



FILIPINO TIES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CFO www.cfo.gov.ph



CFO Unveils New Office in Davao

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) unveiled its new CFO Extension Office in Davao City on 28 June 2018 in a bid to bring CFO's emigrant services closer to the people of Mindanao. CFO's Executive Director, Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik, led the inauguration of the Commission's new Davao office.

Secretary Abul Khayr D. Alonto of the Mindanao Development Authority, Acting Assistant Secretary Robert Ferrer, Jr. of the



Secretary Alonto, Acting Asst. Sec. Ferrer, Jr., Director Miwa, Mr. Salvador, and Usec. Naik for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Department of Foreign Affairs – Mindanao, Director Yoshiaki Miwa of the Consular Office of Japan in Davao, and Mr. Philip Salvador who represented Special Assistant to the President Sec. Bong Go, joined Usec. Naik for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Local government officials including Congresswoman Mylene Garcia-Albano of the

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2nd District of Davao, the OIC of Davao City's Integrated Gender and Development Division Ms. Lorna Mandin, representing Mayor Sara Duterte, and Ms. Lilibeth Pantinople, Manager of the City's Public Employment Service Office, also graced the event.

Also in attendance were national government officials for Region XI such as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Bureau of Treasury (BoT), Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The inauguration was also attended by representatives of the academe, such as the Ateneo Migration Center; civil society, such as the Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc. and Pasali Philippines Foundation; international organizations, such as the International Organization for Migration, who have partnered with the CFO for some projects in the past; and the private sector, such as the



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Multicultural Helping House Society, who have collaborated with the CFO for its Ugnayan sa Canada program. At the end of the ceremonies, Mr. Joey Ayala, who hails from Davao himself, serenaded everyone with his socially relevant and heartwarming classics, such as “Walang Hanggang Paalam.”

The establishment of CFO Davao is the first in Mindanao and aims to provide top notch frontline services in a comfortable environment and convenient location for CFO clients from all over Mindanao.

“This new CFO office in Davao and Mindanao is in line with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s



During the inauguration of the CFO Office in Davao City

directive to streamline government processes in a bid to bring its services closer to Filipinos across the country, especially to the people of Mindanao,” Undersecretary Pimentel-Naik said during the inauguration ceremony.

“CFO is committed to making its services more accessible to our people. The opening of this office is a firm example of that commitment,” the Undersecretary added.

She further emphasized that emigrant clients from Davao City, nearby provinces as well as other areas in Mindanao will no longer fly to Cebu or Manila to do their pre-departure transactions.

Other CFO Extension Offices currently operating are in Cebu City and Clark City in Pampanga, supplemented further by CFO Desks located at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminals.

The new CFO Davao is located at the 5/F AMQ Building corner Lakandula Street, Dacudao Avenue, Agdao, Davao City, where the regional office of the Dept. of Labor and Employment is also located. The office is open to serve the public from 8am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays with no noon breaks. The office provides Pre-departure Orientation Services (PDOS) for emigrants as well as guidance and counselling services for fiancées/spouses of foreign nationals.

Filipino emigrants who wish to take their PDOS in Davao may reserve and register through the Online System https://cfo.ph/PDOS_Reservation_Davao.

Filipino spouses/partners of foreign nationals attending the GCP in Davao may also secure an appointment through the GCP On-Line Appointment System (GOAS) <https://cfo.ph/>

GCP-Davao-Appointment/.

Hereunder are the daily CFO-Davao Office Frontline schedules:

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION SEMINAR (PDOS)

Combined PDOS and PEER Counseling	Country	Day	Time
	USA	Wednesdays and Fridays (35 slots)	10am - 12nn
	Canada	Tuesday (35 slots)	10am - 12nn
	Japan	Monday (35 slots)	10am - 12nn
	Other Countries	Thursday (35 slots)	10am - 12nn

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM (GCP)

COUNTRY	DAY	TIME
USA	Monday (12 slots)	2pm - 5pm
Japan	Tuesday (12 slots)	2pm - 5pm
ASPAC, New Zealand, Australia, Korea	Wednesday (12 slots)	2pm - 5pm
Europe, Middle East, other countries	Thursday (12 slots)	2pm - 5pm
Canada	Friday (12 slots)	2pm - 5pm

YouLead 2018 - "Turning Our Hearts to Home"

Last 22 June 2018, 9 participants of the Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLead) program of CFO learned about social enterprises and agri-business at the Gawad Kalinga Enchanted Farm, the Aeta way of life at Yangil Village in San Felipe, Zambales and got to try the “bambike” or bamboo bike on a tour of the Spanish period’s Walled City of Intramuros during the 5-day program.

YouLeaD is a 1-2 week cultural immersion program meant for 2nd or 3rd generation overseas Filipinos who wish to learn first-hand about the land that their parents or grandparents call “home.” At the end of the program, the youth participants are encouraged to share their experiential learning to their Filipino communities abroad.



Some photos from the YouLeaD 2018 implementation



CFO TOWARD EXCELLENCE

A message by Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel Naik for the employees of the CFO

Today in our celebration of our 38th anniversary, we look back at the past decades of public service and the millions of Filipinos we have served and continue serving worldwide. They are the migrants of our Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars, the donors and beneficiaries of LINKAPIL, the public and private partners in different projects, and even cases that were reported via our Assistance-to-Nationals program and the 1343 Actionline. We look back and remember the challenges in our clients' and partners' lives. But nevertheless, we are also reminded of the joys and pride that we cherished together working with them as public servants.

As we celebrate our 38 years of success, not only are we expecting to continue the excellent work that we have been doing, but looking forward, we will also be launching the newest satellite office in Davao City. The CFO now has presence in all three main island groups in the Philippines. The new office serves as a response to our clients' need for our services in Mindanao. CFO Davao will provide most of the CFO's frontline services such as our PDOS and Guidance Counseling Program. The establishment of CFO Davao is a testament to our dedication to extend our reach and providing convenience to our clients and partners in Mindanao. No longer would future clients and partners have to fly to Cebu, Pampanga, and Manila for their needs, as CFO Davao will provide a convenient option for our brothers and sisters in the region.

While we may be an agency that serves a myriad clientele, to think we are even serving Filipinos overseas, we belong to an agency that not too many Filipinos know about. But even so, we still humbly and diligently strive to perform our daily tasks for the benefit of the public that we serve.

Through the years, the heritage of CFO officers and staff have been very instrumental in CFO's success. We are so happy and proud of all they have accomplished. This is also true for the younger generation of public servants and I hope they find inspiration in the zeal and passion of their seniors, as they start their very own journey in serving our fellow Filipinos. Together, we take pride in their accomplishments and their commitment to excellence.

*As we continue to work, let us keep in mind our vision and mission toward a community of well-respected and proudly competitive Filipinos overseas, and to be the Philippines' premier institution for their strengthening and empowerment. *Atin ding tandaan ang ating sigaw at paninindigang magbigay ng kalidad na serbisyo para sa mamamayan, abot sa labas ng bayan.**

To all employees, this is to congratulate you on your hard work, achievement, enthusiasm, devotion and discipline in all these 38 years! Keep it up!

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE OF THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS TO THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN ALBERTA

**Month of June
declared as Philippine
Heritage Month in
Alberta Canada**

Overseas Filipinos may be distinctly known as the Philippines' modern-day heroes, but they also carry another important role of being the country's culture bearers.

With all the collective efforts to create among the people a consciousness, respect, and love for the legacies of Filipino culture and history, it is with great pride and honor that we congratulate the Filipino community in Alberta, Canada for the recent recognition it received from the Provincial Government of Alberta. The proclamation of the month of June as the "PHILIPPINE HERITAGE MONTH IN ALBERTA" is another milestone for the Filipino diaspora, and a meaningful recognition of the significant contributions of Filipino-Canadians to the social, economic, cultural and historical richness of the Province. The commendation comes at an opportune moment since the Philippines is also celebrating two important events during the month of June – the Philippine Independence Day and the Migrant Workers' Day.

Alberta is the proud home to more than 175,000 overseas Filipinos and consists of the second largest Filipino population in Canada. For the

last ten years, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas recorded an annual average of almost 5,000 Filipino emigrants bound for Alberta, mainly to Calgary and Edmonton. Through the pre-departure services that we offer, we always strive to provide necessary and relevant public service and information for them to be more prepared when they migrate so that they can smoothly integrate into life in their host country.

The CFO commends the hard work, exemplary talent and enduring spirit of bayanihan of overseas Filipinos, who have indeed made the province a more caring and vibrant place. This is on top of their tremendous contribution to Philippine national and local development through their remittances, diaspora philanthropy and other worthwhile assistance and initiatives.

We also laud the efforts of the Philippine Consulate in Calgary for partnering and deepening its relationship with the Filipino community, which was very evident during the CFO's recently concluded Ugnayan sa Canada.

Mabuhay and our heartfelt congratulations!



Inauguration of the Sentro Rizal in Toronto, Canada

SENTRO RIZAL OPENS IN TORONTO

In a simple ceremony, the Sentro Rizal was inaugurated on 12 May 2018 in Toronto, Canada's most populous city. The cultural center is located in the Philippine Consulate Office on 160 Eglinton Avenue East.

National Commission for Culture and the Arts Chairman Virgilio Almario and Consul General Rosalita Prospero inked the Memorandum of Agreement outlining the key responsibilities and commitments of the government organizations they represent in ensuring the successful implementation of the Sentro Rizal goals and objectives.

The signing of the MOA preceded the ribbon-cutting ceremonies and unveiling of the signage and marker.

In her welcome remarks, Prospero highlighted the significance of a Philippine cultural center in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area which is home to about 350,000 to 400,000 Filipinos or

half of the entire Filipino population in Canada.

Almario, National Artist for Literature and also chairman of the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino, said it is very appropriate for Filipino cultural centers around the world to be named after Jose Rizal, who is generally regarded as the first Global Filipino.

Almario recited a few lines from a poem by the national hero where he expressed his sentiments of pining for home. He characterized today's overseas Filipinos as just like Rizal: always leaving the Philippines but forever longing for home.

For her part, Astravel Pimentel-Naik, executive director of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, underscored her agency's role in ensuring that Filipinos in the diaspora remain rooted in their cultural heritage. She cited the role of CFO in the dissemination of copies of the Virtual Sentro Rizal or VSR.

The VSR is targeted at tech-savvy Filipinos and the youth, bringing the traditional mode of appreciating Filipino heritage into the digital age. It is a portable, multi-lingual collection of selected Filipiniana references in DVD format which were culled from the library collection of the National Commission for Culture & the Arts, with additional materials sourced from cooperating producers and publishers.



Chairman Almario and Usec. Naik leading the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Sentro Rizal aims to promote Filipino art, culture, and language as stated in Section 42 of Republic Act 10066 known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009. The law states that the Sentro Rizal “shall be a repository, inter alia, of materials on Philippine arts, culture and language: books, digital video discs, compact discs, films, magazines, artworks, tourism promotion materials, information materials, etc. that shall be made available to the public, both Filipino and foreign.”

Folk singer and songwriter Joey Ayala, himself a former chairman of the Committee on Music of the NCCA, provided entertainment during the

launch. The Mindanao-born Ayala is a pioneer in the incorporation of ethnic instrumentation and melody in neo-folk musical compositions. He gladly obliged song requests, like “Aguila.” The singing of the patriotic anthem “Bayan Ko” made some in the crowd misty-eyed.

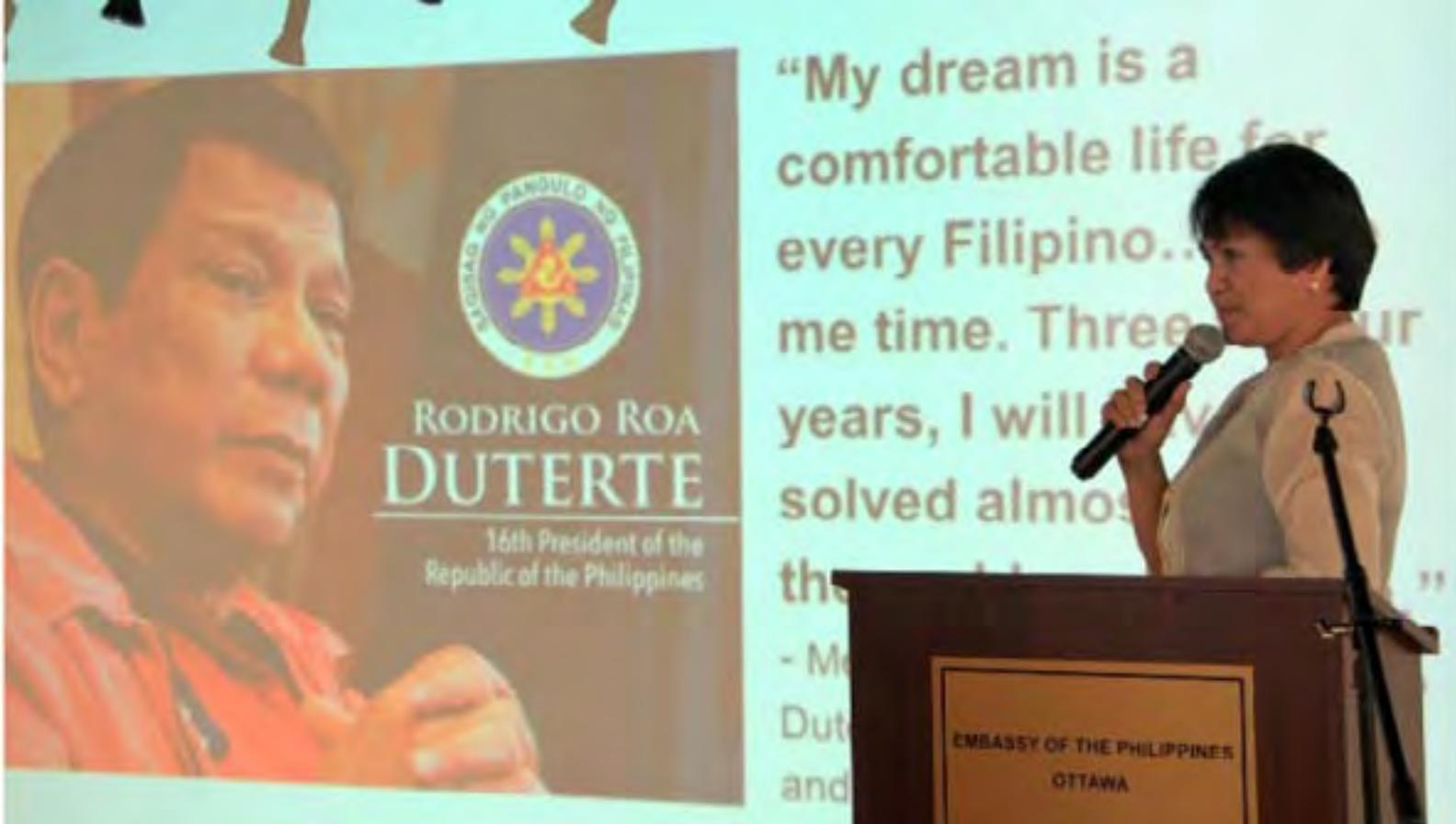
While all this was happening, a young artist, Eric Tigley, was quietly doing a live painting of the event. Tigley is a Toronto schoolteacher and children’s book author. Almario had met him and other young Filipino Canadian writers and artists the day before.

In a private huddle with the above-mentioned writer and community volunteer Maripi Leynes before the ceremonies, Almario said he was very happy to note the active participation of the Filipino youth in Ontario in Philippine-themed programs and events.

When asked about the major thrust of his NCCA administration, the former UP Dean replied that it is working towards the creation of the Department of Culture and the

Arts. Almario said cultural preservation and promotion is a gargantuan task requiring organizational growth.

Toronto now joins major cities in the world like Prague, Buenos Aires, Seoul, and Jakarta, where there is a Philippine cultural center or Sentro Rizal overseen by the diplomatic missions of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The opening of Sentro Rizal in Toronto came at an auspicious time, as the consulate was then preparing for the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Philippine Independence on June 12.



Usec. Naik while giving her presentation during the Ugnayan sa Canada

DFA, CFO, NCCA Conduct Ugnayan sa Canada 2018

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas, led by CFO Executive Director Astravel Pimentel-Naik, successfully touched base with the Filipino-Canadian youth and Fil-com leaders during the week-long Ugnayan sa Canada, held from May 10-18, 2018 in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, the top three provinces in Canada with large concentrations of Filipino migrants. There are 837,130 Filipinos (based on ethnicity) living in Canada, representing 2% of its 35 million total population. CFO records since 1980 also show that Canada is the second preferred destination of Filipino emigrants, next to the USA. In just a few decades, the Filipino community has grown from less than a thousand residents to become one of the country's largest immigrant demographics.

Given the policy pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte on bringing government services closer to overseas Filipinos, and as part of its mandate of strengthening relations with the Filipino community overseas, the series of activities were conducted in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Philippine Consulates in Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, ABS-CBN TFC, Rise Tribe, Multicultural Helping House Society, and Pathways to Canada.

The activities, fully supported by Chairman Virgilio Almario, Ambassador Petronila Garcia, and Consul Generals Rosalita Prospero, Gilberto Asuque and Neil Frank Ferrer, include the Inauguration of Sentro Rizal at Philippine



The Ugnayan in Canada was supported by NCCA Chairman Virgilio Almario, Ambassador Petronilla Garcia, and Consul Generals Rosalita Prospero, Gilberto Asuque, and Neil Frank Ferrer.

Embassy in Ottawa and Philippine Consulate in Toronto, and series of youth fora and Fil-com meetings, as well as site visits to migrant settlement organizations. Filipino music icon Joey Ayala also graced the events.

During the gatherings, Usec. Pimentel-Naik and her team discussed CFO programs and services (such as pre-departure program, 2018 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, Youth Leaders for Development, Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino program and BaLinkBayan One-Stop Web Portal for Overseas Filipinos) and provided updates on the accomplishments of the government under President Duterte's administration, which include the inclusion

of overseas Filipinos in the Philippine Development Plan, Marawi City Rehabilitation, TRAIN Tax Law, increase in the base pay of the Military and Uniformed Personnel in the government, extension to 5 years of the driver's license validity, extension to 10 years of passport validity, creation of the Overseas Filipinos Bank, free tertiary education in state colleges and universities, Boracay rehabilitation, signing of bilateral agreement between Philippines and Kuwait on the Protection of OFWs, signing of a proclamation declaring Philippine Rise (Benham Rise) as a marine protected area, enhancement of the 4PS Pantawid Pamilya Program, and the Build Build Build Program, among others. She also gave a briefer on the proposed shift to federalism in the Philippines, which is an advocacy of President Duterte and his political party, PDP Laban.

The team also visited settlement organizations catering to overseas Filipinos, and met with some outstanding Filipino-Canadians like Justice Steve Coroza, first Filipino-Canadian to be appointed at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice; Dr. Eileen de Villa, Public Health Officer of Toronto Public Health, Canada's largest local public health agency; Marivel Taruc, award-winning journalist and host of Our Toronto, CBC News; Carlos Bustamante, actor and TV host of Entertainment Tonight



Filipino music icon, Mr. Joey Ayala graced the Ugnayan events



The Ugnayan also served as a platform for the Filipino community to raise their issues and concerns.

Canada and Global Television Network (TBC); Louroz Mercader, one of the founders of Rise Tribe; Tomas Avendaño, Presidential awardee and founder of MHHS; and Mable Elmore, first Filipino-Canadian Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

Ugnayan sa Canada also served as a platform to identify issues and challenges of Filipino-Canadian youth and the Filipino community in general, which include high incidence of secondary school dropout among youth, difficulty integrating into society, non-recognition of skills, underemployment, intergenerational gap between the parents and children, non-utilization of services of

settlement organizations, breaking barriers in penetrating the industry, non-existence of programs for LGBTQ migrants, family and senior abuse, and excessive immigration consultancy fees, among others. Upon identification of issues and challenges, the next step is engaging them toward becoming partners for Philippine development, strengthening relations/partnerships with the Filipino-Canadian communities and support network groups, and informing the participants of the various Philippine government programs and services meant for permanent migrants.



CFO Usec. Naik with the Philippine Embassy officials and representatives from the Filipino community

CFO LAUDS LANDMARK SC RULING ON THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DIVORCE

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) lauds the April 24, 2018 Supreme Court en banc ruling recognizing the validity of foreign divorce obtained by a Filipino against a foreign spouse. The landmark decision paves the way for a Filipino who obtains a divorce from the foreign spouse to have the divorce recognized by Philippine courts. This recognizes the Filipino's right to have the foreign divorce recognized and to be free to remarry, regardless of who files for or obtains the divorce.

“We commend this landmark SC ruling as a tool for women empowerment as majority of marriage migrants are Filipino women. It is also our way of safeguarding their rights,” stated Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik, the Executive Director of the CFO. She further added that the CFO has been consistently lobbying for the passage of similar legislative bills such as House Bill No. 6446 filed by Rep. Pia Cayetano that seeks to recognize the capacity of the Filipino spouse to remarry when the foreign spouse has obtained a foreign decree of divorce.

The Manalo Case

Voting 10-3-1, the SC en banc ruled “that a foreign divorce secured by a Filipino against a foreign spouse is also considered valid in the Philippines, even if it is the Filipino spouse who files for divorce abroad.”

The particular case was that of Marelyn Tanedo Manalo who was married to Japanese national Minoru Yoshino. Manalo filed for and was granted divorce in Japan in 2011.

Manalo went to court in Dagupan, Pangasinan to have her divorce recognized in the country. The trial court in Dagupan denied her petition. She then went to the Court of Appeals (CA), where she scored a victory in 2014.

The CA ruled that Manalo should have the right to remarry. It applied the amended Article 26(2) of the Family Code. Former president Corazon Aquino issued an executive order that amended the provision so that it included this:

Where a marriage between a Filipino citizen and a foreigner is validly celebrated and a divorce is thereafter validly obtained abroad by the alien spouse capacitating him or her to remarry, the Filipino spouse shall likewise have capacity to remarry under Philippine law. The Philippine government, through the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), went to the SC to try to reverse the CA's ruling. Manalo won at the SC level, hence this landmark ruling.

Landmark Ruling

With the amended Family Code, Filipinos divorced by their foreign spouse in the same foreign country where they married get to remarry without fear of a bigamy suit. However,

if the one who filed or obtained the divorce was the Filipino spouse, the state still did not recognize it because of the absence of absolute divorce in the Philippines.

With this ruling, the state now recognizes the foreign divorce obtained by the Filipino, and couples of the same circumstances of mixed marriage will be considered not married to each other under Philippine law. The Supreme Court ruling is also consistent with the legislative intent of Article 26 of Executive Order No. 209 (July 6, 1987) otherwise known as The Family Code of the Philippines, as amended by Executive Order No. 227 (July 17, 1987), to rectify the absurd situation where the Filipino spouse who has been divorced from the foreign spouse remains married under Philippine laws even while the foreign spouse can exercise his or her right to remarry as cited in the Supreme Court First Division ruling G.R. No. 154380 (October 5, 2005).

Safeguarding Marriage Migrants

The CFO, an agency of the Philippine government under the Office of the President established through Batas Pambansa Bilang 79 and tasked to promote and uphold the interests, rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos, including marriage migrants, conducts the mandatory Guidance and Counseling Program (GCP) for spouses and other partners of foreign nationals.

Records of the CFO show that from 1989 to 2016, majority of the more than half a million marriage migrants are female (91.38%). Out of the 522,002 marriage migrants registered with the CFO, 477,025 or 91.38% are female while 44,977 or 8.62% are male. The United States continues to be the top destination of spouses and partners accounting for 43.58%, followed

by Japan (23.48%) and Australia (7.8%). More than half or 53.79% of the Filipino spouses or partners have limited knowledge about the country of their foreign spouses or partners; while 10.88% of them have no knowledge at all. Only 35.33% professed to have sufficient prior knowledge of their destination country. Most of spouses and partners are from the age bracket of 25-29 years old which is 30.61% of the total number, followed by 20-24 years old (23.50%) and 30-34 years old (19.86%).

In Japan, nearly a third of marriages between Japanese nationals end up in divorce. For Japanese nationals married to foreign spouses, majority (2/3) of marriages end up in divorce. Majority of divorce is also by mutual agreement, meaning the divorce does not go through any judicial or court proceedings. The divorce by agreement only has to be registered at the municipal office provided that the registration documents have been properly signed and sealed beforehand by both parties.

The GCP was institutionalized to address growing concerns on the mail-order spouse scheme and cases of human trafficking in the guise of marriage. The GCP was strengthened with the passage of the Republic Act No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 and Republic Act 10906 or the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Law, which mandated CFO to conduct pre-departure counseling services for Filipinos in intermarriages.

While the CFO does not have official data of divorced Filipinos in intermarriages, it has a database of foreign spouses / fiancées / partners who have sponsored Filipinos more than once for marriage or common-law partnership. CFO also receives reported cases of Filipinos divorced or abandoned by their foreign spouses. In some instances, Filipino spouses

become victims of trafficking in the guise of marriage or mail-order spouse scheme.

The landmark ruling by the Supreme Court is, thus, an affirmation of a Filipino's right to remarry after obtaining a divorce from the foreign spouse. At the same time, the Supreme Court decision also provides relief for victims and survivors of trafficking in the guise of marriage or mail-order bride scheme as they may now obtain foreign divorce and have the

divorce recognized in the Philippines as part of the process of rebuilding their lives.

As taken from the First Issue of Yes Philippines News Magazine <https://www.cfo.gov.ph/news/from-overseas-filipinos/3646-cfo-lauds-landmark-high-court-ruling-on-the-recognition-of-foreign-divorce.html>

CFO HOLDS 16TH CONFERENCE OF PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS OVERSEAS



The Inter-Agency Committee on PSOs, with resource speakers and participants of the 15th PSO Conference

With its theme, “Achieving Excellence in the Changing World,” delegates from 41 Philippine Schools Overseas (PSOs) joined resource speakers, sponsors, and representatives from the Inter-agency Committee on PSOs (IACPSO), composed of the DepEd, DFA, DOLE, OWWA, and the CFO, for its 4-day 16th Conference at the Diamond Hotel in Manila on June 19-22, 2018.

The conference culminated in A Walk through History in Corregidor.

The resource speaker for the session on 21st Century Skills in the Classroom was Ms. Ivy Mejia of the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development of the University of the Philippines. Mejia was a former scholar of the Enhancement Training

Sponsorship Project (ETSP) of the CFO. Through the program, she was able to finish her graduate studies in 2012 and was awarded best thesis.

The 41 PSOs are located in countries in the Middle East, Asia and Easter Europe where there is a high concentration of overseas Filipino migrant workers and their families, namely: Bahrain, China, East Timor, Greece,

Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, King of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.



Participants from the Philippine School Oman received their Certificates of Attendance handed over by Mr. Rodrigo R. Garcia, Jr., Head of the CFO's Policy, Planning and Research Division (rightmost) during the conference's closing ceremonies.