

Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

YEAR 2009 SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. MIGRANT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Ensuring that all Filipinos migrating to other countries are adequately prepared to meet the practical and psychological challenges attendant to international migration

1. Pre-Departure Registration

CFO registers Filipino emigrants or permanent residents prior to their departure. Data gathered during the registration process serve as resource for policy formulation and program development.

In 2009, CFO registered 79,764 Filipino emigrants with an average of 218 emigrants a day. Of the total number, 61,499 (77.10%) registered at CFO Manila; 7,278 (9.12%) at CFO Cebu; 2,933 (3.68%) at CFO NAIA, and 8,054 (10.10%) at CFO-SMEF-COW. The top destination countries of emigrants are USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom and Germany. While there was a significant decrease in the number of registered Filipinos in 2008, the increase for 2009 can be attributed to the approval of visa applications in the United States to catch up with its backlog in the issuance of immigrant visas. Other destination countries like Canada, Australia and Italy also increased their issuance of permanent residency visas.

2. Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS)

CFO conducts PDOS to departing Filipino emigrants to facilitate their adjustment concerns in their destination countries. In these seminars, various topics are discussed such as travel regulations, immigration procedures, cultural differences, settlement concerns, employment and social security benefits, and rights and obligations of Filipino migrants overseas. Country-specific orientation seminars are conducted for emigrants bound for Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, UK and the USA.

In 2009, CFO conducted PDOS to 28,837 Filipino emigrants. Of the total number, 26,431 (91.66%) were given PDOS at CFO Manila and 2,406 (8.34%) at CFO Cebu.

3. Peer Counseling

Peer counseling aims to respond to the needs of young Filipino emigrants aged 13-19 by providing them with information that will help facilitate their adjustment in their new environment and prepare them for possible pressures which could result from migration.

In 2009, CFO conducted peer counseling sessions to 10,004 Filipino youth emigrants. Of the total number, 9,258 (92.54%) were counseled at CFO Manila and 746 (7.46%) at CFO Cebu.

4. Guidance and Counseling Services

The guidance and counseling program aims to provide Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals a venue to gain adequate information and advice on the realities of inter-marriage and migration, rights and obligations of Filipino migrants overseas, available support network for women migrants in distress, and socio-cultural realities overseas, among others. The guidance and counseling sessions are country-specific. The CFO guidance and counseling program was devolved to SMEF-COW effective April 4, 2005 in Quezon City, and May 2, 2005 in Cebu. In May 2, 2006, it was also devolved to the People's Reform Initiative for Social Mobilization, Inc. The CFO also continues to provide in-depth counseling for some of the counselees.

In 2009, CFO administered, through its service providers, guidance and counseling sessions to 20,697 Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals. Of the total number, 8,409 (40.63%) were counseled at SMEF-COW QC; 3,444 (16.64%) at SMEF-COW Cebu and 8,844 (42.73%) at PRISM.

5. CFO Watchlist and Multiple Sponsors Database

To supplement the guidance counseling program, CFO maintains a CFO Watchlist which contains information on foreign nationals who had a history of domestic violence or involvement in trafficking, serial sponsorship, bigamy, adultery, child abuse, deception and fraud. Through this Watchlist, CFO counselors can extend appropriate counseling intervention to Filipino nationals they may sponsor for travel overseas. CFO also maintains a Multiple Sponsors Database which records the names of foreign nationals who have sponsored more than one Filipino spouse and other partners, but without any record of violation or abuse.

In 2009, CFO included names of seven (7) foreign nationals and one (1) Filipino in the CFO Watchlist. As of December 2009, there are 247 names of foreign nationals and 59 Filipino spouses and other partners in the CFO Watchlist (with derogatory records).

6. Public Assistance and Information Program

Through the conduct of this program, CFO provides assistance and information services to the general public through counseling, referral, consultation, development and distribution of information materials, and conduct of community education activities.

a. Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Services

CFO respond to or refer ATN cases related to domestic violence, verification of records, request for financial support from foreign spouse, violation of work contacts and inclusion in the Bureau of Immigration blacklist and CFO Watchlist, abandonment of foreign spouse, and suspected trafficking, among others, to appropriate government

agencies. CFO also assist in and refer cases involving violations of R.A. 6955 (Mail Order Bride Law) and R.A. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking Law).

In 2009, CFO responded to 50 ATN cases. Of this number, seven (7) cases were resolved and the rest are on-going. CFO also handled 111 human trafficking and other related cases. CFO also provided assistance to 178 victims, of this number 69 were repatriated from seven (7) countries. Among the services provided were preparation of legal documents, provision of legal advice and court representatives, assistance in conduct of investigation, surveillance and entrapment, filing of cases, financial support, temporary shelter, and repatriation.

b. Linkage with Overseas Filipino Community for Post Arrival Services

In order to facilitate the adjustment and integration of newly-arrived migrants in their host communities, CFO has partnered with 13 Filipino associations overseas in the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Taiwan and South Korea in the conduct of post arrival orientation and other services. Through the service, newly arrived Filipinos in the host countries are linked with migrant resource centers, support groups, and Filipino associations in their areas of settlement. They are also advised on employment potentials and opportunities. Participation in post arrival services is voluntary.

The Commission's partnership with Multi-Cultural Family Support Centers (MCFSC) in Dongdaemun-Gu and Ulsan City, South Korea started in September 2009.

c. Community Education Program (CEP)

The CEP seeks to assist prospective migrants in making informed decisions regarding working or settling abroad, as well as in generating community involvement on migration concerns. It also aims to raise public awareness about issues concerning migration, inter-marriages, and existing government policies and programs directed against illegal recruitment, documentation fraud and trafficking, among others.

In 2009, CFO conducted CEP in 14 provinces and eight (8) cities in Metro Manila. CFO had conducted CEP in the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Aurora, Batanes, Benguet, Bohol, Dinagat Islands, Guimaras, Misamis Occidental, Mountain Province, Pangasinan, Quezon, Surigao, Tarlac, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Taguig, Valenzuela, Navotas, Caloocan, Makati and Muntinlupa. CEP in Regions V, X and XI were postponed to 2010 due to security reasons.

B. FILIPINO EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

Promoting Filipino education programs overseas, and providing younger generations of overseas Filipinos with opportunities to learn Philippine history, culture, language and institutions.

1. *Lakbay-Aral sa Pilipinas* Program

The *Lakbay-Aral sa Pilipinas* program is a cultural immersion/ study tour program established in 1983. It offers an opportunity for Filipino youth overseas to learn more about their Filipino heritage and culture through an intensive two-week study visit of historical, cultural and natural sites in the Philippines. The program also includes lectures on Philippine culture and Filipino language, personal interaction with peers and participation in local festivals, among others.

For 2009, CFO organized and assisted the annual tour of the members of the Filipino Australian Foundation of Queensland Inc. and the Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc. on 5, 9 and 10 July 2009. CFO also transmitted promotional letters and *Lakbay-Aral* flyers to 54 organizations in 13 countries. Three (3) *Lakbay-Aral* modules are set for 2010.

2. Teaching of Filipino Language

In support of the effort to educate Filipino youth overseas in the use of their mother language, CFO published the *Guide to Learning Filipino* (GLF) educators in teaching the Filipino language. An audio tape of Filipino songs supplements the book. In 2009, CFO distributed 17 *Guide to Learning Filipino* textbooks and audio cassette tapes to six (6) Filipino organizations overseas.

On December 7, 2006, CFO launched the Learn Filipino Program (LFP) which currently runs a basic module of internet-based teaching of Filipino language. Designed to target a wider audience of young overseas Filipinos throughout the world, the course allows enrollees to learn Filipino on-line at their own pace and at a very minimal cost.

As of December 2009, CFO registered 574 new enrollees from 20 countries and checked 25 examinations.

3. Philippine Schools Overseas (PSO)

CFO serves as Secretariat and member of the Inter-Agency Committee on PSO. It is tasked to coordinate policies and initiatives in the establishment, operation, and management of PSOs. The Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) ensures that PSOs provide expatriate Filipino youth with affordable quality education in the elementary and high school levels with a curriculum that would support their reintegration into the Philippine educational system and preserve their Filipino identity and character.

CFO provides administrative and technical support to 42 PSOs in nine (9) countries requesting for permits to operate, special order and other pertinent documents related to PSO management and operations.

For 2009, the IAC spearheaded the 8th Conference of Philippine Schools Overseas at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City on 4-6 May 2009. Seventy-four (74) representatives from 36 Philippines schools in seven (7) countries and territories attended the conference. The conference with the theme, *Transforming Schools: Lessons in Excellence*, aimed at guiding PSOs in developing effective management, implementation and community involvement practices, and providing them with opportunities to establish

links with institutions playing key roles in formal channels. DepEd also conducted ocular inspections to seven (7) PSOs in Saudi Arabia and CFO launched the 2nd Literary Contest for the *Buwan ng Wika*.

CFO also coordinated the conduct of college entrance examinations for senior students of PSOs in four (4) universities in the Philippines, namely University of the Philippines, De La Salle Health Sciences Institute, University of Sto. Tomas, and Mapua Institute of Technology.

4. Study Visit / Fact-Finding Mission

Cultural immersion studies allow CFO personnel to experience first hand the culture and way of life in other countries to enhance the pre-departure services for Filipino emigrants and concretize solutions for human trafficking related cases.

In 2009, CFO officers conducted cultural immersion in South Korea. The seven-day study tour gave the CFO officers the opportunity to present policies and programs of the Philippine Government for Filipino spouses of foreigners. Specifically, the team highlighted the significance of the Guidance and Counseling and Cultural Orientation Programs implemented by the CFO for spouses for Korean nationals. The visit was also an opportunity to forge partnership between the CFO and the Multi-Cultural Family Support Centers (MCFSC) in Dongdaemun-Gu and Ulsan City in providing post-arrival services to Filipino migrants in South Korea.

C. FILIPINO UNITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fostering better cohesion and purpose among the various overseas Filipino organizations for the promotion of their own interests within a broader community of Filipinos.

1. *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Program*

Recognizing the vast potentials of Filipinos overseas as partners in nation-building, CFO developed the LINKAPIL or Link for Philippine Development Program as a mechanism for transferring financial, material, and technical assistance from Filipinos overseas to beneficiaries in the Philippines. This assistance may be in the form of medical missions and volunteer programs, funding support to livelihood projects, scholarship grants, construction of deep-well projects, and the provision of relief and rehabilitation items/equipment.

In 2009, CFO processed, monitored and distributed 482 material and financial donations, approximately worth P56.59 million from overseas donor organizations/ individuals to 136,422 beneficiaries from 48 provinces and cities, namely Abra, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Aklan, Albay, Antique, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Bohol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cagayan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Camiguin, Catanduanes, Cavite, Cebu, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Eastern Samar, Guimaras, Ilocos Sur, Iloilo, Isabela, Laguna, Leyte, Marinduque, Misamis Oriental, Mountain Province, National Capital Region, Negros Occidental, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Rizal, Western Samar, Sorsogon, Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Tarlac and Zambales.

The donations coursed through the LINKAPIL can be categorized as follows:

- Health related and medical missions (P33,780,694.92 or 59.76%)
- Education and scholarship program (P2,100,698.68 or 3.72%)
- Infrastructure projects (P4,778,496.50 or 8.45%)
- Livelihood projects (P833,250.00 or 1.47%)
- Skills transfer and training projects (P15,034,999.00 or 25.60%)

Among the notable projects under the LINKAPIL are the following:

- Coordinated the entry of 15 medical missions to the country.
- Funded and monitored five (5) livelihood projects in Aklan and Isabela.
- Donated books and other educational materials to various schools.
- Conducted six (6) feeding programs and 13 gift-giving programs.
- Inaugurated 10 classroom buildings in various provinces.

In 2009, CFO also provided assistance to 65 donor individuals/organizations from 11 countries, namely USA, Australia, Libya, UAE, Canada, Kuwait, Brunei Darussalam, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and South Africa on their projects and activities geared towards promoting Philippine national development. Among these organizations are:

- Feed the Hungry, Inc.
- Philippine American Medical Mission of Michigan
- Medical Mission Foundation
- Fil-Am Charities of St. Louis Missouri
- South Shore Hospital Medical Mission
- Medical Mission Foundation of Michigan and Calauag Association of Canada
- US Palawan Medical Mission Group
- Fil-Am Charities of St. Louis Missouri
- Arkansas Philippine Association, Inc.
- Philippine Nurses Association of Michigan
- Pagbilao Medical Association in America
- KONA Visayan Club
- Philippine Australia Sports and Culture, Inc.
- Kahirup (Hiligaynon Association of Quebec)
- Anvil Publishing, Inc.
- The Filipino Community Center, Inc. / State Senator Clarence Nishihara / Congress of Visayan Organization / Hawaii International Relief Organization

2. Exchange Visitor Program (EVP)

Established in 1956, the EVP promotes inter-country exchange of knowledge and expertise between the U.S. and the Philippines to strengthen educational, scientific, and technological capabilities of both countries. The EVP Committee was reconstituted by former President Fidel V. Ramos in January 1996 to enhance Philippine participation in the EVP. CFO provides technical and secretariat support to the EVP Committee.

In 2009, CFO issued 492 Need for Training Certificate (NTC) endorsements. The NTC is issued by the Department of Health confirming that there is a

need for medical practitioners in the specialty of a particular EVP doctor-participant and verifying that said participant has filed a written assurance with the Philippine government that he will return to the country after the completion of his training in the US.

CFO also issued 339 No Objection Statement (NOS) endorsements. The NOS is issued by the Philippine government declaring that it has no objection on the application of a particular EVP participant to waive the two-year home residency requirement of the EVP. Moreover, 75 transfer-of-skills projects have been implemented as alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year residency requirement, to 3,300 teachers and other professionals. Among the projects implemented, the following subjects are included:

- Special Education
- Mathematics and its fields (Geometry, Algebra, Statistics, Trigonometry, Calculus, etc.)
- English (including strategies in reading and language)
- Science and its various fields (Biology, Physics, Chemistry and General Science, etc.)
- Conduct of research
- Use of new equipment such as graphing calculators, interactive modules and writing pads

The EVP Committee also issued Res. 01-2007 reinstating the alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year home-country physical presence requirement and Res. 02-2007 pertaining to the guidelines for the utilization of processing fees collected from the EVP participants.

CFO also reviewed and monitored transfer-of-skills projects implemented by EVP participants, serving as an alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year residency requirement. The projects are mostly seminar workshops developing leadership competencies, instructional leadership and teaching technology, technology as a tool in teaching Mathematics, research-based strategy instruction, among others.

CFO conducted 72 PDOS sessions to EVP participants. The PDOS gives an overview of the program, its objectives, background and legal bases. It also discusses the different categories of exchange visitors and their corresponding training periods, as well as their obligations as participants of the program.

3. Development and Publication of Information Materials

In 2008, CFO published, printed and distributed the following information materials to Philippine embassies and consulates, Filipino associations overseas, local government officials and other individuals:

- One (1) issue of *Filipino Ties*. The *Filipino Ties* is the official newsletter of the CFO
- 10,000 copies of the CFO Primer
- 3,000 copies of the Dual Citizenship Primer
- 20,000 copies of the R.A. 9208 Primer
- 20,000 copies of *Gintong Patnubay Comics*
- 10,000 copies of Stop Human Trafficking Stickers

- 10,000 copies of Guide for Filipinos Migrating to the United States (8th Edition)
- 3,000 copies of 2010 Presidential Awards Primer

4. Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas

The Presidential Awards, established through Executive Order No. 498 in 1991, is a biennial award conferred to distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations in recognition of their contribution to national development efforts, or their outstanding achievements in their field. The award is also conferred to foreign individuals and organizations that provide assistance to the country or advance the cause of Filipino communities overseas.

The Awards Secretariat launched the 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas during the International Migrants' Day last 18 December 2009 at the Occupational Safety and Health Auditorium in Quezon City.

D. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DATA BANKING

Providing a continuing study and review of the economic, social, legal, and administrative environment that have a bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos.

1. a. Policy Review and Formulation

An important mandate of CFO is the provision of advice and assistance to the executive and legislative branches of government on matters pertaining to political, economic, and social concerns, rights and obligations of overseas Filipinos.

For 2009, the CFO prepared the following studies, researches and policy inputs:

- Specialized Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar modules for departing emigrant nurses bound for the United States and Canada
- Full equity rights of Filipino World War II veterans
- Managing Migration for Development: The Philippine Government Experience
- Investment Avenues for Overseas Filipinos: Options and Prospects
- Provision of services for the campaign in the achievement of the UN-MDGs
- German Technical Cooperation Office pertaining to the impact of the economic crisis on migration and remittances
- Amendments to the Documentary Stamp Taxes Act
- Revision of RA 9189, otherwise known as the Overseas Absentee Voting Act
- Final reports on researches and interviews conducted on national and local institutions on MAPID/AENEAS project
- Questionnaires for Filipino youth, Filipino permanent residents and former Filipino migrants in Hong Kong
- Inputs to the 3rd Global Forum on Migration and Development

b. Technical and Secretariat Support to Inter-Agency Activities

CFO continued to strengthen its linkages with relevant agencies in the Philippines and host countries to enhance programs and services for Filipino migrants, and to ensure accessibility in addressing specific needs and interests.

In 2009, CFO provided technical assistance and secretariat support to the following inter-agency committees:

- Human Resource for Health Network (with DOH)
- 14th National Seafarer's Day Committee (with AOS) - Chair, Outstanding Seafarers of the Year Award
- Stock Estimation of the Filipinos Overseas (with NSCB)
- Anti-Trafficking initiatives with the USAID/Solidarity Center/ TUCP Anti-Trafficking Project
- Inter-Agency Committee on PSO
- Inter-Agency Committee on EVP
- National Anti-Poverty Commission Cabinet Group
- Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos

c. Conferences/ Fora

In 2009, CFO organized the following conferences / fora:

- ***The Second Philippine Nursing Competitiveness Conference*** held on 4-5 December 2009 gathered more than 100 nursing leaders, educators, and representatives from nursing specialty groups and associations, and national government agencies, among other stakeholders. Themed "Global Competitiveness in Nursing for National Development", the conference followed-up on the accomplishments of the work plans developed from the first conference, and to map out interventions the Task Force can provide to upgrade the competitiveness of Philippine nursing services.
- ***The Forum on Contemporary Dynamics of International Marriage Migration in Southeast Asia*** was organized by the Women's Studies Association of the Philippines, the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program and the CFO. The activity provided a venue to discuss, understand and analyze the contemporary dynamics of marriage migration in Southeast Asia including the consequences of intermarriage to sending countries, particularly the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia.
- To celebrate the ***International Migrant's Day***, the Inter-Agency Committee conducted a forum entitled "Overseas Filipinos Beyond Remittances". The event covered other aspects of overseas Filipinos besides their role as remittance-senders, including

overseas Filipinos as cultural diplomats, partners of governance, lay missionaries, and their role in science and technology synergy.

- **The Round-Table-Discussion on the Role of the EVP Committee** discussed new procedures in the authentication of documents forwarded to the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.
- The CFO also co-organized the ***Overseas Absentee Voting stakeholders forum***, the ***MAPID-Philippines capacity building and training*** in the cities of Davao and Tagaytay, the ***18 December Awards*** and the ***Month of Overseas Filipinos Press Conference***.

CFO was invited to serve as speakers and facilitators in several conferences and fora relevant to international migration. Among these are the following:

- MAPID Capacity Building for Migrants, organized by the University of Valencia Masters in International Migration, Madrid and Barcelona, Spain
- MAPID Migration and Development, organized by Fondazione ISMU, Milan, Italy
- Inter-Regional Policy Dialogue on Remittance and Development, organized by the IOM and European Commission, Rome, Italy
- Philippine Consulate General: Usap Bayan, organized by PCG-Hong Kong SAR, Hong Kong
- MAPID Capacity Building of Philippine Government Institutions: Pursuing Development in the Age of Migration, organized by SMC and CFO, Tagaytay City and Davao City
- Exodus: Formation Week for the Pastoral Workers with Migrant Workers in Asia, organized by CBCP-ECMI, Baguio City and Malaybalay, Bukidnon
- Seminar on Setting-Up Programs and Services for OFWs and their Families, organized by ATIKHA Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, Inc., San Pablo City
- ILO/SMC Workshop on Building a Comparable, Up-to-Date, and Sustainable Database on Labor Migration in Asia, organized by ILO and SMC, Manila
- IOM Thursday Forum Series on Migration and Development, organized by DOLE and IOM, Manila
- Coming Back and Moving On: Life After Human Trafficking the Philippine Experience, organized by ILO, Manila
- MAPID Research Forum, organized by SMC and CFO, Manila
- Multi-Sectoral Cooperation Towards Protecting and Advancing the Rights and Welfare of Japanese Filipino Children, organized by IOM and the Toyota Foundation, Manila
- Panel Presentation of Partner Agencies in Delivering ATN Services, organized by the DFA, Pasay City
- National Conference on Filipino Diaspora Philanthropy at the Fersal Place Hotel

CFO hosted orientation programs or provided interviews for the following:

- POLO Officers at the OWWA Center
- Korean Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs
- US Embassy – Immigrant Visa Section
- Center for Information and Assistance to Migrants, Inc.
- Australian Embassy
- Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Dutch and Swedish Embassy
- Japanese Embassy
- Newsbreak Magazine
- The Korea Times
- Vietnamese Ministry of Health
- Radio Orchel (Norway)
- Participants to the 6th National Conference of Solemnizing Officers

d. Task-Force NCLEX

E.O. 550 created the Presidential Task Force on NCLEX to address concerns arising from the possible conduct of NCLEX in the Philippines. The Task Force responded to three cases raised by NSCBN on intellectual property and candidate identification. It also conducted dialogue with the Philippine Nurses Association of America for the development of PDOS module for emigrant nurses and made representations with NSCBN for the possibility of expanding licensure to nurse aides and practical nurses.

In 2009, the Task Force NCLEX prepared specialized pre-departure orientation seminar modules for departing nurses bound for the United States and Canada, conducted initial study on laws/regulations of selected European countries regarding the entry of foreign educated nurses, organized the Second Philippine Nursing Competitiveness Conference, and attended focus group discussions on migration of healthcare professionals.

e. Task-Force Against Human Trafficking

E.O. 548 which created the Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment (TFAIR) was amended by E.O. 548-A in February 2007 to transfer the supervision of TFAIR from CFO to POEA and establish the Presidential Task Force against Human Trafficking (TFHT) under the administration of CFO. Its main thrust is to recommend to Inter-Agency Committee Against Trafficking (IACAT) policies, programs and services to enhance government initiatives against trafficking in persons. The Task-Force is also authorized to conduct surveillance and entrapment operations, in consultation and coordination with IACAT, of persons and entities suspected to be engaged in activities related to trafficking.

Among the accomplishments of the TFHT in 2009 are the following:

- CFO handled a total of 111 trafficking and related cases involving 178 victims who were referred to the DFA/PECs, NBI-AHTRAD, PNP-CIDG, POEA, OWWA, DOJ, MARINA and some LGUs. Most of the cases involved victims originating from Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and ten (10) local trafficking cases. Other countries and territories also include Macau, Japan, Hong Kong, China, South Korea, Bahrain, Kuwait, Syria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, Brunei, Indonesia,

Belgium, Cyprus, England, Norway, United Kingdom, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Palau, Brazil and Ecuador. Of the 178 victims, 69 were repatriated.

- CFO, in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Local Government Units concerned, conducted a two (2) day Advocacy Training for Youth on Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children for Labor and Sexual Exploitation in Tagaytay City on May 14-16, 2009. The training gathered 59 youth leaders from the province of Cavite, seven (7) cities of Metro Manila and municipality of Pateros. Topics include discussions on RA 9208, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Gender Sensitivity, among others.
- Granted reintegration assistance to five (5) trafficking victims. The CFO also coordinated with the Philippine Trade Training Center for the Entrepreneurship Seminar attended by four (4) beneficiaries of the Reintegration Program on 17 October 2009.
- Conducted trainings on the implementation of the Philippine Information System on Trafficking (PHILIST) in the cities of Tacloban and Surigao, and Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. The PHILIST is a database program that compiles, generate, monitor and keep track of all reported incidents of trafficking in person. The program intends to provide consolidated information regarding trafficking incidents and cases collected by various agencies and sectors.
- Maintenance of the TFHT website. Updated information in the conduct of trainings, seminars and studies relevant to the programs and services of the Task Force. Posted 185 news articles related to human trafficking, the Davao City Children's Welfare Code and Magna Carta for Women.
- Maintained partnership with UP-PGH Women's Desk for the medical examination of the victims.

2. Data Banking and Computerization

a. Databases and Information Systems

In 2009, through its in-house capability, CFO developed, implemented and enhanced 15 information and database systems that facilitate the effective delivery of its services and programs, and technical support to the administrative division. These are:

- EVP Website
- LINKAPIL Website
- PSO Website
- New CFO Website
- Communications Tracking System
- Online Emigrant PDOS Reservation System
- New Online E-mail system

- New Firewall and Internet Security System
- Documents Monitoring System
- Filipinos Overseas Information System
- Time Monitoring System
- LINKAPIL Information System
- EVP Information System
- Reservation System
- Migrants Advisory Information System

b. Statistical Reports

CFO transmits a monthly master list of Filipino emigrants to Philippine embassies and consulates. CFO also prepares the annual stock estimate of Filipinos overseas, which contains specific estimates of permanent, temporary and irregular Filipino migrants in major destination countries and territories.

In 2009, CFO generated at least 236 statistical reports and other data/information on registered Filipino emigrants and spouses and other partners of foreign nationals, and stock estimate of Filipinos overseas. The reports were provided to Philippine embassies and consulates, as well as requesting government agencies, private organizations, NGOs and individuals.