

Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

YEAR 2011 SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. POLICY ADVOCACY

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. Policy Review and Formulation

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

For 2011, CFO prepared and provided policy inputs and position papers for the executive and legislative branches of the government on the following agenda:

- Inputs to the National Action Plan of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cabinet Cluster 2011-2016
- Inputs to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016
- Inputs to the State of the Nation Address of President Aquino
- Review on the legislative history of RA 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009

CFO prepared/drafted the following bills/Executive Order/Resolutions 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, Fiancé(e)s and Other Partners of Foreign Nationals
- 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
- Executive Order on Streamlining the Processing of Documents for Medical Missions in the Philippines
- Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) Resolution 01-2011 – Qualifications, Guidelines and Procedures on the Implementation of the Enhancement Training Sponsorship Project as the Second Component of the Alternative Arrangement in lieu of the Two-Year Home Country Residency Requirement
- EVP Resolution 02-2011 – Additional Guidelines on Deciding on Applications for No Objection Statement (NOS) through Referenda and Meetings

During the first semester, the following Resolutions were published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation:

- EVP Resolution 01-2010 – Amended Guidelines and Procedures on the Waiver of the Two-Year Home Country Residency Requirement for EVP Participants
- EVP Resolution 02-2010 –Guidelines for the Utilization of the Processing Fee Collected from the EVP Participants applying for No Objection Statement (NOS) , Second Amendment for the Purpose of Section 6, C of the Guidelines and Procedure on the Waiver of the Two-Year Home Country Residency Requirement for EVP Participants (published but held in abeyance)

2. 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 2011, CFO conducted the CEP in the provinces of Abra, Agusan del Norte, Antique, Apayao, Aurora, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Cavite, Cebu, Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Guimaras, Kalinga, Ilocos Sur, Quezon, Laguna, Masbate, Misamis Occidental, Negros Occidental, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Surigao del Norte, Romblon, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur and two (2) cities (Mandaluyong and Valenzuela) in the National Capital Region.

3. Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking – Advocacy and Communications Committee (IACAT-ADVOCOM)

In December 2010, the CFO became an ex-officio member of the IACAT and was delegated to head the Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADVOCOM) because of its experience in handling the Presidential Task Force Against Human Trafficking (TFHT). CFO-TFHT implemented its anti-trafficking programs from March 2007 to March 2010, covering the four areas of prevention, protection, prosecution and reintegration.

The primary role of the ADVOCOM is to work in conjunction with its members and of the IACAT, in the initiation, implementation and evaluation of an effective communications program for the Council. The ADVOCOM will specifically oversee and monitor the implementation of the communications and information campaign and will update the IACAT with any significant development vis-à-vis the campaign.

The creation of the ADVOCOM is in line with some of the functions of the IACAT as stipulated in the Section 21 (e) of RA 9208 which is to coordinate the conduct of massive information dissemination and campaign on the existence of the law and the various issues and problems attendant to trafficking through the local government units, concerned agencies, and NGOs. The Article V, Section 16 (c) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the RA 9208 also stipulated that one of the roles and

responsibilities of the IACAT is to undertake information, education and advocacy campaigns against trafficking in persons.

Representatives from Department of Justice, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Council for the Welfare of Children, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Presidential Communications Operations Office, Philippine Commission on Women, Philippine National Police, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, International Justice Mission, Ople Policy Center and Visayan Forum Foundation comprise the members of the Committee.

One of the important accomplishments of CFO-ADVOCOM is the operationalization of the 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking on 15 March 2011. It is a 24/7 hotline facility which responds to emergency or crisis calls from victims of human trafficking and their families. It can be reached from any point in Metro Manila and is likewise accessible from the provinces and overseas.

Other notable accomplishments of ADVOCOM are the preparation of the comprehensive 2011 Philippine Trafficking in Persons Report which was submitted to the US Department of State; conceptualization of the 1343 Actionline infomercials; conduct of eight (8) Committee meetings; participation in the National Strategic Action Plan for 2011-2016; advocacy partnerships with government and non-government agencies in the transportation and tourism industries; drafting of the general and specific anti-trafficking core messages; participation in the travel exposition and posting of anti-trafficking materials in major transportation hubs.

CFO-ADVOCOM also conducted the nationwide Trainors' Training on Anti-Trafficking Campaign and Advocacy to frontline and training officers in the government and non-government agencies involved in the handling and attending of human trafficking cases. The trainings conducted were the following:

- National Trainors' Training,
 - Tagaytay City, 11-13 May 2011 with 44 participants
- Regional Trainors' Training
 - Cagayan de Oro City, 13-15 July 2011 with 58 participants (Mindanao Region)
 - Baguio City, 19-21 October 2011 with 33 participants (Northern Luzon)
 - Zamboanga City, 5-9 December 2011 with 72 participants (ARMM)

The last leg of the regional training which will cover the Visayas region is set to be conducted in January 2012.

B. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Provision of mechanisms for the assistance in the form of resources, knowledge, skills and technology from overseas Filipinos that will be strategic and responsive to existing development issues and needs of the country.

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, infrastructure projects, skills transfer and training projects, and provision of relief and rehabilitation items/equipment.

In 2011, CFO processed, monitored and distributed 402 material and financial donations, approximately worth P55,254,687.52 million from overseas donor organizations/ individuals to 51,356 beneficiaries from 49 provinces and cities in Metro Manila, namely Abra, Agusan del Norte, Aklan, Albay, Antique, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Bohol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cagayan Valley, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Cavite, Cebu, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Eastern Samar, Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, Isabela, La Union, Laguna, Lanao del Norte, Leyte, Maguindanao, Misamis Oriental, National Capital Region, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Nueva Ecija, Oriental Mindoro, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Quirino, Rizal, Romblon, Western Samar, Sarangani, Sorsogon, South Cotabato, Southern Leyte, Sultan Kudarat, Zambales, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur.

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

- Health related and medical missions (P39,151, 996.68)
- Education and scholarship program (P934,898.55)
- Infrastructure projects (P3,554,066.63)
- Livelihood projects (P534,200.00)
- Skills transfer and training projects (P9,478,523.26)
- Relief Calamity (P1,601,002.40)

Among the projects under the LINKAPIL are the following:

- Conduct of six (6) feeding programs and 10 gift-giving programs
- Calamity relief operations in Tondo, Bulacan and Cagayan de Oro
- Donation of books and other education materials to various schools and other organizations
- Construction of 12 classroom buildings projects and repairs of five (5) classrooms in Batangas, Bohol, Bulacan, Camarines Sur, Pampanga, Quezon, Rizal and Sorsogon
- Conduct of 11 medical missions

2. *Overseas Filipinos-Remittances for Development (OFs-RED)*

The CFO, in partnership with the National Economic Development Authority, is implementing the Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development (OFs-RED) Project. The project addresses the goal of harnessing the potential of overseas remittances for poverty reduction and consequently, local economic development. The expected output of

the OFs-RED is the build-up of a viable collective remittances fund and investments in viable remittances-funded job creating projects.

For 2011, CFO conducted the following activities: 17 focus group discussions participated by significant players involved in the remittance sector; Multi-Stakeholders Forum on Channeling Collective Remittances for Development; capacity assessment and capacity-building trainings in Ilocos Norte and Taguig City; review of the related laws and policies on remittances; study on the various collective remittance models; and establishment of the Remittance for Development Council (REDC).

C. INTEGRATION AND REINTEGRATION

Ensuring that all Filipino emigrants are adequately prepared to meet the practical and psychological challenges attendant to international migration; and for the productive and seamless reintegration of returning overseas Filipinos and their families in the country.

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 2011, CFO registered 83,411 Filipino emigrants with an average of 316 emigrants a day. Of the total number, 67,902 (81%) registered at CFO Manila; 8,042 (10%) at CFO Cebu; 2,497 (3%) at CFO NAIA, and 4,970 (6%) at CFO-SMEF-COW. The top destination countries of emigrants are USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, United Kingdom and Germany. There was a significant decrease in the number of registered emigrants from 85,492 in 2010 to 2011. The decrease can be attributed to the restrictions in the entry requirements of some destination countries such as the implementation of a required English language course to all prospective migrants.

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 USA, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and European countries.

In 2011, CFO conducted PDOS to 31,553 Filipino emigrants. Of the total number, 28,790 (91.24%) were given PDOS at CFO Manila and 2,763 (8.76%) 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 2011, CFO conducted peer counseling sessions to 11,069 Filipino youth emigrants. Of the total number, 10,256 (92.65%) were counseled at CFO Manila and 813 (7.34%) 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 St. Mary Euphrasia Foundation-Center for Overseas Workers (SMEF-COW) effective 4 April 2005 in Quezon City, and 2 May 2005 in Cebu. In 2 May 2006, it was also devolved to the People's Reform Initiative for Social Mobilization, Inc. (PRISM). The CFO also continues to provide in-depth counseling for some counselees.

In 2011, CFO administered, through its service providers, guidance and counseling sessions to 20,669 Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals or an average of 78 counselees daily. Of the total number, 6,186 (30%) were counseled at SMEF-COW QC; 3,677 (17.79%) at SMEF-COW Cebu and 10,806 (52.28%) 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 2011, CFO included the names of three (3) foreign nationals. As of December 2011, there are 256 names of foreign nationals and 59 Filipino spouses and other partners in the CFO Watchlist.

6. 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 contracts 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 2011, CFO responded to 41 ATN cases. All cases were referred to appropriate agencies and are still on-going. These cases dealt with location of whereabouts, overseas labor disputes, domestic violence, fraud, trafficking, mail order bride scheme and request for financial assistance.

Aside from the ATN cases, CFO also handles cases that were received from the 1343 Actionline. There were 68 human trafficking and other related cases involving 179 victims received. Through the Actionline, CFO has assisted the repatriation of 111 trafficking victims. Other services that were provided include the preparation of legal documents, provision of legal advice and court representatives, assistance in the conduct of investigation, filing of cases, financial support, and temporary shelter.

7. 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 Filipino associations overseas mostly from major countries of destination of emigrants 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 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. In 2011, CFO has established new partnership with Richmond Multicultural Community Services from Canada.

D. CULTURE AND EDUCATION

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 2011, CFO accomplished the following: (1) prepared seven modules for the enhanced *Lakbay Aral*; (2) provided marketing materials for Filipino organizations in the USA and Europe; (3) partnered with Filipino Communities Council of Australia as the program's promoter and coordinator in Australia; and (4) launched the *Lakbay-Aral* enhanced program during the Global Summit and Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLEAD) conferences.

2. Learn Filipino Program

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) in 2002. Accompanied with a musical tape, lessons in the book are culture-based to pave the way for a better understanding of the Filipino language and culture of the Philippines. The book is distributed to Filipino associations overseas which conduct Filipino language classes. In 2011, CFO distributed 12 *Guide to Learning Filipino* textbooks and audio cassette tapes to Filipino organizations in Australia.

On 7 December 2006, CFO launched the first-ever internet-based teaching of the Filipino language, the Learn Filipino Program. Designed to target a wider audience of overseas Filipinos throughout the world, the course allows enrollees to learn Filipino at their own pace and at a very minimal cost.

As of December 2011, CFO registered 296 enrollees from 12 countries.

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.

In 2011, CFO provides administrative and technical support to 42 PSOs with 30,478 enrollees in 10 countries requesting for permits to operate, special order and other pertinent documents related to PSO management and operations.

The IAC on PSO accomplished the following: (1) conducted 11 IAC-PSO meetings; (2) conducted an accreditation visits to two PSOs, Philippine Schools in Shanghai and Xiamen; (3) conducted orientation training on the implementation of K+12 Basic Education Program; (4) conducted the Annual Literary Contest; (5) distributed 200 copies of *Kulayang Aklat* to PSOs; (6) publication and distribution of the 2nd edition of the Manual of Policies, Standards and Regulations (MOPAR) for PSOs; (7) assisted UP, UST and De La Salle Health Science Institute in conducting entrance examinations in PSOs; (8) prepared concept paper on the evaluation and accreditation of PSOs; and (9) updated the list of enrollees and status of permits of PSOs for SY 2011-2012.

4. 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 2011, CFO issued 262 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 180 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.

CFO also reviewed and monitored 15 transfer-of-skills projects implemented by EVP participants, serving as an alternative arrangement in lieu of the two-year residency requirement. The projects are in the fields of Special Education, Mathematics, General Education and Biology.

CFO conducted 82 PDOS sessions to 2,055 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.

E. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promotion and enhancement of CFO's institutional capabilities for policy formulation and lobbying; generation of comprehensive data on international migration; and mobilizing stakeholders in the migration and development sector.

1. Development and Publication of Information Materials

In 2011, CFO published, printed and distributed the following information materials to Philippine embassies and consulates, Filipino associations overseas, local government officials and other partners:

- *Heralds of Care* book
- CFO primer
- Information Guide for Emigrants bound for Japan
- Information Guide for Emigrants bound for Canada
- Information Guide for Emigrants bound for Australia and New Zealand
- *Stop Human Trafficking* stickers

- *Human Trafficking, ano ba ito?* posters
- *Human Trafficking, ano ba ito?* tarpaulins
- 1343 Actionline stickers
- 1343 Actionline tarpaulins
- Anti-Mail Order Bride postcards
- Anti-Mail Order Bride bookmarks
- *Tutol ako sa Trafficking* banner
- *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL) flyer
- *Lakbay Aral* brochure
- Manual of Policies, Standards and Regulations (MOPAR) for PSOs
- Reprinting of Information Guide for Filipino Emigrants bound for USA
- Global Summit Souvenir Book
- Calendar of Activities for the Month of Overseas Filipinos
- 2012 Presidential Awards primer

2. Conferences/ Fora

In 2011, CFO organized the following conferences/fora:

- National Trainers' Training on Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign and Advocacy held in Tagaytay City in May 2011
- Regional Trainers' Training on Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign and Advocacy held in Cagayan de Oro City in July 2011
- Regional Trainers' Training on Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign and Advocacy held in Baguio City in October 2011
- Regional Trainers' Training on Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign and Advocacy held in Zamboanga City in December 2011
- Multi-Stakeholders Forum on Channeling Collective Remittance for Development held in Astoria Plaza on 3 May 2011
- Diaspora to Development: Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora held in Philippine International Convention Center on 27-29 September 2011
- Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLEAD) Conference held in Philippine International Convention Center on 27-29 September 2011
- Forum on Migration held in Landbank Auditorium on 15 December 2011
- Cineforum on Migration held in selected SM Malls on 5 December 2011
- Orientation Training on the Implementation of K+12 Basic Education Program held in Regional Educational Learning Center on 5-7 May 2011
- First Consultative Meeting on the Comprehensive Recovery and Reintegration Program for Returning Overseas Filipinos in Distress held in DSWD Auditorium on 16 May 2011
- Developing Local Capacities in Tapping Overseas Filipinos Collective Remittances for Development held in Ilocos Norte and Taguig City in 10-13 August 2011 and 14-16 September 2011, respectively
- Meeting on the Migrants' Associations and Philippine Institutions for Development (MAPID)-Europe held in Rome on 30-31 October 2011
- Fun Run in observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos held in Quezon City Memorial Circle on 18 December 2011
- Forum on Improving Remittance Services held in Washington, USA in April 2011 (as speaker)

- 16th International Metropolis Conference held in Portugal in September 2011 (as participant and speaker)
- International Conference on "Ensuring Tomorrow's Health: Workforce Planning and Mobility" held in Brussels, Belgium in December 2011 (as participant and speaker)
- Consultation meeting with the European Commission on the Global Approach to Migration held in Thailand in June 2011 (as participant and speaker)

3. Stock Estimation of Overseas Filipinos

The Stock Estimate of Filipinos Overseas is the aggregate of all Philippine-born Filipinos, residing or working overseas. It categorizes overseas Filipinos into permanent, temporary and irregular migrants.

Per Foreign Service Circular No. 08-03, CFO was delegated by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to consolidate the data of overseas Filipinos for stock estimation. In 2011, CFO coordinated with the DFA and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for the collection of data and publication of the 2010 stock estimates of overseas Filipinos.

In line with its data management functions, CFO is part of the project, "Improving the International Migration Management System of the Philippines" which is supported by the European Commission in the Philippines. The project aims to improve, harmonize and standardize by capacitating agencies in data collection, processing and management as well as establishment of an effective inter-agency migration data coordination system. The expected results of the project is the effective operationalization of the Shared Government Information System on Migration (SGISM) as a tool for inter-agency data coordination and improvement, generation of data and statistics that are in conformity with international definitions and concepts, and the improvement of the government's capacity for data collection, processing, and management.

For 2011, among the accomplishments of the EU Data Migration Project are the conduct of three (3) technical working group meetings; preparation of the three-year workplan of the project; conduct of the inventory of the existing information systems of all government involved in migration; and creation of the subcommittees on (1) Website, (2) Inter-Linkages of all Information Systems, and (3) Overseas Filipinos Data and Statistics.

4. 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 2011, 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)

- National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee – Sub-Committee on Illegal Recruitment
- 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
- Advocacy and Communications Committee (with IACAT)
- International Migration Management System of the Philippines project

5. Inter-Agency Partnerships

In 2011, CFO has established partnerships with various government and non-government agencies either by entering into an Agreement and/or collaboration of relevant activities.

CFO has established new partnerships with the following agencies:

- Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action (TIGRA) - provision of financial literacy services to Filipino emigrants
- Planet Finance – provision of financial education and business advisory services to overseas Filipinos
- Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) – as partner in the anti-trafficking advocacy and distribution of advocacy materials to about 500 members
- Victory Liner - as partner in the anti-trafficking advocacy and display of advocacy materials to all bus terminals
- Dynamic Outsource Solutions, Inc. (DOS1) - provision of technical and manpower support the 1343 Actionline
- Philippine Airlines - as partner in the anti-trafficking advocacy and for the free advertisement of 1343 Actionline in the *Mabuhay* magazine
- Transprosper Corporation - funding support for the production of emigrant starter kits
- Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc. - as the coordinator of *Lakbay Aral* program in Australia
- Filipino-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (FALDEF) - for the provision of pro bono legal services to indigent Filipinos and Filipino-Americans suffering from legal injustices
- Bureau of Immigration (BI) -provision of assistance to cases received from the 1343 Actionline
- Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) - provision of assistance to cases received from the 1343 Actionline
- Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) - provision of assistance to cases received from the 1343 Actionline
- Department of Justice (DOJ) - as partner in the ADVOCOM and for the funding support of the anti-trafficking activities and projects of ADVOCOM
- Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) - as partner in the anti-trafficking advocacy and the display of advocacy materials in major ports
- Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) - as partner in the anti-trafficking advocacy and the display of advocacy materials in all rail stations

- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) - for sharing of relevant data of Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and enhanced MDG based site selection for overseas Filipino donors
- National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) - for sharing of relevant data of Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and enhanced MDG based site selection for overseas Filipino donors
- Community Based-Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Team - for sharing of relevant data of Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and enhanced MDG based site selection for overseas Filipino donors
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - as partner in the return and reintegration program for distressed overseas Filipinos
- Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) - for the promotion and coordination of retirees concerns including business and investments
- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) - in supporting policies that transform overseas remittances for development, savings and investment; and as partner in the OFs-RED project
- Philippine American Educational Foundation (PAEF) - provision of special pre- departure orientation seminars for J1 visa holders
- Western Union Foundation - as partner in OFs-RED project and provision of funding support

6. 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 2011, CFO officers conducted a study visit in South Korea and participated in the training for government employees conducting pre-departure orientation programs for foreign spouses of Korean nationals. The training which was sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family was held in Seoul on 19-22 June 2011.

7. Databanking and Computerization

In 2011, through its in-house capability, CFO developed, implemented and enhanced 10 information and database systems that facilitate the effective delivery of its services and programs, and technical support to all CFO divisions. These are:

- Case Monitoring System
- Filipinos Overseas Information System
- LINKAPIL Information System
- Guidance and Counseling Information System
- Global Summit Conference Information System
- Time Monitoring System
- Personnel Information System
- Online Presidential Awards Information System
- Electronic Official Receipt System

- Online Human Trafficking Cases Reporting and Monitoring System (for 1343 Actionline)

CFO has also developed and enhanced the following websites:

- New CFO website
- Web-based Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)
- Diaspora to Development Global Summit website
- YouLead website
- New LINKAPIL website
- Online Payment Website module for online transactions
- *Alay Dunong* website
- Arts and Culture website
- Teach-Share website
- Business Advisory Circle website
- Diaspora Investment website
- Diaspora Philanthropy website
- Global Legal Assistance and Advocacy websites (Legal Assistance and Advocacy)
- Medical Mission Coordination website
- Return and Reintegration website
- Tourism Initiatives website
- 2012 Presidential Awards website
- 1343 Actionline website

8. Statistical Reports

CFO transmits a monthly master list of Filipino emigrants to Philippine embassies and consulates. In 2011, CFO generated at least 204 statistical reports and other data/information on registered Filipino emigrants and spouses and other partners of foreign nationals, and stock estimate of overseas Filipinos. The reports were provided to Philippine embassies and consulates, as well as requesting government agencies, private organizations, NGOs and individuals.

9. Other Relevant Activities

CFO has conducted two (2) other activities relevant to migration.

During the first semester of 2011, CFO has conducted the Anti-Mail Order Bride Poster Making Contest to promote the campaign against mail order bride schemes. CFO has awarded four (4) entries which were chosen among 22 entries received from various areas in the Philippines.

Another activity that was conducted was the Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards. The Awards was conceived in 2011 for the Celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and International Migrants Day in the Philippines (December and December 18, respectively every year). MAM Awards aim to recognize the significant role of the media in the promotion and advocacy of migration and development.

Eligible for the Awards are works by any individual, government and private media outlets, institutions and practitioners in the fields of print, radio, movie and television, advertising and internet based in the Philippines and abroad. Entries must have raised public awareness on

issues on Filipino migration, advocated the cause of Filipinos overseas, or/and promoted a positive image of Filipinos overseas, and migration and development.

The recipients of the first MAM Awards include *From Carabao to Sheep* by AKLnzPINOYS (Print Journalism Award), *Multicultural Family Broadcasting for Filipinos* by Woongjin Foundation (Radio Journalism Award-Regular Radio Program), *Citizen Pinoy* by ABS-CBN Global Ltd. (Television Journalism Award-Regular TV Program), *Front Row-Pag-Uwi* by GMA NEWS TV Channel 11 (Television Journalism Award -Episodic), *The Filipina On Top: Deconstructing Maria Clara* by Illustrado Communications FZ-LLC (Film Media Award-Documentary), *Highlights and Lowlights: 38 Years of Pinoys Abroad* by Joseph Holandes Ubalde, www.interaksyon.com (Interactive Media Award) and *Mag-Ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiter* by CLTV 36 (Advertisement Award). The awarding ceremony was held at Landbank Auditorium, Malate on 15 December 2011.