

**[DECS MEMORANDUM NO. 533, S. 2000,
November 20, 2000]**

**AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS) AND THE MERALCO FOUNDATION,
INC., ON THE NON-FORMAL 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 developed the Nonformal Education Accreditation and Equivalency System as an alternative means of certification of learning to those Filipinos aged 15 years and above who are unable to avail of the formal school system or who have dropped out of formal elementary or secondary school.

2. The DECS is actively seeking formal agreements with other agencies, institutions and organizations offering post-secondary education system to articulate with the education programs of those institutions. Once articulation agreements are in place, graduates of the NFE A & E System will thereby gain access to a range of continuing education, tertiary courses and vocational training programs once they exit the NFE and A & E System.

3. To this end, the DECS has established linkage with the Meralco Foundation, Inc. and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on October 2, 2000 with the following commitments:

3.1 That DECS and Meralco Foundation, Inc., will work to ensure articulation of their non-formal education learning systems across all levels of program implementation;

3.2 That as part of this articulation, NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be accepted into the training programs of Meralco Foundation, Inc., subject to the usual screening processes, for enrollees drawn from the formal school system;

3.3 That DECS and Meralco Foundation, Inc. will work jointly to support efforts to institutionalize the Recognition of Prior Learning as a mechanism to improve access opportunities for poor and underserved Filipinos Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and adults to continuing education and vocational training programs;

3.4 That DECS and Meralco Foundation, Inc. will coordinate closely with other education providers to support the development of national equivalency competency standards to provide multiple pathways of learning for Filipinos who are unable to avail of the educational opportunities of the formal school system;