

Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

YEAR 2010 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 2010, CFO registered 85,492 Filipino emigrants with an average of 353 emigrants a day. Of the total number, 68,336 (79.93%) registered at CFO Manila; 8,169 (9.55%) at CFO Cebu; 2,870 (3.36%) at CFO NAIA, and 6,117 (7.15%) 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 Filipino emigrants in 2008, the continuous increase of registered emigrants for 2009 and 2010 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 2010, CFO conducted PDOS to 33,579 Filipino emigrants. Of the total number, 30,578 (91.06%) were given PDOS at CFO Manila and 3,001 (8.94%) 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 2010, CFO conducted peer counseling sessions to 11,162 Filipino youth emigrants. Of the total number, 10,309 (92.36%) were counseled at CFO Manila and 853 (7.64%) 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 approximately 30% of the counselees.

In 2010, CFO administered, through its service providers, guidance and counseling sessions to 20,277 Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals or an average of 83 counselees daily. Of the total number, 7,127 (35.15%) were counseled at SMEF-COW QC; 3,490 (17.21%) at SMEF-COW Cebu and 9,660 (47.64%) 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 2010, CFO included names of six (6) foreign nationals. As of December 2010, there are 253 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), R.A. 9208 (Anti-Trafficking Law) and other related laws.

In 2010, CFO responded to 39 ATN cases. All cases were referred to appropriate agencies and are still on-going. CFO also handled 28 human trafficking and other related cases involving 42 victims; of this number, 18 were repatriated from seven (7) countries and territories. 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. Six (6) victims of trafficking were provided with livelihood assistance under the CFO-TFHT Reintegration Program.

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 15 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.

At present, there are fifteen (15) post-arrival service providers and one (1) Philippine Post actively coordinating with CFO, namely: Catholic Community Services of New York Region, Mary Johnston Foundation, Caregivers Resource Center, Family Christian Church, Multi-Cultural Helping House Society, Philippine Australian Community Services Incorporated, Center for Philippine Concerns Australia, Filipino Community Council of Victoria, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Filipino Settlement Coordinating Council of South Australia, Centre for Education and Training, Philippine Consulate General Los Angeles, Filipino Korean Spouses Association, and Royal Columbian Hospital.

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 2010, CFO conducted the CEP in the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Masbate, Sorsogon, Benguet, Ifugao, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Iloilo, Capiz, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, La Union, Zambales, Bataan, Marinduque, Batangas, Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Cagayan, Quirino Province and four (4) cities in NCR.

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 2010, CFO accomplished the following: (1) facilitated the Intramuros walking tour of the Filipino-Australian Foundation of Queensland, Inc. delegation; (2) provided five (5) itineraries for Old Dominion Group with itemized costing and schedules; (3) conducted lecture and promotion of the *Lakbay-Aral* at the 11th Filipino Community Council of Australia National Conference; and (4) promoted the *Lakbay-Aral* with the Filipino communities during the immersion program in Australia. CFO also transmitted promotional letters and *Lakbay-Aral* flyers to 54 organizations in 13 countries.

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 2010, CFO distributed five (5) *Guide to Learning Filipino* textbooks and audio cassette tapes to the Filipino-Korean Spouses Association.

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 2010, CFO registered 502 new enrollees from 11 countries and noted 10 examinees to retake the exams.

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 2010, the IAC on PSO accomplished the following: (1) the 9th Conference of Philippine Schools Overseas on 18 to 20 May 2010 at the Bohol Beach Club in Panglao, Bohol with the theme, *PSO: Moving Towards Quality and Quality Assurance*; (2) an ocular inspection to nine (9) Philippine Schools in Kuwait, Oman and UAE; (3) conducted 3rd Annual Literary Contests; (4) facilitated the publication of coloring books containing the winning nursery rhymes of the 2nd Annual Literary Contest; (5) obtained from the Department of Education the Certificate of Recognition of seven (7) PSOs; and (6) transmitted the proposal for the establishment of the *Sentro ng Wikang Filipino* to Philippine School in Doha.

CFO also coordinated the conduct of college entrance examinations for senior students of PSOs in three (3) universities in the Philippines, namely University of the Philippines, De La Salle Health Sciences Institute and University of Sto. Tomas.

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 2010, CFO officers conducted a cultural immersion in Australia. They were invited by the Filipino Communities Council of Australia (FILCCA) to present the different programs and services of the CFO during the 11th FILCCA National Conference in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia. The immersion also allowed the CFO to follow-up agreements/commitments of non-government organizations in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle for provision of post-arrival services for Filipino emigrants and permanent residents in Australia; explore partnership with Filipino associations and other non-government organizations in facilitating material and financial donations to the Philippines through the LINKAPIL; and establish linkages with Filipino associations and community migrant welfare organizations with the aim of developing the current support network for Filipino immigrants

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 2010, CFO processed, monitored and distributed 487 material and financial donations, approximately worth P118,493,020.17 million from overseas donor organizations/ individuals to 156,416 beneficiaries from 50 provinces and cities in Metro Manila, namely Abra, Agusan del Norte, Aklan, Albay, Antique, Basilan, Batangas, Benguet, Bohol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Camires Sur, Camiguin, Catanduanes, Cavite, Cebu, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Eastern Samar, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, Isabela, La Union, Laguna, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Misamis Oriental, Mountain Province, NCR, Negros Occidental, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Quirino, Rizal, Western Samar, Sorsogon, Southern Leyte, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, Tarlac, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

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

- Health related and medical missions (P100,517,587.46 or 84.83%)
- Education and scholarship program (P908,782.79 or 0.77%)
- Infrastructure projects (P5,738,595.31 or 4.84%)
- Livelihood projects (P818,255.00 or 0.69%)
- Skills transfer and training projects (P10,509,799.61 or 8.87%)

Among the notable projects under the LINKAPIL are the following:

- Coordinated the conduct of surgical, medical and dental mission worth P49,847,700.00 benefiting 44,568 residents of Tarlac Province.
- Calamity assistance worth P1,442,772.80 for 19 areas in NCR, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Marikina, Rizal, Quezon City, Pangasinan, Parañaque, Sorsogon and La Union.
- Facilitated the construction of 16 classroom buildings worth P5,738,595.31 in Bulacan, Laguna, Sorsogon and Camarines Sur.
- Facilitated the construction of two (2) comfort rooms and one (1) youth center worth P650,419.77 in Laguna and Payatas.

In 2010, CFO also provided assistance to 21 donor organizations and approximately 200 individuals from five (5) countries, namely USA, Australia, UAE, Nigeria and France on their projects and activities geared towards promoting Philippine national development. Among these organizations are:

- Feed the Hungry, Inc.
- Candelaria Medical Mission Group – Candelaria Quezon Association
- Maria and Joseph Ministry to the Poor
- Arkansas Philippine Association, Inc.
- Ifugao Medical Mission
- Philippine American Medical Mission Foundation of Michigan
- Philippine Minnesotan Medical Association
- Philippine Medical Association in Chicago
- Philippine Medical Society of Northern California
- Philippine National School

- Quezonian Foundation / Lucena Association of the Midwest
- Sandigan Association
- Filipino Club Darwin, Inc.
- Filipino Organization of Kona
- Filipino American Millennium Society of Ohio
- Pages Bring Hope Movement
- Philippine Barangay Society in Nigeria
- Hawaii International Relief Organization
- Filipino Community of the Hunter Region, Inc.
- United International Private School of Dubai

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 2010, CFO issued 246 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 165 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, 57 transfer-of-skills projects have been implemented as alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year residency requirement, to 1,710 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 76 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 2010, 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 the Filipino Ties, the official newsletter of the CFO
- The Frontier Vol. 1 No. 1, CFO's Policy Brief
- The Transnational Bridges: Migration, Development and Solidarity in the Philippines
- Brick by Brick: Building Cooperation between the Philippines and Migrants' Associations in Italy and Spain
- 8th Edition of the CFO Primer
- Reprinting of the 2009 edition of *Gintong Patnubay*
- Bayanihan sa Canada Resource Handbook
- 3rd Edition of the Investment Guide
- Calendar of Activities for the Month of Overseas Filipinos
- 2010 Presidential Awards Souvenir Book

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.

During 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, (7) seven Filipino organizations, (1) one foreign group, (3) three foreigners and 13 Filipinos were conferred with the Award. They came from United States, Hong Kong, South Korea, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Australia, Germany and Canada. The awardees were honored by His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III at the Malacanang Palace on 14 December 2010.

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 the political, economic and social concerns, rights and obligations of overseas Filipinos.

During the first semester, CFO prepared and provided policy inputs and position papers for the executive and legislative branches of the government on the following agenda:

- Redefining RP-Middle East/African Relations
- An Exit Strategy for Unskilled Migrant Workers
- Department of Labor and Employment's Project Blueprint
- General Instructions on Overseas Absentee Voting
- Inputs to the State of the Nation Address of President Aquino
- First 100 Days Accomplishment Report of the President
- Top 10 Destination Countries for Filipino Immigrants Report

CFO prepared/drafted the following bills relevant to the welfare of overseas Filipinos and Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals:

- An Act Mandating Pre-Marriage and Pre-Departure Counseling Program for Filipino Spouses, Fiance(e)s and Other Partners of Foreign Nationals
- An Act Amending Republic Act no. 8424, Entitled "An Act Amending the National Internal Revenue Code", by Expanding Exempt Transactions from Value-Added Tax
- An Act Providing for the Transfer of Science and Technology and the Practice of Profession in the Philippines by overseas Filipino Professionals
- An Act to Strengthen the Policies to Eliminate the Matching of Filipino Men and Women Through Mail Order and Other Similar Practices for Purposes of Marriage or Common Law Partnership with Foreign Nationals, Revising for this Purpose Republic Act No. 6955, Otherwise Known as the Anti-Mail Order Bride Law
- An Act to Provide for the Preservation and Cultivation of the Filipino Heritage Among Filipinos Overseas Through the Teaching of Filipino Language and History, Assistance in the Establishment and Operation of Philippine Schools and Filipiniana Resource Centers Abroad, and the Creation of a Committee on Heritage and Culture for Overseas Filipinos, and Appropriating Funds Thereof
- An Act Retaining Plantilla Positions in Government for EVP Participants

CFO also prepared (1) the terminal reports for the Presidential Task Force on NCLEX and the Presidential Task Force against Human Trafficking; (2) concept paper for the CFO 30th Anniversary Conference; (3) CFO Media Plan; and (4) script for the CFO Financial Literacy Documentary Video.

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 2010, CFO provided technical assistance and secretariat support to the following inter-agency committees:

- Human Resource for Health Network (with DOH)
- 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
- Inter-Agency Committee on the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos
- Consultative Council for Overseas Filipino Workers

c. Conferences/ Fora

In 2010, CFO organized the following conferences / fora:

- National Advocacy Training for Youth on Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children for Labor and Sexual Exploitation in Tagaytay City on 17-19 February 2010.
- The 2nd Philippine Nursing Competitiveness Post-Conference at the CFO on 5 March 2010.
- Round-Table-Discussion on Dynamics and Consequences of Intermarriage: The Philippine Perspective at the Philippine Women's University on 18 March 2010.
- Lecture series on Public Policy and Governance as part of the re-entry program of a CFO officer at the CFO in April and July 2010.
- The 9th Conference of the Philippine Schools Overseas at the Bohol Beach Club in Panglao, Bohol on 18-20 May 2010.
- A Policy Summit on Realizing Migration and Development in the Philippines: Creating New Policies, Perspectives and Partnerships in the cities of Pasig, Cebu, Davao and Naga on 12, 17, 19 and 24 August 2010, respectively.
- Bayanihan sa Canada Conference in Toronto and Vancouver, Canada on 9 and 16 October 2010, respectively.
- Month of Overseas Filipinos Press Conference at the SM Mall of Asia Global Pinoy Center on 1 December 2010.
- Vision 2020 Responding to the Challenges of Migration and Development: CFO's 30th Anniversary Conference at the Pan Pacific Hotel – Manila on 8-9 December 2010.
- Cineforum on Migration in 19 SM Malls nationwide on 13-14 December 2010.
- 2010 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas at the Malacanan Palace on 14 December 2010.
- Month of Overseas Filipinos Concert at the *Bulwagan Teodoro Locsin* on 18 December 2010.
- Round-Table-Discussion with organizations facilitating applications for permanent residence Nikkei-jin Kai, Shin Nikkei-jin and Japanese Filipino Children at the CFO on 20 December 2010.

CFO hosted orientation programs or provided interviews for the following:

- International Organization for Migration Egypt delegates
- European Commission – Manila Office

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.

A post-conference workshop was held at the CFO in January 2010. It was participated in by 20 key stakeholders from the government, nursing and private sectors. It produced a workplan intended for concerned government agencies, nursing groups, and the academe to work collectively for the competitiveness of Philippine nursing.

The Task Force also launched an essay writing competition open to all Filipino writers with the theme Heralds of Care: Reflections on the Filipino Nursing Legacy of Caring for the Country of the World. Three authors emerged as winners whose essays will be published in the Heralds of Care book.

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 2010 are the following:

- Handled 28 cases of trafficking involving 42 adult victims of labor and sexual exploitation. Out of this figure, 18 victims were repatriated. The cases were referred and are still pending with DFA, POEA and NBI.
- Conducted training on PHILIST in Iloilo and Roxas City, in cooperation with government agencies and the USAID/Solidarity Center Anti-Trafficking Project, on 22 and 27 February 2007 to about 2,000 frontline service providers particularly the DSWD and PNP Women and Children's Protection Desks.
- Provided livelihood programs to six (6) trafficking victims.

- Conducted the National Youth Advocacy Training on Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children for Labor and Sexual Exploitation on 17-19 February 2010 which served as a follow-up training to the advocacy trainings which were previously conducted. The advocacy training convened 49 youth advocates representing various provinces in the country. The training created awareness about issues and concerns on trafficking in persons and organized anti-trafficking advocates within concerned provinces. During workshops, the youth participants came up with invaluable action plans that they will implement in their respective communities.

2. Data Banking and Computerization

a. Databases and Information Systems

In 2010, through its in-house capability, CFO developed, implemented and enhanced eight (8) information and database systems that facilitate the effective delivery of its services and programs, and technical support to the administrative division. These are:

- New Biometric Time Monitoring System
- Conference Database and Directory System
- Case Monitoring System
- New Presidential Awards Information System
- Newsletter and Publication Subscription Module
- Bayanihan sa Canada Website
- 3rd Edition of Invest in the Philippines
- Personnel 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 2010, CFO generated at least 160 statistical reports and 84 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.