4 working days (expedite) and 7 working days (regular). This is due to the transition to a new Apostille System.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. IMPROVING BUREAUCRATIC EFFICIENCY

Launching of the Database on Foreign Agreements/Treaties to which the Philippines is a State Party

The DFA launched the Database on Foreign Agreements and Treaties Related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) to which the Philippines is a Party on 14 July 2022 during the National Disaster Resilience Month's Resilience Hour on Preparedness Webinar. The Database provides a consolidated reference for generating periodic reports on its compliance with various DRRM agreements and treaties, in order to help strengthen partnerships and coordination among all key actors and stakeholders in disaster risk reduction and management. The Database includes multilateral instruments such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and bilateral treaties with countries like Vietnam, Norway, and Thailand.

QMS ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification

The DFA was **re-certified** on 12 December 2022 **under the QMS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) standard for its services and processes**. The re-certification audit was conducted by TÜV NORD Philippines, Inc. pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) No. 605, series of 2007, mandating all departments and agencies of the Executive branch, among others, to adopt the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Systems as part of the implementation of a government-wide quality management program, and be certified to ISO 9001.



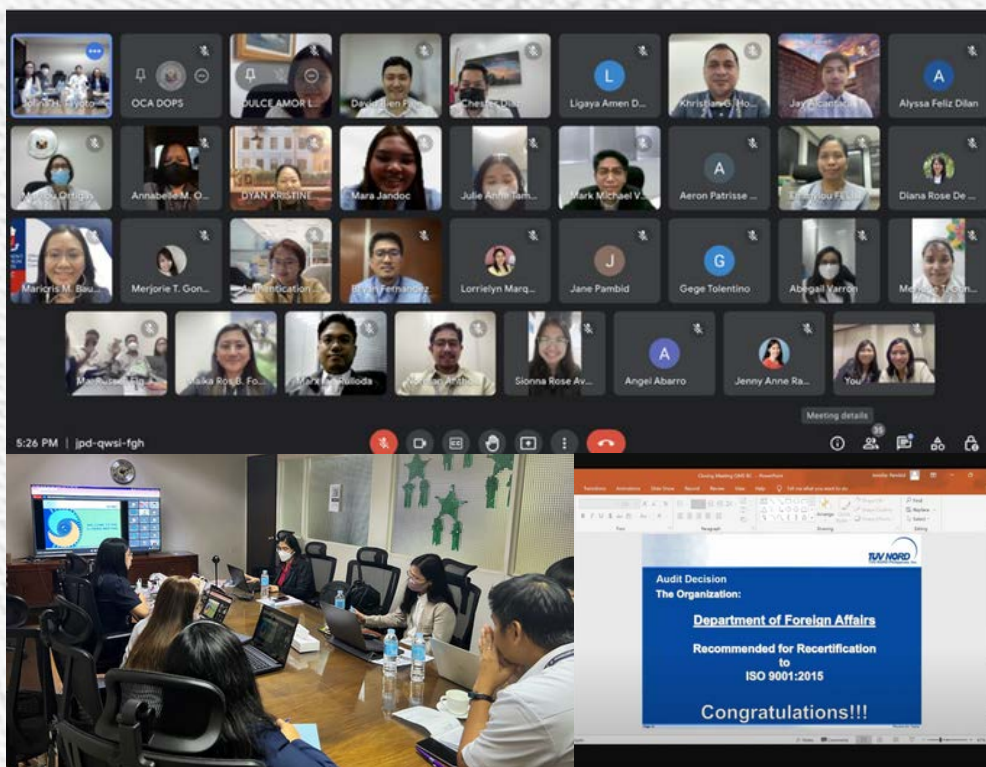
Hybrid Opening Meeting with the TUV Nord Auditors



Audit of OCA Consular Offices' Coordinating Division

The scope of the certification includes the consular services in the DFA Office of Consular Affairs-Aseana, all COs in Metro Manila, CO Dasmariñas, CO Lucena, CO Pampanga, the assistance-to-nationals services of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, and management and support services to both. CO Dasmariñas, CO Lucena, and CO Pampanga were the recent inclusion in the scope of the QMS.

Other Organizational Accomplishments



Hybrid Closing Meeting for the 2022 ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Recertification Audit and Third-party Auditors' presentation of Audit Decision during the Hybrid Closing Meeting

Silver Awardee in the 2022 Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Report Card Survey (RCS) and Ranked 1st among National Government Agencies in the RCS

The DFA received the **Silver Award in the 2022 ARTA RCS with a score of 90.96% (Very Satisfactory)**, and was **ranked 1st among National Government Agencies** that participated in the survey. The RCS is a tool used by ARTA to *measure the effectiveness of the Citizen's Charter in reducing regulatory burdens and the impact of the human resource systems and programs in delivering efficient government services*, pursuant to Section 20 of Republic Act No. 11032, (Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018) which provides that all offices and agencies providing government services shall be subjected to a RCS as a feedback mechanism on the agencies' observance of and performance based on the said act. For the 2022 survey, 50 agencies were surveyed.

Strong Implementation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) System

From 2019 to 2022, the DFA-OPCD's work as FOI Focal Office won for the DFA the Award of "Top Performing Agencies" for maintaining a performance rating of above 90%, a testament to OPCD's strong commitment to providing Filipinos their right to access information on matters of public concern through digital means.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Intensified Social Media Presence

As the primary tool of the Department to communicate with clients who rely on accurate and timely information on their applications and concerns, the DFA, through the Social Media and Client Feedback Support Team of the Office of Public and Cultural Diplomacy (OPCD) – effectively the Department's first responders on cyberspace – responded to a total of **50,082 comments and messages** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as of the third quarter of 2022. Most of these concerns were consular and assistance-to-nationals (ATN) in nature. The DFA also delivered key messages through social media campaigns for women's month, for the promotion of the Foreign Service Officer Examinations, and for the month of the OFW. In addition, OPCD implemented a social media campaign showcasing the anniversary of bilateral relations with all of the Philippines' partners.

Strengthened Media Engagement through Digital Solutions and Reintroduction of Spokesperson

Due to the limitations created by the pandemic, the DFA maximized the WhatsApp platform in engaging the media. As of September 2022, around **2,769 correspondences** with the media were recorded. After the assumption of Secretary for Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo this year, the **position of DFA Spokesperson** was reintroduced in the person of Ambassador Ma. Teresita Daza. It had been four years since a DFA Secretary last designated a spokesperson and 18 years since its last female spokesperson. Having a spokesperson further increased the DFA's interface with the media.

Conduct of Retooling Sessions for DFA Personnel

As part of the DFA's capacity-building commitment and efforts to update its personnel on the President's foreign policy priorities and socioeconomic plans and initiatives, the DFA conducted the following retooling sessions for its personnel at the home office and all Foreign Service Posts worldwide:

- Quality Management System (QMS) Awareness eLearning Courses (insert dates) (Note: As of September 2022, the Department's QMS Awareness rate is at 64.67%);
- Gender and Development (GAD) Assembly held on 23 to 25 November 2022;

Other Organizational Accomplishments



Participants of the GAD Assembly held on 23-25 November 2022

- Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Officers' Retooling Course held on 28 November-01 December 2022;



September 2022

December 2022

- Retooling Course for Cultural Officers – “DAMA: Sensing Philippine Culture” – held in Manila on 05-09 December 2022, in collaboration with NCCA, which gathered the Cultural Officers of Sentro Rizal from various Foreign Service Posts; and
- Economic Retooling Course held on 13-16 December 2022.
- Virtual Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) with the Philippine Honorary Consular Officers in the Middle East and African (MEA) Regions on Thursday, 24 November 2022. A total of fifty-five (55) participants from the different Foreign Service Posts and Consular Posts headed by Honorary Consular Officers were provided updates on the new Administration's foreign policy agenda, and in further improving the delivery of consular and ATN services within their respective jurisdictions.

Internal Audit Engagements

In 2022, the Internal Audit Service (IAS) conducted 14 internal audits of Consular Offices consisting of regular and follow-up audits. In terms of scope, the implementation of the following processes were subjected to management and compliance audits: i. Passport services; ii. Apostille services; iii. Administrative; iv. Finance; v. Property; vi. Records and Communications; vii. Ease of Doing Business; viii. Security; ix. Assistance to Nationals (ATN); and x. Gender and Development (GAD). IAS presented its findings and recommendations to the Department during its onsite

Other Organizational Accomplishments

hosting of the management huddle on 14 November 2022. IAS also conducted Phase 1 of the special audit of passport operations from November to December 2022. With the main objective of improving passport operations, the special audit covered the entire process from appointment to release of passports.

Capacity-building and Updating of Internal Control Questionnaires

In order to ensure that the Department's internal audit service is fit for purpose, IAS actively participated in 38 trainings and seminars on audit operations and other specialized seminars. IAS also regularly monitored changes in rules and regulations and consulted stakeholders in order to update its internal control questionnaires and audit criteria.

2022 Internal Quality Audit (IQA) Cycle

As part of its annual activities following the implementation of the Quality Management System, the Department underwent an Internal Quality Audit from 25 July to 19 August 2022 facilitated by the Internal Audit Service's (IAS) IQA Secretariat.



Undersecretary for Administration and DFA Quality Management Representative Antonio A. Morales opening the 2022 IQA Cycle on 25 July 2022

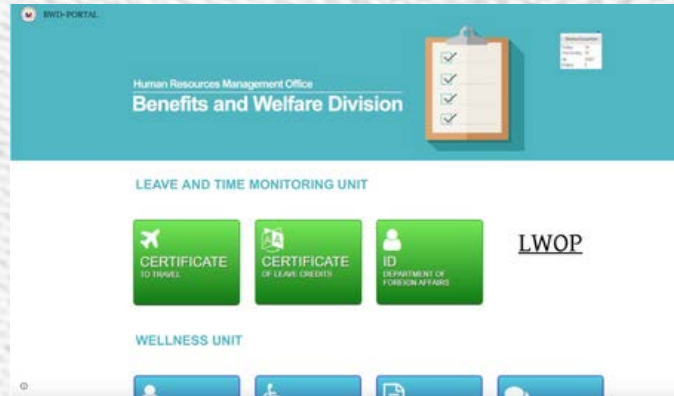
For 2022, fifty-six (56) Offices/Units participated in the activity, including the DFA Top Management and three (3) Consular Offices outside Metro Manila: CO Dasmariñas, CO Lucena, and CO Pampanga. In consideration of the number of auditors and auditees to be deployed, the IQA was conducted in a hybrid manner where some offices/units were audited face-to-face, while others, virtually.

The objective of the activity is to determine the level of the DFA's compliance with its internal policies; the ISO 9001:2015 standard - in which the DFA is currently certified; and follow-up on Requests for Action (RFA) that were issued in the previous IQA Cycles.

The IQA of Offices/Units was later followed by the audit of the IQA Process on 07 September 2022.

Technological Interventions in Providing Human Resource Services

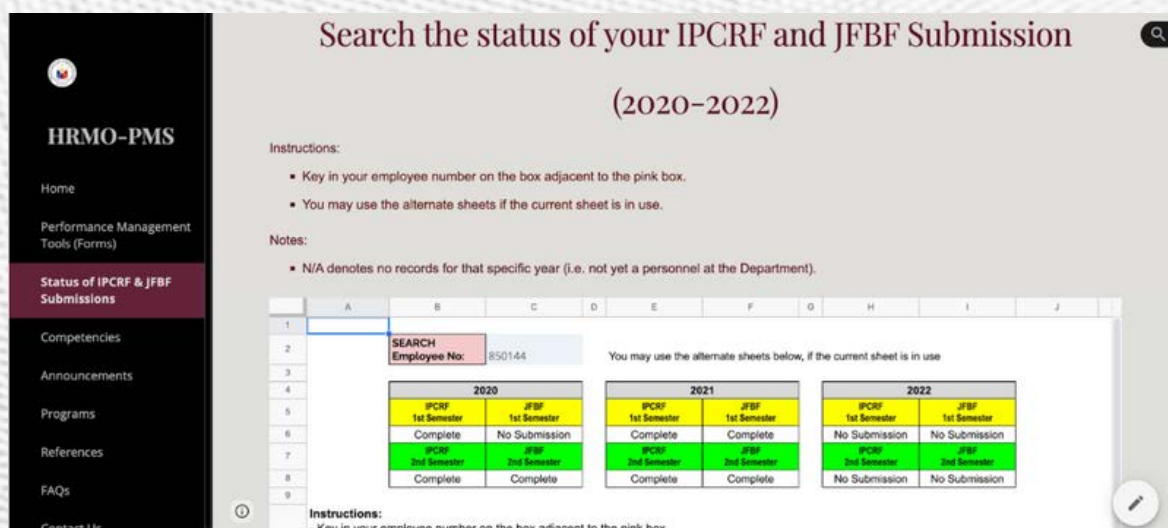
Benefits and Welfare Division Portal



The Benefits and Welfare Division Portal was launched in August 2022 to facilitate easier access to the routine services offered by the division.

To enhance access to Human Resource services, the Benefits and Welfare Division Portal (BWD Portal) was launched in August 2022. This online portal allowed DFA personnel to file applications and requests for routine services such as enrollment and updating of insurance records, enrollment and updating of GSIS and Pag-IBIG records, travel arrangements (including passport applications and requests for visas), Day Care enrollment, and certifications, among others. Information dissemination and wellness initiatives were also migrated to online platforms to allow personnel working from home to participate in HR-related activities and events. These activities include mental health services and webinars, health and fitness webinars, pre-retirement orientation, briefings on insurance coverage, and training sessions for persons with disabilities. An estimated 800 personnel participated in these activities throughout the year.

Strategic Performance Management System



Screenshot of the IPCRF Status Search Function in the Performance Management Section's Microsite

Other Organizational Accomplishments

The Performance Management Section Microsite was launched in November 2022 to provide guidance to all personnel on the Department's performance management system. The microsite highlights the importance of aligning individual performance with the agency's organizational vision, mission, and strategic goals. It also contains reference materials (i.e. literature and videos), as well as information on programs related to the shift towards a Competency-based Human Resource Performance Management System. Notably, the microsite also contains a platform where personnel may view the real-time status of their submissions of performance evaluation forms.

Digitized Records Management System

In addition, in 2022, the Records Management Section developed an internal dashboard to ensure effective monitoring of the timely submission of Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Networth (SALN) for 3,250 DFA personnel. This technological intervention facilitated the Department's timely submission of SALN to the Office of the President, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Civil Service Commission.

DFA Staff Promotions Portal

Since its launch in 2021, the DFA Staff Promotions Portal logged 8,366 visits. Upon approval of the Secretary, the promotional list is published on the portal to ensure transparency and compliance with the constitutional mandate of the Civil Service Commission. In 2022, 514 promotions of rank-and-file personnel and 83 appointments of home-based personnel were processed through this procedure.

Home Office Placement Portal

The Home Office Placement Portal was launched in October 2022 to facilitate office assignment of recallees and requests for transfer of personnel in the Home Office. This online portal publishes vacancies across all DFA Home Offices, Office of Consular Affairs, and Consular Offices, and allows eligible personnel to file applications to their preferred office prior to getting recalled or when they request for transfer, through a Google Form. Since its launch, the portal has received and processed 27 applications. With more awareness, the number of applications is expected to increase.

Foreign Service Assignment Portal

The Foreign Service Placement Unit continued to improve and develop the Foreign Service Assignment Portal (FSAP) as it facilitated 1,747 applications from 418 personnel who applied for the 312 vacancies published in 2022.

New Courses at the DFA Learning Management System and other Online Courses / Trainings



Screenshot of the Learning Management System Portal

The Department continued to provide relevant trainings to all personnel through the DFA Learning Management System (LMS) with the addition of the following asynchronous courses: Online Consular Assistants' Course; Online Course on Procurement; Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention Course; and Gender Sensitivity Training 2.0.

The Online Course on DFA Competencies and the Online Administrative Officers' Course were also rolled out in 2022.

Civil Service Examination Review

The Recruitment Section initiated an online Civil Service Examination Review in order to support Contractual personnel in their career development by passing the Civil Service Examinations. A total of 335 DFA personnel participated in the first run of the review and out of this number, 53 personnel passed the examination held in June 2022.

Digitization of the Contract of Service (COS) Pen-and-Paper Exam

The Recruitment Section "digitized" the Pen-and-Paper Examination for Contract of Service (COS) personnel. This was done to fill in the immediate hiring of COS vacancies at Consular Offices outside the National Capital Region (NCR) during the pandemic. Due to its successful launch and implementation, the same is continuously implemented.

Continued Delivery of Human Resource Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Efforts to maintain and enhance the delivery of Human Resource services despite the limitations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic led to the successful processing of thousands of personnel applications related to leave administration, GSIS / PagIBIG loans, terminal benefits claims, insurance claims, shipment, and other related services despite work from home arrangements during the early part of the year.



On-site services, such as the GSIS UMID Card Enrollment Event, were conducted in partnership with the relevant agencies.

Other Organizational Accomplishments

When possible, on-site events for GSIS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, and healthcare were held to enable personnel to avail themselves of in-person services. More than 400 DFA personnel were able to apply for UMID cards and Loyalty cards as well as secure help desk assistance from partner agencies. The Annual Physical Examination and flu and pneumonia vaccinations were also done on site.

COVID-19 Measures



Among the nine (9) COVID-19 Vaccination events conducted by HRMO for 2022 was the pediatric vaccination drive facilitated in cooperation with Pasay LGU in March 2022.

In line with the Department's efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the workplace, nine COVID-19 vaccination drives were conducted for DFA personnel, members of the diplomatic corps, and their dependents. By October 2022, 99.49% of DFA personnel were fully vaccinated (two doses) and 83.94% had received their first booster dose.

The International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV) unit was established to assist DFA personnel leaving on official travel or for foreign assignments. The unit streamlined the ICV application process and coordinated directly with the Bureau of Quarantine to facilitate the release of around 900 ICVs for DFA personnel and their dependents.

Regular RT-PCR batch testing for COVID-19 was conducted throughout the year, organized by the Emergency Response Committee (ERC) secretariat. A total of 5,109 personnel and their dependents were tested while 90 special batches of RT-PCR were conducted for official events/meetings of the Department. As an additional preventive measure, 9,819 self-administered rapid antigen kits were procured and distributed to personnel in the Home Office and Consular Offices, for use when experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Personnel who tested positive were required to comply with isolation and treatment protocols.

Third Participatory Gender Audit (PGA)

In line with efforts to assess the effectiveness of its gender and development (GAD) activities, as well as to develop more targeted GAD policies and programs, the Department conducted its third cycle of the Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) from July to December 2022. The data gathered provided strong recommendations that will be taken into consideration during the development of the Department's six-year GAD Agenda for the period of 2023-2028.

Recruitment and Deployment / Staffing

Filling in of Vacancies and Hiring of Locally-Hired Personnel

The Recruitment Section filled in 247 staff positions (128 Contract of Service, 70 Home-based Personnel, 38 Contractual and 11 Casual personnel). Moreover, the section facilitated the renewal of 291 Contractual and Casual positions, as well as 126 Contracts of Service Personnel. The Local Hires Section processed 164 requests for Authority to Hire new Local Hire Personnel across Foreign Service Posts.

Recruitment Plan for CY 2023

In compliance with the Civil Service Commission's Prime-HRM, the Recruitment Section developed a Recruitment Plan for CY 2023 which was approved on 15 November 2022. The recruitment plan will serve as a guide to see the anticipated vacancies in the upcoming year.

Movement of Personnel

The Foreign Service Placement unit facilitated 614 Officer and Staff movements, in particular: 320 deployments, 29 reassignments, and 265 recalls. On the other hand, the Home Office Placement facilitated 534 Officer and Staff movements.

Creation of the Office of Civilian Affairs

The Plantilla Unit facilitated DBM's recognition of the Office of Civilian Affairs (OCS) and its four (4) divisions, as well as the RATA provisions of its six (6) officers.

Appointments of Honorary Consuls

The Honorary Consuls Unit processed a total of seventy-four (74) appointments of Honorary Consular Officers. The breakdown are as follows: opening / establishment of two (2) new consular posts; re-opening of three (3) consular posts; ten (10) initial appointments; fifty-two (52) renewal of appointments; and seven (7) conclusion of appointments.

Other Organizational Accomplishments



Regional Consultation Meeting with the PH Honorary Consular Officers in the Middle East and African (MEA) Region

Promotions and Appointments

The Selection Section, with the assistance of Recruitment Section, organized four (4) meetings of the Human Resource Merit Promotion and Selection Board (HRMPSB) meetings and processed the promotion of 514 Rank and File personnel, as well as the appointments of 83 Home-based Personnel. The section also provided substantive and administrative support in two (2) Board of Foreign Service Administration (BFSA) meetings and processed the promotion of 21 Foreign Service Officers.

The deliberations during the BFSA and HRMPSB Meetings held in 2022 resulted in the promotion of 21 Foreign Service Officers and 514 rank-and-file personnel, as well as the appointment of 83 home-based personnel (In photo: HRMPSB meeting held on 02 September 2022)



Other Organizational Accomplishments

On the other hand, the Appointments unit facilitated the entry of eight (8) Foreign Service Officers, Class IV to the Department, the confirmation and oath-taking ceremony of 95 ad interim appointments and nominations, and the endorsement of 18 appointment papers of promoted Foreign Service Officers, Class IV, to the Office of the President.



Oath-Taking Ceremonies of Newly-Confirmed AEPs facilitated by HRMO

Policy Recommendations

Approved Department Orders and Guidelines

- The Department Order on the revised DFA Recruitment Guidelines, which aims to streamline the recruitment system of the Department and to align pertinent processes to current Civil Service rules and regulations on Recruitment, was signed by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs on 04 January 2022.

Other Organizational Accomplishments

- The Department Order on the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) was signed on 29 April 2022. The Department Order includes the: (1) composition, roles and responsibilities of the GFPS and the GAD Secretariat, (2) the qualifications and criteria in designating an office's GAD Focal Point Officer (GFPO) and Alternate GFPO, (3) the inclusion of several gender issues and the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD) in the formulation of office's GAD Plan and Budget (GPB) and Accomplishment Report (GAR), (4) the use of gender-fair language in all official documents and communications, both verbal and non-verbal, and (5) the GFPS organizational charts.
- The Department Order on the Rules on Administrative Sexual Harassment Cases in the Department of Foreign Affairs was signed on 04 July 2022. It adopted the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 11313 or the "Safe Spaces Act" and the Civil Service Commission's Resolution No. 2100064 on the Revised Administrative Disciplinary Rules on Sexual Harassment Cases.
- The Department Order on the Revised DFA Scholarship Guidelines was signed on 27 September 2022. The Scholarship Guidelines were amended to expand the membership of the DFA Scholarship Committee and to strengthen the mechanisms embodied therein for its proper implementation.
- The Guidelines on the Resumption of the Student Internship Program were also approved by the Undersecretary for Administration in November 2022. The Guidelines cover only the General Internship Program and the Internship Program for Students with Disability. Internships at Foreign Posts shall remain suspended until further notice.
- The supplementary Department Circular for Corporate Identity Guidelines on the Designs and Specifications of the Coat of Arms, Dry Seal and Wet Seal for Philippine Consular Posts headed by Honorary Consular Officers was signed by OUA on 08 November 2022 and numbered as Department Circular No. 2022-008 under OAMSS Ref: OAMSS-GRAD-2022-11-141.

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