

[DECS MEMORANDUM NO. 101, s. 2001, March 26, 2001]

**AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS) AND THE COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) ON THE NONFORMAL EDUCATION
ACCREDITATION AND EQUIVALENCY (NFE A&E) SECONDARY
LEVEL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS**

1. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Bureau of Nonformal Education (BNFE), developed the Nonformal Education Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE A &E) System under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)- assisted Philippines Nonformal Education Project.

2. The NFE A & E System provides an alternative means of certification of learning to those who have dropped out of the formal elementary and secondary schools system. Through this program, Out-of-School Youth and Adults are provided the opportunity to gain a certification which is comparable to the elementary and secondary diploma of the formal school system.

3. In order to ensure that the NFE A & E program completers can gain access to further education and training opportunities as avenues to improve employability and quality of life, the DECS is forging articulation agreements with institutions providing post-secondary education and training programs.

4. To this end, the DECS has established a linkage with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on January 17, 2001 with the following commitments:

4.1 That DECS and CHED will work to ensure articulation of their non-formal education learning systems across all levels of program implementation;

4.2 That as part of this articulation, CHED and its member institutions recognize the NFE A &E Secondary Level Certificate as a qualification, comparable to that of the Diploma of the formal school system;

4.3 That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be accepted into the post-secondary education programs of CHED member institutions subject to the usual screening procedures of such institution for regular enrollees;

4.4 That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be eligible for consideration of Recognition of their Prior Learnings through access to CHED's Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP);

4.5 That DECS and CHED will collaborate to advocate for improved access to post-basic education and training programs offered by private providers and State Universities /Colleges for NFE A&E Secondary level Certificate holders;

4.6 That DECS and CHED will work jointly to support efforts to institutionalize the Recognition of Prior Learning as a mechanism to improve educational access opportunities for poor and underserved Filipinos Out-of-School -Youth (OSY) and Adults;

4.7 That DECS and CHED will work jointly to strengthen the development, implementation and expansion of educational equivalency programs as part of the formation of a national alternative learning system incorporating nonformal and post basic education.

5. With this agreement, thousands of out-of-school-youth and adults will benefit from the NFE A&E program and CHED education and training programs to improve their basic skills in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making, thus opening other opportunities and life choices to improve the quality of life and that of their families.

6. Attached is a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DECS and CHED for your reference.

7. Immediate and wide dissemination of the contents of this Memorandum to all concerned is desired.

Adopted: 26 March 2001

(SGD.) ISAGANI R. CRUZ
Undersecretary for Programs and Projects

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This AGREEMENT made and entered into by and between:

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) with office address at DECS Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, herein represented by DECS Secretary, BRO. ANDREW B. GONZALEZ, FSC, hereinafter referred to as the First Party.

--and--

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with principal address at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), San Miguel Drive, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, herein represented by Chairman, ESTER A. GARCIA, hereinafter referred to as the Second Party.

--WITNESSETH--