

[DECS MEMORANDUM NO. 204, s. 1998, May 18, 1998]

ANNOUNCING THE NONFORMAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION AND EQUIVALENCY (A & E) SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS

1. Pursuant to the 1993 "Loan Agreement" of the ADB Loan No. 1254 — PHI (SF) — Philippines Nonformal Education Project, signed between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Asian Development Bank, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is announcing the development of the Nonformal Education Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE A&E) System. This Nonformal Education A&E System will be developed under the direction of the Bureau of Nonformal Education, in coordination with the National Educational Testing and Research Center, the Bureau of Elementary Education, the Bureau of Secondary Education and the Literacy Coordinating Council.

2. The Nonformal Education A&E System was conceived under the umbrella of the Education for All-Philippine Plan of Action (EFA-PPA) and is designed to provide an alternative pathway of accreditation of learning to those Filipinos who are unable to avail of the formal school system, or who have dropped out of formal elementary or secondary education. It will provide a system for assessing levels of literacy and nonformal education learning achievement against National Literacy Standards and offer an alternative means by which out-of-school youths and adults may earn an educational qualification equivalent to that of the formal elementary and secondary school system. Learners who successfully undertake the proposed National Non-Formal Education Accreditation and Equivalency Test (NFE-PEPT) will receive either an equivalency certificate or diploma, depending on their learning level, which will enable them to enter or re-enter the formal school system or the world of work. NFE A&E qualifiers will be entitled to enter public and private schools throughout the Philippines.

3. The target clientele of the Nonformal Education A&E System include:

- out-of-school youth (OSY)
- out-of-school adults aged 25 and above
- functional illiterates
- completers of the Functional Education and Literacy Programs (FELP)
- unemployed OSY and adults
- elementary and secondary education drop-outs
- industry-based workers

4. The Nonformal Education A&E System is one of the key components of the ADB-funded Philippines Non-formal Education Project. The development of the system is currently on going and is scheduled for pilot testing in four sites (2 urban and 2 rural) in February 1999. It is anticipated that the NFE A&S System will be fully