

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT
SCHOLARSHIPS TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

GENERAL

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expresses the understanding of the Government of Australia (GOA) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GOP) concerning the responsibilities and contributions of the two Governments in relation to the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS).
2. This MOU is concluded pursuant to and is subject to the provisions of the General Agreement on Development Cooperation between GOA and GOP signed on 28 October 1994 ("the Agreement")

COORDINATING AUTHORITIES

- 3.1 The Coordinating Authorities for the ADS will be:

- (a) for the GOA, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID); and
- (b) for the GOP, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)

- 3.2 If the ADS is expanded substantially, the Coordinating Authorities will discuss the future administrative support arrangements.

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION

- 4.1 AusAID may nominate an Implementing Organisation or Organisations to undertake on its behalf any part or parts of the ADS in Australia.
- 4.2 Unless mutually arranged otherwise, NEDA will be the Implementing Organization for the GOP.
- 4.3 From time to time, the Coordinating Authorities will mutually determine a Development Cooperation program which will set out the sectoral focus of the ADS.

AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM PERSONNEL

- 5.1 "Australian Program Personnel" means Australian nationals or permanent residents or other persons who are not nationals or permanent residents of the Philippines who are working in the Philippines on an activity under this MOU and whose salaries or other costs are funded from the contribution of the GOA to the activity.
- 5.2 The GOA may supply Australian Program Personnel to be engaged in the administration of the ADS, in which case the GOA and GOP recognise that Article 8 of the Agreement will apply.

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 The ADS seeks to promote human resource development of Filipino nationals through support for in-Australia postgraduate studies leading to Graduate Diploma or Master's degree in agreed priority fields of study.

6.2 There are two categories under the ADS, namely;

- (a) Government-endorsed Category, which is open to government officials and non-government organisation employees; and
- (b) Merit/Equity Category, which is open to individuals.

General eligibility criteria for both categories of the ADS are detailed in Annex 1. Specific eligibility criteria for the Government-endorsed Category are detailed in Annex 2.

6.3 Scholarships will be awarded on a gender equity basis and a minimum target of 30% of the ADS scholarships will be awarded to residents in the Visayas and Mindanao for both categories.

Government-endorsed CATEGORY

6.4 Applicants for the Government-endorsed Category will be chosen from Philippine Government Departments, public or private organisations and institutions and non-government organisations nominated by the GOP which come within the sectoral focus of the Development Cooperation Program. The application method is as follows:

- (a) NEDA will disseminate information and nomination forms relating to the ADS Government-endorsed Category to Philippine Government Departments, public and private organisations and advise these bodies to forward applications to NEDA;
- (b) NEDA through the Special Committee on Scholarships (SCS) will assess applicants for suitability for agreed postgraduate courses;
- (c) NEDA will forward the applications to AusAID for further assessment;
- (d) The Joint Ranking Committee (JRC) will rank applications according to their priority status. The JRC will be composed of-

- > the SCS Advisory Committee of NEDA

- Director of NEDA Social Development Staff Representative
- Civil Service Commission Representative
- Department of Education, Culture and Sports Representative
- Department of Foreign Affairs Representative
- University of the Philippines Representative

- > two GOA representatives

(e) AusAID will forward the applications to Australia for placement in accordance with the application and subsequently advise NEDA of placement outcomes; and

(f) NEDA will notify candidates accordingly.

Merit/Equity Category

6.5 Applicants for the Merit/Equity Category may submit expressions of interest to the AusAID designated managing agent. The application method is as follows:

(a) AusAID will hire an Australian managing agent, chosen in accordance with the AusAID tender process, to manage the Merit/Equity Category of the ADS;

(b) The managing agent will advertise in the Philippines the availability of the scholarships in newspapers, radio and other medium of advertisement;

(c) The managing agent will assess the expressions of interest;

(d) The Eligibility, Review and Ranking Committee (ERRC) will rank applications according to their priority status. The ERRC will be composed of -

- > two academic representatives from two Philippine universities; and

- > an AusAID representative.

(e) The managing agent will forward nominations of nominees ranked by the ERRC to Australian universities for placement and notify nominees of the outcome.

6.6 To be eligible for consideration by either the SCS or the managing agent, applicants must complete AusAID's nomination form.

6.7 Where the placing Australian institutions so require, bridging courses, including the introductory academic program, will be provided in Australia prior to the commencement of courses.

6.8 Following successful placement in a course, scholarships will be awarded in accordance with the priority ranking as per sub-paragraphs 6.4 (d) and 6.5 (d) above.

6.9 The duration of the scholarship will be the sum of the period of any bridging course and the nominated course.

6.10 Termination from a course of study will be at the discretion of the institution at which the student is studying in accordance with the institution's published laws and regulations governing the termination of the study.

6.11 Termination of any individual scholarship following termination of study by an institution will be at the discretion of AusAID.

6.12 The first intake of students under the terms of this MOU will commence study in Australia during the 1998 academic year.

AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 The estimated contribution of the GOA to the ADS will be A\$8.4M in 1998. The contribution of the GOA to the ADS in subsequent years will be determined by the GOA. Any GOA contribution will be subject to the annual Australian Parliamentary approval of appropriations.

7.2 The number of scholarships will be reviewed and determined annually in consultation between the Coordinating Authorities.

7.3 The annual estimates of scholarship numbers for the GOA will represent indicative planning figures.

7.4 Under the ADS, the GOA will provide funds to cover scholarship assistance as set out in the AusAID Country Programs Operations Guide, Volume 4.

7.5 Subject to satisfaction of the GOA requirements for overseas student entry, the GOA will provide each student with an Entry Permit which identifies the holder under the ADS. The validity of each student's Entry Permit will be limited to the duration of the scholarship.

7.6 It is the requirement of both the GOA and the GOP that each student return to the Philippines upon the completion of the scholarship. The GOA will take all reasonable measures to ensure that students meet the conditions of their scholarship and return to the Philippines on completion of their scholarship.

7.7 Under the Government-endorsed Category, before any request by an Australian institution for the extension of a student's scholarship or by a student to transfer to another course or institutions is approved by AusAID, the matter will be mutually determined by the Coordinating Authorities.

7.8 Under the Merit/Equity Category, requests of students for extension of scholarships will be approved or rejected by AusAID

7.9 AusAID will inform in writing the Australian immigration authorities and participating Australian institutions of higher education of the conditions governing ADS.

7.10 The GOA will require each student to sign the letter of acceptance of a scholarship at Annex 3 as a pre-condition to completing the scholarship award formalities.

PHILIPPINE RESPONSIBILITIES

Government-endorsed Category

8.1 The GOP will recognize the Government-endorsed Category of the ADS as a category of persons eligible for passports and other travel documents necessary for each student's participation in the ADS.

8.2 The GOP will:

- (a) ensure that the student is able to depart the Philippines where required up to two weeks prior to the start of the award; and