

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The global and domestic environments that the Philippines had to navigate through in 2012 tested the mettle of the Department of Foreign Affairs in pursuing its mission to effectively promote and advance the national interest. Guided by the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy – the preservation and enhancement of national security, the enhancement of economic diplomacy, and the protection of the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas – the Department sustained its active engagement with the international community, effectively representing Philippine interests abroad to ensure a stable and secure political, social and economic environment for Filipinos.

In safeguarding the country's sovereignty and national security, the Department championed an advocacy for peaceful relations between and among nations through diplomatic consultations, adherence to international law in resolving disputes, and engagement of international partners to maintain peace and stability in the region. Consistent with these elements, the Department formulated policy recommendations and appropriate courses of action and articulated firm positions in safeguarding the country's sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea.

The Department continued to engage its international partners in helping the country improve its defense capability and achieve a minimum credible defense posture. Vital to this engagement is the Philippines' strategic and defense partnership with the United States (US), which affirmed its commitment to honor its obligation under the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). Aside from the US, the Philippines likewise achieved significant strides in advancing defense cooperation initiatives with other key bilateral partners. To complement these efforts, the Department vigorously pursued and generated support from the international community through a multilateral approach to the West Philippine Sea issue.

In the multilateral front, the Department continued its active participation in various international fora and pushed for cooperation in the fight against international terrorism, addressing transnational crimes, in the protection of human rights, and the advancement of the agenda for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The year 2012 also bore witness to the country's flourishing relations with its bilateral, regional and international partners as evidenced by the significant number of agreements entered into by the Philippine Government and the various trips made by the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Through these efforts, bilateral relations were effectively enhanced and opportunities were seized.

In the economic front, the Philippines' strong economic performance during the year helped raise its international profile as a vibrant and dynamic economic partner. Against this backdrop, the Department amplified its economic diplomacy efforts in support of the Government's twin goals of poverty alleviation and job creation. Through its various Embassies, Consulates General and Missions, the Department carried out concrete steps aimed at attracting more foreign investments and creating new trade and business opportunities for the country. These include initiatives such as: the landmark signing of the Philippines-European Union Partnership Cooperation Agreement; the convening of Joint Commission Meetings to move forward economic, trade and investment cooperation with

partner countries; forging of economic-related agreements, the organization of trade and investment forums including incoming and outgoing business delegations; and the optimization of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from key international partners.

The Department sustained its active representation of Philippine interests in various fora such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the United Nations (UN) where Philippine initiatives and interests were articulated and advanced.

To further bolster its economic initiatives, the Department actively built a cultural platform aimed at complementing efforts to encourage trade, investments, and tourism opportunities for the country. Activities promoting Philippine artists, Philippine heritage, Filipino music, visual arts, and Philippine architecture, among others, were aggressively undertaken by the Department and its various Embassies, Consulates General and Missions. Agreements were also forged with countries and cultural entities, such as the Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippines and the Musee du Quai Branly of France, to promote joint activities and enhance cooperation in the field of culture.

In staying true to the government's mandate and commitment to protect its people, the Department maintained a proactive stance in ensuring that overseas Filipinos' rights and welfare were preserved at all times. In 2012, the Department extended assistance to a total of 7,735 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and members of their families. These include OFWs with pending death penalty cases, Filipino seafarers held hostage by Somali pirates, and human trafficking victims. Since March 2011, the Department has repatriated a total of 3,239 OFWs from Syria.

Equally important in fulfilling this mandate are the significant improvements the Department initiated and implemented during the year to provide efficient, prompt and responsive frontline services to all Filipinos. With the opening of three (3) National Capital Region (NCR) consular satellite offices and the transfer of seven Regional Consular Offices (RCOs) to various malls across the country, the Department brought its consular services closer to the public thereby significantly reducing the volume of applicants at the DFA-Office of Consular Affairs in Aseana. It also reduced the average time in securing appointments (from 10 to 14 working days to 7 working days) and in the release of passports (from 10 to 20 working days to 7 to 15 working days).

The Department carried out projects and initiatives to enable employees to contribute productively to the overall direction of the Department and play an effective role in accomplishing the organization's goals and objectives. The DFA Strategic Plan for 2012-2016 was adopted to effectively guide and provide a direction to the Department's work in the next four (4) years. Parallel to this, Regional Consultative Meetings were organized for all Heads of Philippine Embassies, Permanent Missions and Consulates General, which resulted in the formulation and adoption of strategic work plans, programs and activities to advance Philippine interests in their respective geographic regions. Finally, to improve the Department's capability in servicing the needs of the people and fulfilling its mandate, officers and employees attended continuing training programs provided by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and other relevant agencies.

The Department's steadfast commitment to advance the nation's interest coupled with the Secretary's unrelenting dedication to make a marked difference made 2012 a significant year. For the coming year, the Department will continue to adhere to its mandate of advancing the national interest on various fronts and to its commitment to shape a foreign policy that will serve the interest of the nation and its people.

PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The geopolitical realities in the Southeast Asian region that became more apparent in 2012 brought to the fore the Department's crucial role as the country's first line of defense in the preservation of national security and the protection of national sovereignty. In pursuit of the first pillar of Philippine foreign policy, the Department actively played a constructive role, in partnership with relevant agencies, in protecting the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

West Philippine Sea and Maritime Security

The maintenance of peace and stability in the region relies heavily on constructive and peaceful relations between and among nations based on the rules of international law, such as the United Nations (UN) Charter and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and sustained dialogue and cooperation.

Consistent with these elements, the Department provided the President with policy recommendations on the Philippine positions and the appropriate courses of action in promoting the country's sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea. The result of this work is a diplomatic strategy that consists of three (3) tracks of action:

- *Diplomatic track:* The Department actively engaged in diplomatic consultations with the Chinese side to look for convergence of interests and ways to continue dialogue in order to further promote bilateral relations. The Philippines also continued to explore a peaceful solution to the situation, as it promotes sovereignty and national interest. In emphasizing that the West Philippine Sea issue is not the sum total of our relations, the Philippines is pursuing an agreement to advance the bilateral agenda while abstracting the contentious issues.
- *Political track:* In ASEAN, the Department pushed for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct, as well as extended full support for the adoption of the Statement of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Six-Point Principles in the South China Sea.

The successful Philippine hosting of the 3rd ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and 1st Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) garnered support from ASEAN Member States and fellow East Asia Summit (EAS) member countries – Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russia and the US – for cooperation on cross-cutting maritime issues of common concern. Among these issues are adherence to international law including UNCLOS, combating sea piracy, maritime connectivity, seafarers' training, protection of the marine environment, and fisheries management. The Forum

participants welcomed the Philippine initiative to organize the EAMF and encouraged ASEAN to continue with this dialogue.

At the 21st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, President Benigno S. Aquino III, as recommended by the Department, batted for continued exploration of all avenues within ASEAN and in other international fora for a peaceful resolution of the West Philippine Sea issue. The President emphasized that the Philippines reserves the right to protect its national interest.

The Philippines also engaged international partners, such as the US, Japan, ROK, India, New Zealand, Australia, and the EU, and utilized appropriate regional and international fora, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), EAS, and the UN, to garner support for its position of pursuing a peaceful resolution in accordance with the rule of law.

At the 20th ASEAN Summit and 7th EAS held in Phnom Penh in November 2012, the Philippines defended its sovereign right to promote its national interest and clearly projected that the West Philippine Sea issue is an international issue.

At the 9th ASEM Summit in Vientiane, a statement on the peaceful resolution of disputes was included in the ASEM outcome document despite China's reservations. The Philippines obtained European support for its advocacy for a peaceful settlement of disputes and was able to set a precedent for the inclusion of maritime security in the agenda of future ASEM meetings.

The Department has generated support from the international community through a multilateral approach to the West Philippine Sea issue.

In the UN, the Philippine principled position was delivered on various occasions, notably during the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the 'Role of Member States in Mediation' in May and the 67th UN General Assembly Debate in October. Both occasions, attended by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario, underscored the importance of international instruments on the peaceful settlement of disputes and emphasized the principle that *right is might*. Chief among these instruments would be the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes.

- *Legal track:* The Department is considering all options for the legal settlement of the dispute including recourse to international legal fora. In line with this, the Department is working with its international partners for collaborative endeavors in maritime law.

Parallel to the three-track approach, the Department contributed to the decision-making process in the Cabinet for a comprehensive Philippine national policy over its maritime domain and continental shelf.

Finally, the Department worked closely with Indonesia on all aspects of the Philippines-Indonesia Maritime Boundary Delimitation Talks.

In safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and its sovereign right to explore and exploit its marine resources, the Department, through its Embassies and Consulates, continued to maintain close coordination with the National Committee on Illegal Entrants (NCIE) in dealing with illegal entry and poaching, identification of passengers' nationalities, search and rescue operations, and inspection of vessels, among others. With regard to cases of reported illegal entry of foreign nationals, the percentage of illegal entrants by sea decreased by 42.85% from the previous year.

Defense Cooperation and Assistance

To complement its core task of effectively managing the Philippines' relations with other countries, the Department vigorously sought to engage international partners in helping the country improve its defense capability and achieve a minimum credible defense posture.

Key to this engagement is the Philippines' defense partnership with the US, which proved to be significant in building the country's capability in safeguarding national sovereignty. In 2012, high-level engagements between the Philippines and the US were on an upward trajectory, as evidenced by the official visit to the US of President Benigno S. Aquino III, the holding of the 2+2 Ministerial Consultations, and two bilateral strategic dialogues.

The Obama Administration, during those meetings, affirmed that it would honor its obligation under the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) and committed its support to improve the country's capabilities in the areas of maritime security, maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR). In line with this initiative, the US State Department guaranteed the increase of the 2012 Foreign Military Financing to \$30 million from an initial allocation of \$15 million.

Aside from these, PHL-US cooperation in the area of defense was advanced through:

- Support for the construction, outfitting, and training of the new National Coast Watch Center in the country.
- The transfer of the second Hamilton class cutter, the USCGC Dallas (which has since been renamed as BRP Ramon Alcaraz), completed during the year.
- Support to the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group with two sophisticated patrol boats, trailers, and tow vehicles for the Special Boat Unit to

help expand maritime law enforcement capabilities. To date, the US Government has invested nearly \$9 million in developing the Special Boat Unit.

Aside from the US, the Philippines likewise achieved significant strides in advancing its defense cooperation initiatives with other countries:

- With European countries, negotiations for defense procurement packages with Italy, Spain and France, all of which have existing defense cooperation agreements with the Philippines, are in their advanced stages. Similarly, defense cooperation agreements are currently being negotiated with the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany and Turkey.
- With Canada, the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) on Government-to-Government Transactions in Defense and Military-Related Equipment Materials, Systems and/or Services was undertaken during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.
- The Philippines and Israel continue to strengthen their defense cooperation initiatives particularly through the signing of the Implementing Arrangement on the Procurement of Defense Materials and Equipment on 05 December 2012. This Implementing Arrangement provides for long-term cooperation in the field of defense procurement with Israel, a major defense manufacturer.
- In Asia and the Pacific, the ratification of the Agreement on the Status of Visiting Forces of Each State in the Territory of the Other State with the Australian Government was concurred in by the Philippine Senate in July and entered into force in September.

The Philippines-Australia Strategic Dialogue was likewise inaugurated in October to complement the Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) and the Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC), a move towards a strategic partnership between the two countries.

With New Zealand, the MOA between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of New Zealand and the New Zealand Defence Force was signed in Wellington in October.

With the ROK, the Supplemental Implementing Arrangement (SIA) on the Procurement of Certain Defense Materials and the Arrangement for the Transfer of Naval Ammunitions was signed at the sidelines of the 16th Joint Committee Meeting on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation in August.

In the multilateral front, the Department continued to monitor the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership for Enduring Peace and Prosperity. Through this partnership, ASEAN and the US committed to enhance ASEAN-US collaboration, such as cooperation against international terrorism, efforts in achieving

millennium development goals, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and implementation of appropriate policies and measures.

Finally, the Department spearheaded the conclusion and signing on 11 July 2012 of the PHL-EU Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which will serve as a general framework of relations between the Philippines and the EU, covering political matters, justice and security affairs, trade and investment, migration and development, and other economic, development and sectoral issues.

Counter-Terrorism Efforts

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to the country's political, economic and social well-being. In the fight against terrorism, the Department did its part in initiating and coordinating cooperative measures both at the domestic and international levels through:

- Active participation in counter-terrorism workshops and fora including the workshop organized by the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) under its Combating Terrorism Harmonization Program (CTHP), the ARF Workshop on Preparedness and Response to a Biological Event in Manila (hosted by the Philippines in partnership with Australia and the US), the 3rd Biennial Review of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the 2nd Global Counter-Terrorism Forum Working Group for Southeast Asia, and the 10th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Meeting on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC).
- Bilaterally, the Department negotiated the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the International Trade of Canada and the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center on in-kind contributions of equipment, training, and services to help strengthen the counter-terrorism capacity of the Philippine Government.
- At the domestic level, the Department took an active role in the Technical Working Group Meeting on House Bill Nos. 753 and 2158 on the Terrorist Financing and Suppression Act of 2011. The Department provided inputs during the inter-agency meetings that drafted the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act of 2012.

Combating Transnational Crime

The Department sustained its close collaboration with partner agencies, both at the national and international levels, to enhance the Philippines' capacity to effectively combat transnational crimes.

At the national level, inter-agency and inter-office meetings were convened to draft and review a model MOU on Transnational Crimes to serve as the Philippines' reference and negotiating text to ensure that the country is able to optimize the benefits of its collaboration with like-minded countries.

At the bilateral level, the Department concluded treaties, agreements, and MOU with several countries, and facilitated partnerships between Philippine government agencies and their foreign counterparts to promote cooperation in the fight against transnational crime.

At the multilateral level, the Department's active engagement in the UN underscored the country's commitment to be involved in addressing the growing international concern over transnational crime.

At the 6th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Philippines co-hosted with Indonesia, a well-attended side event on "Trafficking of Migrant Workers." During the said event, the Philippine delegation met with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) officials to explore the possibility of technical assistance in drafting an enabling law for the Smuggling Protocol.

In the area of judicial and legal collaboration, the Philippine Senate concurred in the ratification of the Philippines' Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT) on Criminal Matters with the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Similar MLATs with the Kingdom of Belgium and Ireland are also currently being negotiated.

On the issue of piracy, the Philippines continued its active participation in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), and regularly attended its Plenary and Working Group Meetings. Recent crises, with hostage-taking involving Filipino seafarers, heightened the importance of Philippine participation in the Group.

Finally, the Philippines regularly participated in meetings on crime prevention and criminal justice policy, including trafficking in persons, transnational crime and aspects of terrorism prevention and international drug control and prevention.

Protection of Human Rights

The Philippine Government continued to take concrete steps to address human rights issues in the country. Towards this end, the Department remained steadfast and proactive in its commitment to protect and promote these basic rights.

- ASEAN
 - ✓ The Department actively pushed for an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration that conforms to the ASEAN Member States' commitment to the Charter of the UN, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, and other relevant international human rights instruments.
 - ✓ The Department organized and hosted human rights-related meetings such as: the 1st National Consultation of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)-Philippines on Trafficking in Persons from a Human Rights perspective, the 9th meeting of the AICHR on the Human Rights Declaration, the National Consultation with Civil Society Organizations on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, and the 2nd Regional Consultation of the AICHR with Civil Service Organizations on the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.
- ASEM
 - ✓ The Department co-organized the 12th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights which discussed the relationship between human rights and information communications technology held in Seoul, South Korea on 27-30 June 2012.
- The United Nations
 - ✓ The Department consolidated the final Philippine report on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Second Cycle in consultation with the Philippine Human Rights Council (PHRC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). The Report on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), done by the Human Rights Council Working Group, was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in September and the Philippines was commended for the following positive achievements:
 - Accession to key human rights instruments and treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
 - Creation of a special task force to address extra-judicial killings;
 - Steps to combat poverty and to improve living conditions, including the establishment of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program;
 - Efforts to advance gender equality and the protection of women and the Magna Carta for Women;
 - National Strategic Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons; and
 - Opening of an Office of the National Commission on Human Rights in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

- European Union
 - ✓ The Department informed the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) of the Philippine government's efforts to address human rights issues in the country and provide updates on EJKs and EDs through the European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights and other fora at the technical level in the European Parliament, including the Delegation for ASEAN Countries prior to the adoption of the "European Parliament Resolution of 14 June 2012 on the Cases of Impunity in the Philippines" (2012-2681 RSP).
 - ✓ The Resolution takes note of the decrease in the number of reported instances of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances and welcomed the following achievements of the Philippine Government:
 - Acknowledged the "unprecedented" arrest and detention of key members of the Ampatuan clan and the freezing of their assets;
 - The launch of a new Task Force of dedicated prosecutors to address extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances;
 - The successful implementation of the EPJUST program and the new EU-Philippines justice support program 'Justice for All'.

Disaster Risk Reduction Management

The Department worked in close coordination with other government agencies and international partners to enhance and supplement the country's disaster risk reduction capabilities.

At the national level, the Department actively contributed in the crafting of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Framework.

Within ASEAN, the Department facilitated the ratification of the following ASEAN agreements:

- ✓ ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Disaster Relief,
- ✓ Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre on Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), and
- ✓ ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement (APTERR).

The ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Disaster Relief aimed at coordinating ARF-wide or sub-regional training for disaster preparedness was adopted in July.

At the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Vladivostok, Russia, the Philippines, along with the other APEC economies, agreed to establish the APEC

Policy Partnership for Food Security, “a high-level mechanism to ensure the policy and technical cooperation necessary to achieve food security in the region.”

Finally, at the 9th ASEM Summit in Vientiane, the Philippines successfully introduced the country’s initiative on disaster management, which is now included in the list of ASEM initiatives for 2013 to 2014.

Enhancement of National Prestige and International Influence

In order to enlarge its sphere of influence and to amplify its voice in the multilateral arena, the Philippines campaigned for seats to various international bodies, commissions, committees and subcommittees. In 2012, the Philippines launched the following campaigns in the UN:

- *Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (Executive Board of UN Women)*

On 27 April 2012, the Philippines won a seat in the Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women for the term 2013-2015 at elections held in New York.

- *UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)*

Dr. June Caridad Pagaduan-Lopez was elected member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at elections held during the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) on 25 October 2012 in Geneva.

Additionally, initiatives were pursued to improve relations with other states and non-state stakeholders. Towards this end, the Department worked on:

- The launching in June of the US-Philippine Friendship Society, which was attended by the President.
- The passage of an Act by the Spanish Senate declaring 30 June of every year as Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day, in commemoration of this year’s 10th anniversary of Philippines-Spain Friendship Day.
- Engagement with non-governmental organizations including the Human Rights Watch, the International Justice Mission, the Asia Society, the Asia Foundation, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Brookings Institute, and the Heritage Foundation, among others, to provide timely information on developments in the Philippines as well as to respond to specific concerns raised about the country.

International Agreements and Treaties

The year 2012 was witness to the country's flourishing relations with its regional and international partners as evidenced by the significant number of agreements entered into by the Philippine Government.

The Department spearheaded the negotiation, signing, and ratification of several bilateral and international agreements, including facilitation of Senate concurrence where necessary. These agreements cover a broad range of areas for cooperation that will serve as platforms for the Philippines to effectively advance its bilateral and international agenda with international partners.

- ✓ Seventeen (17) bilateral agreements covered political and security matters.
- ✓ Forty-three (43) bilateral agreements were in the areas of development cooperation activities, trade, air services, information and communications technology, tourism, education, and culture and sports, among others.
- ✓ Eleven (11) bilateral agreements focused on labor and consular matters with countries such as Kuwait, Denmark, Portugal, China, Spain, Lebanon, Israel and Armenia.
- ✓ The multilateral agreements involved various conventions and protocols relating to disaster risk reduction, human rights security, air transport services, trade, and labor protection. There were eight ASEAN agreements, and nine UN agreements. Noteworthy are the ILO Maritime Labour Convention and Domestic Workers Convention whose entry into force was triggered by Philippine ratification. A landmark Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the European Union (EU) was likewise signed.

Attached as **Annex A** is the complete list of the international agreements and treaties concluded, signed and/or ratified in 2012.

Philippine Initiatives in the Multilateral Arena

Active engagement in the multilateral arena is one effective way of advancing the country's national interests on various fronts in the international community. Consistent with this approach, the Department maintained its active membership in various international organizations and fora.

- At the 2012 ASEM in Vientiane, the Philippines obtained European support for its advocacy on peaceful settlement of disputes and the unprecedented inclusion of maritime security in the agenda of future ASEM meetings.

Furthermore, the Philippines also introduced the term "irregular migration" instead of illegal migration in the ASEM Chair's Statement, as well as the promotion of human rights of migrants and their families, particularly in the face of economic difficulties.

Upon the initiative of the Philippines, the role of interfaith dialogue was underscored in the Vientiane Declaration. The Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of ASEM partners to broaden and deepen the ASEM Interfaith Dialogue as a means to promote social cohesion, peace and development.

- In ASEAN, as a follow-up to the First International Conference on ASEAN Community Building/Project Management/ Workshop, the Department conducted three Re-Echo Seminars to assist regional offices of government agencies with project proposals, raise awareness on ASEAN, and contribute to its Community Building by utilizing the available ASEAN and Dialogue Partner Funds through capacity-building projects.

Additionally, the Feasibility Study on the ASEAN RO-RO network and Short-Sea Shipping, a Philippine initiative in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, is currently being conducted and is expected to be finished by the first quarter of 2013.

- At the 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Kuwait in October 2012, the Philippines supported the plan to revisit the Energy Action Plan for ACD where the Philippines is co-prime mover with Indonesia, Bahrain, China, Kazakhstan and Qatar.
- At the 20th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Philippines, as an Observer Country, continued its participation, availing itself of the opportunities for feedback and networking with members and observers which include countries in Central Asia and international organizations.
- In the UN, the Department hosted meetings locally, in conjunction with other government agencies, particularly those important to the country's multilateral agenda.

To raise public awareness on the importance of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit and to apprise the public of the Philippines' contributions in the areas of nuclear security, a seminar on the issue was hosted by the Philippine Government, in cooperation and coordination with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST-PNRI) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.

The Philippines' hosting of the seminar signified its strong support to the Nuclear Security Summit. It also gave the Philippines the opportunity to present best practices and achievements in the area of nuclear security, emphasizing the need for promoting collaboration among stakeholders and increasing public awareness of nuclear security issues.

Bilateral Visits of the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs

In advancing the interest of the country and its people, the Philippines continued to enhance existing relations and forge new partnerships with other nations in the international community through various high level visits.

In 2012, the Department reinforced the value of “summit diplomacy” to support and sustain the buoyant outlook for the Philippines as an emerging economy, both in the short and long terms, and to raise the country’s international profile and standing.

President Aquino embarked on the following state and official visits:

- *United States (06-09 June)*: The President met with US President Barack Obama and successfully obtained US’ commitment to the MDT. The US then announced its support for the construction, outfitting, and training of the new National Coast Watch Center in the Philippines. Further, the first set of Congressional Notifications for the Philippines’ eligibility for the Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF) is now underway, which would allow the allocation of at least US\$ 16 million to the Philippines to enhance the capability of the country’s national police and its coast guard.
- *United Kingdom (04-06 June)*: The President held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister David Cameron and discussed Philippine-UK political and economic cooperation and other regional issues of significance to both countries. The President also met with several British investors and the Filipino community in the UK.
- *Brunei Darussalam (22-23 September)*: The President attended the wedding of the daughter of His Royal Highness, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah to Pengiran Haji Muhammad Ruzaini.
- *New Zealand (22-23 October)*: The President and Prime Minister John Key sealed several agreements on defense, geothermal energy, and labor. The visit also yielded potential foreign investments and job opportunities for Filipinos in New Zealand.
- *Australia (24-26 October)*: The President met with Australian Prime Minister Julia Eileen Gillard and discussed issues pertaining to defense, maritime security, trade, tourism, and socio-cultural affairs. The President was also able to secure the assurance of Australian companies’ investments in the areas of infrastructure development, energy and telecommunications. A meeting with the Filipino community was also arranged.

The President also undertook travels to *Cambodia* on 02-04 April and 17-21 November, *Russia* on 02-09 September, and *Lao People’s Democratic Republic* on 05-06

November, to represent the country in the Summit meetings of the ASEAN, the APEC, and the ASEM, respectively.

In addition to the above presidential travels, Foreign Affairs Secretary del Rosario embarked on official visits and represented the Philippines in high-level international meetings in the following:

- *Syria (01-03 January and 04-05 September):* The Secretary visited Syria to meet with Syrian Government Officials on the repatriation of OFWs from Syria. The visit has led to the repatriation of hundreds of OFWs.
- *Iraq (29 January):* The Secretary held talks with Iraqi Foreign Affairs Minister Hoshyar Zebari to look into the state of Filipinos in the country in view of the increased violence in Baghdad following the withdrawal of the US forces in 2011, and to get the assurance of Iraqi Government on the safety and well-being of Filipino expatriates in the country. The Secretary also discussed the enhancement of the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly on economic and social issues.
- *Myanmar (08-09 February):* The Secretary met with President Thein Sein, Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Discussed during the meetings were Myanmar's democratization and the bilateral economic relations between the two countries.
- *Mexico (15-17 February 2012):* The Secretary met with the Mexican First Lady, Madame Margarita Zavala, and Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa during his working visit to Mexico. During the same visit, two MOU were signed – the MOU on Academic Cooperation and the MOU on Political Consultations and other Matters of Common Interest. The Secretary also met with the Mexican Foreign Ministry's Instituto Matias Romero's officials, the officials of the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology, and Mexico's Foreign Ministry.
- *United States (30 April, 27-29 September):* The 2+2 Ministerial Consultations, attended by Secretary del Rosario, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, was held. The meeting was a first in the PHL-US bilateral relations and presented a new vehicle for the Philippines to promote its interests, given the opportunities presented by the US strategic pivot to Asia. At these Consultations, the US committed to develop the country's minimum credible defense posture and increase the initial allocation of the 2012 Foreign Military Financing.
- *Russia (12-14 May):* The Secretary had a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, to discuss political security, the fight against terrorism and transnational crime, trade, investment and tourism,

migration, energy and culture. The two ministers also agreed to craft a joint plan of action that will chart the future relations of the Philippines and Russia in the next five years.

- *Canada (20-22 June)*: The Secretary, during his bilateral meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formally launched the Philippines-Canada Joint Commission for Bilateral Consultation (JCBC) which will provide the roadmap for cooperation between the two countries and chart the future course of their relations.
- *Japan (25-28 June)*: The Secretary met with Japanese Foreign Minister Koichiro Gemba and reviewed the economic and regional concerns of both countries. The advancement of the Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership (PJEPA) was discussed. The two ministers also held talks on the enhancement of the countries' political dialogue, official development assistance, and maritime security and disaster risk reduction.
- *New Zealand (21-22 August)*: The Secretary undertook an official visit to New Zealand to reciprocate the visit of Foreign Minister Murray McCully to Manila in October and to prepare for the State Visit of the President in October. The Secretary met with FM McCully as well as Trade Minister Tim Groser to discuss issues of mutual and regional interest.
- *China (25 August)*: the meeting between the Secretary and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi was the first high level meeting between the two countries since the start of the Panatag Shoal incident. The meeting served to fully open the lines of communication and more in-depth discussions between the two sides.
- *United Nations General Assembly (24-29 September)*: At the Opening of the 67th UN General Assembly, Secretary del Rosario attended the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law (24 September 2012) and delivered the Philippine statement. The Secretary also attended the 6th Ministerial Meeting on the CTBT (27 September 2012).
- *Republic of Korea (29-30 August)*: The Secretary met with Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik and Foreign Affairs Minister Kim Sung-hwan and discussed regional and international issues and agreed to enhance defense cooperation.
- *Singapore (11 October)*: The Secretary apprised Acting Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Foreign Minister K Shanmugam on developments in the West Philippine Sea, the status of Philippines-Singapore bilateral relations, and the achievements of the Aquino administration in promoting good governance.

In 2012, the President and the Secretary also played hosts to incoming visits of other Heads of State and Ministers. These high-level visits proved momentous as key agreements on various areas of cooperation were signed.

- *Official Visit of Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (19 January):* Ways to further the implementation of existing cooperation in the areas of energy, agriculture, education, combating drug trafficking and disaster risk reduction and management, among others, were discussed. Both leaders also shared perspectives on significant developments in ASEAN, including the issue on the West Philippine Sea (WPS).
- *Official Visit of the Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (21-23 March):* The visit featured the launch of two of the most important projects of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL): (1) Patent Libraries Franchise Network and (2) Industrial Property Automation System for Patents.
- *Official Visit of the Amir of the State of Kuwait (23-25 March):* Three agreements that aim to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the fields of labor, agriculture and fisheries, consular relations and culture were signed.
- *Official Visit of the Qatari Emir (10 April):* The Philippine Government was also successful in pushing forward agreements relating to tourism, the legal field, agriculture and fisheries, and the study of investment cooperation.
- *Official Visit of Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong (10-12 May):* Both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation and partnerships in people-to-people and institutional exchanges. The two leaders also exchanged views on issues such related to the ASEAN and ASEM.
- *Official Visit of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (17-20 May):* Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin paid an official visit to President Aquino to discuss issues of common concern. The visit mobilized support for the Philippines to achieve its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mr. Osotimehin expressed UNFPA's continued support for a responsible population management strategy.
- *Official Visit of Her Highness Queen Sofia of Spain (02-06 July):* The five-day visit of Queen Sofia underscored the Philippine-Spanish relations and the two countries' deep cultural, economic, and development cooperation ties.
- *Official Visit of the French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault (19-21 October):* A symbolic first visit of a French Head of Government since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947. The visit proved meaningful as it signaled the start of revitalized relations between the Philippines and France. It yielded significant

contributions to the Department's cultural diplomacy efforts as a Memorandum of Agreement between the two countries on the Philippine Exhibition at the *Musée du Quai Branly*, France's premiere museum on indigenous art, was signed. A Declaration of Intent on the extension of a grant for a study on energy production from biomass was likewise concluded.

- *Official Visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak (14 October)*: Both leaders discussed ways to move forward key bilateral initiatives. Prime Minister Razak served as witness to the signing of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro.
- *Official visit of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (09-11 November)*: The Philippine Government signed the MOU on Government-to-Government Transactions in Defense and Military-Related Equipment Materials, Systems and/or Services during the visit of Prime Minister Harper in November.
- *Official Visit of the Director General of the International Labour Organization (16-17 December)*: The newly-elected Mr. Guy Ryder paid an official visit to the Philippines to speak on issues of common concern and highlighted the importance of a continuing partnership between the Philippines and ILO.

The Secretary likewise received and held bilateral meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg of Czech Republic (19-21 March), Governor-General Quentin Bryce of Australia (11-14 April), Premier Christy Clark of British Columbia, Canada (19 May), Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari (30 May to 01 June), Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird (16-19 July), Foreign Minister Murray McCully of New Zealand (17-18 July), Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian (15 August), Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timmerman (13-14 September), and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Hugo Swire of the United Kingdom (11 December).

PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Despite the fragile global financial system in 2012 that took its toll on the economies of many countries, the Philippines stood out as the best performing economy in the Asian region, with a growth rate that is expected to exceed the Government's five to six percent growth target for the year. For its part, the Department carried out economic diplomacy initiatives in support of the Government's twin goals of poverty alleviation and job creation.

Bilateral

In 2012, the Department spearheaded efforts to actively engage bilateral partners in achieving the Administration's goals of inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Among the highlights of these efforts were:

- **The Americas**

- ✓ The Philippines secured eligibility for the 2nd round of Debt Conversion under the US Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1988. With this eligibility, a provisional allocation of up to \$23 million will be set aside by the Treasury in US-appropriated funds for the treatment of certain eligible debt owed by the Philippines to the US Government.
- ✓ The Department continued its engagement with officials of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in the implementation of the Philippines' five-year US\$434 million Compact (FY2010-2014) under the MCC's Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program namely: national roads development project involving the rehabilitation of 222-km road in Eastern and Western Samar (US\$214.4M); KALAHI-CIDSS community development in Luzon and Visayas (US\$120M); and a revenue administration reform project aimed at improving the efficiency of BIR (US\$54.3M). Said projects are all on track and are aimed at poverty alleviation and revenue generation.
- ✓ The Philippines concluded an agreement with the Government of Mexico on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters. This agreement was expected to further strengthen cooperation, boost the Philippines' trade with Mexico, and facilitate enhanced border control and protection between the two countries.

- **Europe**

- ✓ The Department spearheaded the conclusion and signing of the Philippines-EU Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which provides the legal framework to guide future directions of PHL-EU relations in various areas of cooperation.
- ✓ The Philippines made positive steps towards a possible Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement (PHL-EU FTA), while still open to the possibility of an ASEAN-EU FTA.
- ✓ The Philippines is currently negotiating to conclude an Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Commission on Economic and Trade Cooperation (JCETC) with Switzerland.
- ✓ The Philippines qualified for application to the EU's Revised Generalized System of Preferences (GSP+) scheme that will be fully implemented in 2014. The Department will play a major role in working with the DTI and other agencies to comply with the substantive requirements of the scheme, including the ratification of 27 international conventions and treaties, and to formally submit the application of the Philippines to the new GSP+ scheme.

- ✓ The Philippine Government signed the Debt-for-Development Swap Agreement with Italy. Under this agreement, the first of its kind between the two countries, Philippine debt to Italy will be converted to financial resources which will be used in the implementation of social development projects in the Philippines.
- ✓ The Philippine Government and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) of France signed a Memorandum of Understanding on AFD's Development Cooperation Activities in the country, which provide the framework for development cooperation between the two signatories.
- ✓ Social Security Agreements were concluded and signed with Denmark and Portugal, while a similar agreement with Spain entered into force during the year.
- ✓ The Philippines obtained an estimated total amount of US\$ 1.48 billion Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the EU (US\$28.8 million in grants) and France (US\$1.19 billion in loans).

EU Projects:

- Support to local Government Units for more Effective and Accountable Public Finance Management (US\$ 10.2 million)
- Enhancing the Resilience of Internally Displaced Persons in Central Mindanao by Strengthening Livelihoods (US\$ 7.49 million)
- Grants to four civil society organizations in support of human rights projects (US\$ 1.1 million)

PHL-EU Financing Agreements:

- Trade Related Technical Assistance Programme III (US\$ 10.160 million)
- Justice for All: Enhancing Accessibility, Fighting Impunity (US\$12.7 million)

PHL-France Projects:

- Capacity Building for the National Center for Transportation Studies on carbon footprinting in the transport sector (US\$ 254,000– ongoing)
- The Philippines' Bio-capacity and Ecological Footprint in coordination with the Climate Change Commission (US\$ 64,000 –on going)
- Use of Rice Straw as Fuel to generate electricity (US\$ 473,000 - signed on 19 October 2012)

AFD Projects:

- Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project (US\$ 53.4 million) in co-financing with the World Bank

- Local Government Financing and Budget Reform program – Phase 2 (US\$ 191 million) in co-financing with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Other opportunities are under consideration for urban water supply and sanitation, and agro-forestry in Mindanao and in support to the Increased Competitiveness for Inclusive Growth program already funded by ADB. Other prospects in the areas of irrigation and flood control as well as climate change finance are also identified.

- **Middle East and Africa**

- ✓ The Department participated in several Joint Commission Meetings to discuss with partner countries different investment and trade opportunities and also enhance bilateral relations, especially in the areas of trade and investment and other fields of economic cooperation.
 - 6th Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting, Manila, 09 May
 - 7th Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting, Cairo, 17 June
 - 4th Philippines-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting, 27-28 November
 - 2nd Philippines-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting, Abuja, 05-06 December
- ✓ Informal bilateral consultations were held with the Sultanate of Oman on 18 April to activate the MOU on Developing Bilateral Cooperation and Establishing a Joint Working Group which was signed on 21 June 1997. Both sides also discussed areas of cooperation including oil and gas, agriculture and fisheries, and green energy.
- ✓ The Department, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Board of Investments (BOI), negotiated the Agreement on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments with Qatar.
- ✓ The Department met with key officials from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss its support for the SAVE Our Industries Act.

- **Asia and the Pacific**

- ✓ China has remained as one of the country's biggest and most important economic partners. Although the West Philippine Sea issue had presented new challenges to Philippines-China relations, the Department consistently maintained a position that the West Philippine Sea issue is not the sum total of the two countries' relations. The Philippines, in 2012, continued to enjoy robust comprehensive relations with China. It remained as the 3rd largest trading partner of the country from January to June, the 4th largest source of tourists, and the 3rd largest source of development assistance. The

Philippines remains committed to pursue cooperative undertakings in order to achieve the targets and move towards the goals set for trade and tourism.

- ✓ With Japan, as one of the country's top trading partners, both as an export market and as an import supplier, the Department pursued efforts that focused on promoting investments, provision of technical assistance, and maximization of ODA.

Exchange of notes for grant projects amounting to JPY 3.244 billion or approximately US\$ 39.49 million

- Non Project Grant Aid for the Provision of Industrial Products
- Grant Aid for the Project for the Improvement of Equipment for Disaster Risk Management
- Project for the Bridge Construction for Expanded Agrarian Reform Communities Development, Phase II
- Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) for the Restoration and Disaster Prevention

Exchange of notes for loan projects amounting to JPY66.794 billion or approximately US\$ 813.3 million

- Central Luzon Link Expressway Project
- Arterial Road Bypass Project -Phase II
- Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project -Phase III
- Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan and Imus Rivers
- National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project
- Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development Project
- Development Policy Support Program – Investment Climate

- ✓ With the ROK, the Philippines continued to advance its bilateral relations in the areas of trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), and ODA. In 2012, Korea's ODA strategically supported the country's development priorities in key areas such as infrastructure enhancement, health services, and agricultural and rural development.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Mine Reclamation/Rehabilitation in the Philippines and a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology were signed with Korea this year.

- ✓ With the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a Cooperation Agreement between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the

Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) was signed to strengthen the economic and trade ties between the two countries.

- ✓ A Working Holiday Scheme and Geothermal Energy Cooperation Agreements with New Zealand, and the Philippines-Australia Air Services Agreement were likewise signed during the state visits of the President to these countries.

Regional and Multilateral

The Department sustained its active representation of Philippine interests in various regional and multilateral fora.

• World Trade Organization (WTO)

- ✓ The Philippines, through the Permanent Mission to the WTO, translated its strong commitment to the multilateral trading system into concrete actions by continuing to work with other WTO member-economies in sustaining the momentum and positive outlook of ongoing Doha Development Agenda (DDA) consultations in Geneva. The Philippines advanced overall DDA negotiating positions on areas where progress appeared to be building up, such as trade facilitation and trade and development, in full adherence to the development dimension of the DDA.
- ✓ At the 4th WTO Trade Policy Review (TPR), the Philippines highlighted positive economic gains in pursuit of development priorities towards inclusive growth. WTO members commended the Philippines for its solid economic performance amid a stagnant global economic environment, and for its continuing reforms on governance and transparency. It was also emphasized that the Philippines should overcome its deficiencies in its levels of infrastructure spending and investment needed to provide a firmer foundation for future growth, and to ensure that economic prosperity is balanced with social development.
- ✓ The Philippines remained fully engaged in ongoing discussions to expand the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). As a major semiconductor and electronics exporter and producer, the Philippines has a stake in the expansion of the scope and membership of the ITA.
- ✓ The Philippines continued to assert and defend the national interest in the implementation of WTO agreements.
 - The Philippines is working with Thailand to ensure that the latter fully complies with the ruling of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DS 371), in which Thailand is obligated to remove its WTO-inconsistent customs and taxation practices that affect Philippine exports of tobacco products.

- The Philippines successfully participated as 3rd Party in the ITA dispute against the European Union, and is now a 3rd Party participant in the dispute against Australia on its technical regulations concerning packaging of tobacco products, which have systemic implications on WTO principles prohibiting measures that constitute undue restrictions on trade.

- **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

- ✓ In 2012, the Philippines, through the Department and the DTI, worked with other APEC economies in developing a list of environmental goods that directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives in the Asia Pacific region. APEC members committed to reduce applied tariffs on those environmental goods to 5 percent or less by 2015.
- ✓ To pursue development priorities on inclusive growth, the Philippines actively participated in the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR). Working with the DOJ, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department shepherded capacity-building projects on the following key structural reform areas: competition policy, labor market opportunities, and effective and sustainable social safety nets.
- ✓ The Philippines continued its cooperation with APEC members on possible approaches towards a “Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific” (FTAAP), including through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). With Australia, Canada, and Thailand having joined the TPP negotiations in 2012, and with Japan as a possible entrant in 2013, the Department will work with DTI, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and other agencies in exploring ways to protect Philippine economic security and promote Philippine trade interests while a decision on whether or not to join the TPP is to be made.
- ✓ The Philippines sought to make it easier to do business in the Philippines and improve its standing in the World Bank’s “Doing Business” surveys, with a view to recommending regulatory reforms. For 2012, the Department, in cooperation with the National Competitiveness Council, partnered with the Republic of Korea on tailored capacity building to help evaluate the legal and operational framework on enforcing contracts in the Philippines, review the status of reforms, and help determine solutions to issues that hinder progress.
- ✓ The Philippines continued its fight against corruption and ensuring openness and transparency in APEC. The Department and the Office of the Ombudsman strongly endorse the Vladivostok Declaration on Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency, which renews APEC Leaders’ commitment to fight corruption and enhance transparency and accountability in their respective economies.

- ✓ The Department, through the APEC National Secretariat, successfully implemented the following APEC projects in 2012:
 - Advancing Inclusive Growth through Social Protection;
 - Implementation of the APEC Code of Conduct for Business: Integrity and Transparency Principles of the Private Sector;
 - Training Course on Quantitative Precipitation Estimation/ Forecasting;
 - Climate Change Adaption Strategies with Mitigation Potential for Food and Water;
 - Connecting APEC 2020: A Conference on Enhancing Tourism and Air Connectivity in the Asia-Pacific Region;
 - Seminar-Workshop on the Assessment of Good Animal Husbandry Practices in APEC Member Economies;
 - APEC-United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Workshop on Investor – State Dispute Settlement (ISDS): Core Elements Project – Moving Beyond Phase 3, Activity 6;
 - Effective Labor Market Signaling: A Strategy for Solving the Problem of Unemployment and Talent Mismatch.
- ✓ The Philippines formally announced that it will serve as Host Economy of the annual APEC meetings in 2015. The APEC National Organizing Council (APEC-NOC) will be formally constituted and the Department will play a leading role in the whole-of-government effort to prepare for the successful second Philippine hosting of APEC.

- **ASEAN**

- ✓ The Philippines ratified the following ASEAN agreements and protocols:
 - The ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services was signed by the President, with the Protocols Implementing the Fifth and Sixth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services subsequently ratified. This Agreement and its Protocols allow Member States to extend to all other Member States preferential treatment in air transport services.
 - The Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation among the Governments of the Member Countries of the ASEAN and the Republic of Korea was likewise ratified.
 - The endorsement for the Ratification Process of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit was signed.

- ✓ The Philippines has become a beneficiary of the US-ASEAN Expanded Economic Engagement (E3) Initiative. The E3 aims to expand US-ASEAN trade relations, through joint activities crafted with a view to laying the groundwork for preparing ASEAN members interested in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).
 - ✓ The Philippines is actively participating in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the negotiations of which were launched in the margins of the EAS in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 20 November 2012. The RCEP negotiations will be based on the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the RCEP, which was also adopted in Cambodia at the margins of the EAS.
- **The United Nations (UN)**
 - ✓ At the 13th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Philippines maintained an active and informed participation. In line with the theme of UNCTAD XIII, “Development-centered globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development,” and the President’s Social Contract with the Filipino People, the Department pushed forward its vision of inclusive growth characterized by rapid, sustained, and broad-based economic growth that is focused on creating more jobs and new opportunities to achieve full employment and significantly reduce poverty.
 - ✓ The Instrument of Accession of the Philippines to the Madrid Protocol was signed by the President in April. The Madrid Protocol establishes a filing system that facilitates the global registration of trademarks through a single application filed in the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). This benefits Philippine companies in that it makes trademark registration easier and makes more affordable to have trademarks registered or renewed in member countries. This Philippines will attract more foreign businesses as the procedure for trademark filing and renewal has been simplified. Moreover, it gives Philippine companies protection in terms of intellectual property in major global business centers. The Philippines’ major trading partners, Australia, China, Korea, Japan, United States and the EU, are also member countries.
 - ✓ At the 67th Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in May, the Philippines delivered statements on ICT and on social development with focus on the MDGs and HIV/AIDS and made interventions during the session of the Statistical Institute of Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

Economic Activities Initiated by the DFA

The Department and its Embassies, Consulates General and Missions endeavored to market the Philippines as a country with promising economic prospects, highlighting its improved credit ratings and overall business climate, and a favourable environment conducive to new foreign investments and business expansion. In support of this, the Department developed a system for reporting economic diplomacy initiatives of Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions to track the economic projects, programs and activities they have undertaken. The new system is intended to identify priority sectors in each geographic region where prospects for trade and investments may be pursued.

In 2012, various investment promotion efforts and trade missions, both in and outside of the Philippines, were proactively undertaken by the Department to raise awareness about the buoyant economy and the improved investment climate of the country.

- ✓ The Department embarked on a training program for Ambassadors and Consuls General in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). The “Economic Development and Diplomacy - Strategic Management and Leadership Training of Heads of Post (Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, North America, Europe, Latin America) was aimed to better equip them with analytical and strategic skills necessary to pursue more focused economic diplomacy activities in their respective Posts in support of the Aquino administration’s thrust towards inclusive growth.
- ✓ The Department conducted an “Orientation Program on Economic Diplomacy for Philippine Honorary Consuls from the Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) and Middle East and African (MEA) Regions,” from 2 to 8 March 2012, at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center (AIMCC), Makati City. Twenty-six (26) Honorary Consuls attended the weeklong program, i.e., seventeen (17) from ASPAC and nine (9) from MEA.

The Orientation Program provided an opportunity for the Honorary Consuls to better acquaint themselves with the Philippines as this was the first time for many to visit the country. They also were able to meet their counterparts in other regions and, at the same time, consult and network with them to gain valuable insights and knowledge of best practices. The Orientation Program instilled in them a new paradigm for public service where Honorary Consuls play a very active and critical role in implementing the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy, namely: national security, economic diplomacy, and assistance to nationals.

- ✓ A 12-person delegation led by the Department participated in the ASEAN Awareness Forum in Rome in March. The Forum highlighted the substantial

potential for increased PHL-Italy economic engagement in the fields of green energy, renewable energy, shipbuilding, creative design industries. In October, the Department again participated in the same forum in Budapest where it allowed Hungary to gain a deeper understanding of the Philippines and opened opportunities for Philippine-Hungary partnerships in the field of education.

- ✓ The Department entered into an MOU with the Philippine Trade Foundation, Inc. in March. Through the MOU, the two parties will work together in creating markets, nourishing economic development, facilitating the entry of foreign direct investments, and promoting the Government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program, among others.
- ✓ The Department led a scoping mission to Mongolia in September. The visit affirmed great potential for exchange in a wide range of areas, including trade, agriculture, energy, education, tourism, construction, infrastructure engineering, urban planning and development, information technology, telecommunications, as well as human resource and skills development, among others.
- ✓ The Department commissioned the Research, Education and Institutional Development Foundation, Inc. (Reid Foundation) in mid 2011 to conduct a feasibility study on a possible RO-RO arrangement between the Philippines and China. The study, funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Asia Foundation, was completed in early 2012. The results were presented to officials of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), DTI and the DFA.
- ✓ Currently, the Department is organizing an outbound business mission of locators in Subic and Clark to various countries in Asia to promote the Subic Bay Freeport and Special Economic Zone to foreign investors. This mission is set to be held in the 2nd quarter of 2013.
- ✓ In the Americas, the Philippine Embassy and Consulates in the US proactively set meetings with leaders of Fortune 500 companies and successfully negotiated business agreements with them. These agreements involved service requirements outsourcing, operations expansion, and development projects. In addition, efforts were continued to lobby for the passage of relevant US legislation that have a bearing on the Philippine economy. Among these are the SAVE Act and the US Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act. Additionally, coordination efforts led to the confirmation of an additional funding of \$30 million for the Partnership for Growth-Philippines.
- ✓ The Department, through OUIER, contributed to arrangements for the Memphis in May International Festival held in Memphis, Tennessee, USA where the Philippines was featured in a month-long country presentation of Philippine culture, arts, music, cuisine, and business climate.

- ✓ In Canada, economic diplomacy activities were aggressively carried out through trade missions that effectively showcased the country's diverse investment opportunities. Strong linkages with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the lead agency for development assistance, were also pursued.
- ✓ The Secretary, on his official trip to Canada, met with the Minister for International Trade of Canada MP Ed Fast, who committed to lead a Canadian business delegation to the Philippines to consider possible participation in various infrastructure projects under the PPP program.
- ✓ The Secretary, during his working visit to Mexico, met with key business sector representatives and discussed undertaking of possible joint ventures in high-growth sectors of the Philippine economy. In addition, the Philippine Embassy in Mexico succeeded in reaching an agreement with Coca Cola FEMSA to invest US\$ 500 million in the Philippines.
- ✓ In Europe, Philippine Embassies and Consulates General actively organized, coordinated, and participated in meetings on economic diplomacy familiarization and cyberspace technology. Business missions composed of key players of French industries accompanied French Prime Minister Ayrault during his official visit in October. A trade and investment mission from Germany, Italy and Turkey likewise met with major Philippine chambers of commerce, business organizations and government officials during the year.
- ✓ In Asia and the Pacific, the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur organized the Philippine-Malaysia Investment Partnership Forum and succeeded in bringing together various business leaders to exchange ideas on enhancing economic relations between the two countries.
- ✓ In New Zealand, the Department, through the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, extended full assistance to Alliance Select Foods International (ASFI), a Philippine company based in General Santos City, in its plans to purchase 80% share in Akaroa Salmon Limited (New Zealand). The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between ASFI and Akaroa Salmon was witnessed by President Benigno S. Aquino III during his state visit to New Zealand in October.
- ✓ An orientation program for Honorary Consuls from the Middle East and Asia Pacific was conducted in line with the economic diplomacy efforts of the Department.
- ✓ The Department, through the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) as the national focal point for South-South cooperation, implemented technical assistance programs by conducting non-degree training courses in

areas where the Philippines has developed the expertise and which are relevant to the development efforts of the beneficiary countries including the Philippines.

In 2012, TCCP implemented a total of seven (7) activities with an estimated total participation of 161.

- Training on Gender and Entrepreneurship Development - implemented in 3 countries in cooperation with the DTI-PTTC (total of 83 participants):
 - Timor Leste (7-11 Feb. 2012)
 - Myanmar (22-24 Feb. 2012)
 - Laos (27-29 Feb. 2012)
- Seminar on Entrepreneurship Development- implemented in 2 countries in cooperation with the DTI-PTTC (total of 100 participants):
 - Bhutan (28-30 Nov. 2012)
 - Laos (4-6 Dec. 2012)
- Conference / Workshop on Cultural Tourism – Implemented in cooperation with ICOMOS Philippines in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on 06 – 10 November 2010, (total participation of 28 - Egypt (2), Laos (1), Sri Lanka (3) and Philippines (22))
- Activities for the Advancement of Technical Cooperation and Development Programs
 - Held exploratory meetings with various agencies:
 - International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS Phils.)
 - U.P. Institute for Small Scale Industries (UP-ISSI)
 - Philippine Trade Training Center (DTI-PTTC)
 - Held consultative meetings with the different geographic offices of the DFA
 - Attended the 7TH Session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, 22 – 25 May 2012, New York

In the multilateral front, the feasibility study on the ASEAN Roll-On/Roll-Off Network and Short-Sea Shipping, a Philippine initiative in the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), is currently being conducted and is expected to be finished by the first quarter of 2013. One of the routes included in the study is the General-Santos-Bitung, Indonesia RO-RO route.

The Department has likewise committed to helping promote 2013 as the ASEAN Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Year, as mentioned by the President during his speech at the 21st ASEAN Summit.

Public-Private Partnerships

In line with the President's Private-Public Partnership Agenda and in working towards the creation of markets that will cultivate economic development, the Department pursued initiatives that aimed to entice businessmen to invest in the scheme.

During the visit of the Secretary to Moscow, he extended an invitation to the members of the Russian business community to invest in the different priority sectors of the Philippines such as business process outsourcing (BPO), tourism, agri-business, and infrastructure, among others.

Philippine Embassies and Consulates General also carried out PPP initiatives by facilitating and coordinating meetings between prospective international partners and relevant Philippine government agencies.

The Philippine Embassy in Madrid, together with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC), organized an investor's briefing on the Metro Manila Line 1 Extension, Maintenance, and Operations Project for some 50 participants from about 27 Spanish companies. The Philippine delegation, composed of officials from the Department of Finance (DOF), DOTC, PPP Center, and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), had a total of 19 consultations with the participation of 11 Spanish companies.

PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

Staying true to the country's commitment and responsibility to protect its people, the Department maintained a proactive stance in ensuring that overseas Filipinos' rights and welfare were preserved at all times. Equally important in fulfilling this mandate are the significant improvements the Department initiated and implemented during the year to provide efficient, prompt and responsive frontline services to all Filipinos, both at home and abroad.

Assistance to Nationals

In 2012, the Department assisted a total of 7,735 OFWs and members of their families. Of this number, 4,327 OFWs were assisted through the Assistance to Nationals Fund (ATN) in the amount of PhP228,035,963.99 and 541 OFWs were provided legal assistance from the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) in the amount of PhP12,502,678.00.

Death Penalty Cases:

The Department continued to monitor pending death penalty cases and extended appropriate legal and consular (ATN) assistance to a total of 130 OFWs with death penalty cases worldwide, 40 of whom had subsequently had their cases commuted to life or fixed term imprisonment, leaving a total of 90 OFWs with death penalty cases by the end of the year.

Drug Smuggling Cases

In addition to the DFA's unrelenting and more intensified efforts to prevent further victimization of OFWs as drug mules, the Department extended legal assistance to OFWs who fell victims to drug trafficking syndicates.

In 2012, a total of 634 drug smuggling cases involving OFWs worldwide were monitored, including 211 cases in China, 8 in Vietnam, 9 in Indonesia, 6 in Malaysia, and 3 in Sri Lanka.

The Department continued to actively coordinate with law enforcement agencies in the Philippines and abroad in the arrest and prosecution of members of drug syndicates victimizing OFWs.

Piracy in Somalia

The Department worked for the safe release of Filipino seafarers held hostage by Somali pirates. From 2006 up to the present, a total of 769 Filipino seamen, from 63 shipping vessels, were held hostage by the pirates. All have been released except 24 seafarers, from 4 shipping vessels, who are currently being held hostage by Somali pirates as of 31 October 2012.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons

The Department assisted a total of 122 human trafficking victims and endorsed their cases to law enforcement agencies.

Towards the improvement of its institutional and human capacities to fight trafficking in persons, the Department undertook the following activities and initiatives:

- ✓ Regular attendance and active participation at meetings of the Inter-Agency Council Against Human Trafficking (IACAT) and Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (TFAIR)
- ✓ Close monitoring of laws, regulations, institutions, and mechanisms of foreign governments which support and complement PH's fight against human trafficking and illegal recruitment.
- ✓ Maintenance of close working relationships with host governments, international organizations, and civil society organizations, through Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions, to extend assistance to all Filipino nationals. Philippine Embassies and Consulates General also maintained contacts with expatriate Filipino communities to intensify information awareness on the rights of migrant workers to combat human trafficking.

- ✓ Organization of trainings and seminars by Embassies and Consulates General with topics involving human trafficking, smuggling, illegal recruitment and other forms of transnational crimes.
- ✓ Introduction of a specific training module on trafficking in persons for departing DFA officers and staff.

In ASEAN, the Department continued to push for the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on Trafficking in Persons. It also participated actively in the discussions of the ASEAN Regional Forum on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Crisis Management

In ensuring the safety of overseas Filipinos in times of natural disasters, civil unrest, armed conflicts, and other emergencies in foreign countries, the Department undertook measures to improve the capacities of the Department and its personnel in managing crises. Among them are:

- ✓ Active involvement in the drafting and issuance of Executive Order 82, or the National Crisis Management Core Manual and Practical Guide for Crisis Managers.
- ✓ Initiated the creation of an inter-agency Crisis Management Committee.
- ✓ Drafted and adopted a Regional Contingency Plan for the Middle East and Africa.
- ✓ Facilitated, coordinated and attended meetings with other government agencies to seek assistance in managing crisis, situations.
- ✓ With the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, the Department discussed the Currency Exchange Facility (CEF) Program for Syria.

Emergency Repatriation

In line with the Department's mandate of providing immediate protection, intervention and assistance to Filipinos in distress, particularly in war-torn places, the Department has taken the lead role in the repatriation of 3,239 OFWs from Syria since March 2011.

Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were deployed thrice during the year – twice for Syria and once to Cairo/Tel Aviv to attend to the Gaza situation.

Policy Initiatives

The Department sustained its active participation in Congressional hearings and Inter-Agency meetings on the protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare of OFWs.

At the national level, the Department provided assistance and support to the Overseas Preparedness and Response Team (OPRT) created under Executive Order 34 dated 06 April 2011.

Bilaterally, the Department signed agreements with other countries that aimed to strengthen bilateral labor cooperation by enhancing the enforcement of the rights of workers to a safe and healthy work environment. Other agreements on the promotion of the rights of Filipino workers to fair wages and hours of employment, and to combat all forms of human trafficking, were also signed.

The Department also shepherded the issuance of the new Guidelines on the Departure of Au Pairs to Europe and the lifting of the ban on the deployment of au pairs to European countries. The Department chaired the Technical Working Group that drafted, issued, and implemented the Final Guidelines on the Departure of Au Pairs to Europe, which facilitated the departure of au pairs bound for Europe and at the same time provided them safety nets and protection without restricting their opportunities for self improvement. The issuance of the Guidelines effectively lifted the ban on sending Filipino au pairs to Europe.

Multilaterally, the Department actively pushed for a legally binding instrument to implement the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers. It is negotiating for the inclusion of undocumented workers and the families of migrant workers in the implementing instrument. It also advocated the adoption of an ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), the Philippine draft of which is currently being reviewed by the ASEAN Member States at the Experts' Meeting level.

At the global level, the Department attended the meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Geneva, highlighted the need to protect stranded migrants in emergency situations and showcased the Philippines' best practices in this field.

On the issue of piracy, the Department highlighted the importance of providing psychological/post-traumatic stress assistance to seafarers released from captivity during the meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia in the UN Headquarters in New York.

Overseas Absentee Voting

Consistent with its task of encouraging overseas Filipinos to exercise their right of suffrage under the Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Act, the Department exerted all possible efforts to devise effective ways, methods, and strategies to guarantee their participation in the upcoming 2013 Senatorial and Party-List elections.

To manifest the seriousness of the Department's campaign, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs himself wrote to around 4000 leaders of Filipino associations and organizations around the world to solicit support in registering their members and to ensure extensive participation in the 2013 electoral process by Filipinos overseas.

Philippine Embassies and Consulates General, for their part, carried out initiatives to increase the number of OAV registrants and voters. They partnered with private companies to boost OAV awareness through media in the Philippines and abroad. One example of such partnership is the "Boto Mo, Ipatrol Mo: Tayo Na!" program of ABS-CBN and the Filipino Channel.

A total of 398,554 new OAV registrants (as of 31 October 2012) was recorded in the most recent OAV registration exercise conducted by the Embassies and Consulates General. When added to the stock total of 589,830 in previous registrations, a total 988,384 OAV registrants are eligible to vote for the upcoming 2013 Senatorial and Party-List Elections.

Philippine Citizenship Reacquisition/ Retention (RA 9225)

To increase the number of former natural born Filipino citizens who apply for Philippine Citizenship Retention or Reacquisition, the Department established an intensive information campaign on RA 9225 that commenced in September and will continue until December next year.

As part of the campaign, a communications plan was developed with the aim of making its target population aware of its message and stimulating interest. Aside from information dissemination, the other objective was to increase the number of applicants for citizenship reacquisition.

Currently, a total of 106,393 applications for re-acquisition/ retention of Filipino Citizenship under RA 9225 have been approved. The breakdown per region is as follows:

- Asia and the Pacific: 5,535
- Americas: 82,459
- Europe: 18,182
- Middle East and Africa: 217

Frontline Services

Passport Issuances

From 01 January to 30 November, the Department issued a total of 2,396,450 electronic Passports (ePassports).

The opening of consular satellite offices in malls has not only decreased the volume of passport applications in DFA-OCA – Aseana, but has also reduced the average time in securing an appointment from 10 to 14 working days to 7 working days.

The releasing schedule in DFA-OCA was reduced from 10 to 20 working days to 7 to 15 working days, for express and regular processing, respectively.

In compliance with the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, the Department continued with its efforts against passport irregularities. Though the Office of Intelligence and Security (OIS), recommendations were submitted with the end in view of strengthening internal control measures and preventing the passport process from being compromised.

An anti-fixer campaign was also launched early in the year. Through the efforts of the Department, and with the help of local police authorities, a number of unscrupulous individuals engaged in fixing activities were apprehended. This has served as a deterrent, reducing the incidence of fixing recorded for the year.

Moreover, Inter-agency coordination, particularly with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and Presidential Taskforce Against Illegal Recruitment (PTFAIR), was intensified to safeguard the integrity and security of the Philippine passport and bolster the campaign against human trafficking and illegal recruitment.

Visa Services

From 01 January to 30 November, the Department issued a total of 381,755 visas.

The Department continued to support various government programs, such as tourism promotion, by coordinating with relevant government agencies and the release of relevant Foreign Service Circulars pertaining to issuance of visas to foreign nationals. These include Foreign Service Circular No. 36-12 which allows visa-free entry for Indian nationals with valid American, Japanese, Australian, Canadian, Schengen, Singapore and UK (AJACSSUK) visas or resident permits, for 14 days; and Foreign Service Circular No. 196-12 which sets forth the comprehensive guidelines on visas to incoming foreign government officials and employees of accredited international organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

The Department likewise facilitated the signing of agreements with Kuwait and Armenia on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic/official passports.

The issuance of 691 APEC Business Travel Cards also formed part of the assistance to the business community by gaining easier and streamlined entry to the economies of the Asia-Pacific region to pursue trade and investment opportunities.

Authentication Services

From 01 January to 30 November, the Department authenticated a total of 714,381 documents.

In 2012, the continuous improvement in the delivery of authentication services resulted in an improved releasing time target.

The assignment of authentication personnel in consular satellite offices in malls improved the accessibility of authentication services and decongested the long queues in the DFA-OCA, Aseana Building.

A new design and an upgrade in the security features of the authentication certificate are currently being formulated to minimize, if not totally eliminate, instances of tampering and fraud.

Continuous coordination with the partner-issuing government agencies was likewise undertaken in preparation for the Philippines' accession to the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention).

Consular Records Services

From 01 January to 31 October, the Department issued a total of 44,093 civil registry reports.

On 14 July 2012, the Consular Records Division of the Department disposed of 1 million passport records in coordination with the National Archives of the Philippines.

A proposed draft of Records Disposition Schedule for proper disposal and Records Management Manual for systematic handling and management for all OCA records was also initialed during the year.

Finally, the Department continued to closely coordinate with the National Statistics Office on issues involving registration of vital events, including IRR of RA 10172, .

Hosting Agreements and RCOs

In line with its mandate to effectively deliver passport and other services to the public, the Department entered into several MOA with private corporations last year. Through these Agreements, the Department was able to successfully facilitate the opening of three (3) NCR Consular Satellite offices in malls (SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, SM Manila) and the transfer of seven (7) Regional Consular Offices (RCOs) to malls (RCO Cebu to Pacific Mall; RCO San Fernando Pampanga to Robinsons Sarmills; RCO Clarkfield Pampanga to Marquee Mall; RCO Davao to SM City Davao; RCO General Santos to Robinsons General Santos; RCO Baguio to SM City Baguio; and RCO Batangas to Robinsons Place Lipa).

In 2013, the DFA expects to open ten (10) additional consular offices in various shopping malls in the country. These offices are expected to be established in Batangas City, Bacolod, Iloilo, and Legazpi, among others.

Furthermore, an evaluation of hosting agreements and negotiations with prospective partners, such as Robinsons Land Corporation, Ayala Land Corporation, and Megaworld, is also being undertaken by the Department for the transfer of other regional consular offices in shopping malls.

PROMOTION OF FILIPINO CULTURE ABROAD: CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Throughout the year, the Department actively built a cultural platform to complement the three pillars of foreign policy. In strengthening people-to-people links, the Department and its Embassies, Consulates General and Missions in different regions undertook cultural activities that aim to complement efforts to encourage greater trade, investments, and tourism opportunities for the country.

In promoting Philippine cinema, the Department's Cultural Diplomacy Unit (CDU), in close coordination with the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), assisted Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions in their participation in numerous film Festivals in their areas of jurisdiction, such as:

- ✓ The Filipinisk Film Festival, the Universal Kids Film Festival held in Istanbul
- ✓ The AsiaticaFilmmediale: Focus on Philippine Cinema Film Festival in Rome;
- ✓ The Filipino Film Festival in Athens;
- ✓ The Cine Experimental de Madrid in Madrid

The Department also promoted Philippine artists and Philippine heritage through various exhibits and lectures on photography, Filipino music, visual arts, and Philippine architecture, among others.

Philippine participation in various international conferences and festivals, such as the 2012 Memphis in May Festival and the ICOMOS International Conference on Cultural Tourism, was also undertaken by the Department through CDU.

Other activities carried out by the Department in pursuing cultural diplomacy include lectures on the cultural history of the Philippines and an Asian Heritage Month that showcased Philippine culture in Russia through an exhibition of art, dance, food, and film.

Partnership/Cooperation with Cultural Entities

In 2012, agreements were forged with countries and cultural entities to promote joint activities and enhance cultural cooperation.

- ✓ France - An agreement was forged to ensure the safety of the country's national treasures and artifacts at the Philippine Exhibition at the *Musee Du Quai Branly*, France's premier museum for indigenous art and culture, from April to July 2013. The landmark Exhibition is expected to put the Philippines on the cultural map of France (the museum has over a million visitors yearly) as well as generate trade, investment and tourism opportunities for the country.
- ✓ Argentina – An agreement on cultural cooperation between the Philippines and the Argentine Republic was signed during the official visit of Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman in September.
- ✓ China – A Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Presidential Communication Operations Office (PCOO) and the State of Council Information Office of China on Friendly Exchanges in March was conceptualized during the State Visit to China of President Aquino in 2011. In March, the 2012-2013 Philippines-China Years of Friendly Exchanges was launched.
- ✓ Laos – the MOU between the Philippine Foreign Service Institute and the Lao Institute of Foreign Affairs and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Sports Commission and the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports on Sports Cooperation were signed.
- ✓ Russia – in the field of Physical Culture and Sport, the MOA between the Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport (the Russian Federation)/ Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy/ and the Philippine Sports Commission was signed.

- ✓ Spain – the MOU for the Improvement and Promotion of Spanish Language and Culture Teaching between the Department of Education of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain and the Sports Cooperation Programme between the Philippine Sports Council and the High Council for Sports of Spain were signed during the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Sofia.

Philippine Embassies, for their part, also entered into agreements, such as sister-city agreements with other Governments. The Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the US were able to successfully facilitate the sister-city agreements between the Province of Pangasinan and the Territory of Guam in September and between Ormoc City and Hawaii County in March.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

In order to enable employees to contribute productively to the overall direction of the Department and play an effective role in accomplishing the organization's goals and objectives, the Department carried out several projects and initiatives throughout the year.

Practice of Good Governance

The President's firm stance on honest and effective governance has laid the foundation of the Department in its commitment to be an open, transparent, accountable, and participatory office. In 2012, the Department undertook initiatives that aimed to improve the delivery of its services and curb mismanagement.

A DFA Operations Manual for each of the offices, with a template for uniform compliance, was created. A Client Feedback Mechanism was instituted, together with the initiation of various projects and activities, such as the Blue Book Revision, the Clearance Integrity Chart, and the Knowledge Management Program, all aimed at promoting good governance in the Department.

As of 30 November 2012, 100% of the offices in the Home Office, RCOs, Embassies, Consulates General and Missions, and the three Attached Agencies of the Department have complied with the Citizen's Charter posting as required in the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. This translates to 108 offices responsible for the delivery of frontline services to the public.

A Diplomatic Security Unit (DSU) was also created under the DFA-OIS by virtue of Department Order 23 - 12, pursuant to Articles 22 and 29 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. The DSU now serves as the Department's focal point with regard to the security of the diplomatic missions and their personnel and processes requests for security coverage and assistance. It also serves to address other security matters

and concerns of the diplomatic missions and performs other related functions as directed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Various Information Technology (IT) systems were also created, established, installed, upgraded, created, and implemented during the year. Some of these systems include the Payroll Module of the Human Resource Management Information System, DFA External Email System, Internal Records Management System, etc.

To improve the Department's capability in servicing the needs of the people and fulfilling its mandate, the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) for Ambassadors and Consuls General in the different geographic regions (Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Europe, North America and Latin America) were conducted. During the RCM, the Ambassadors and Consuls General affirmed their commitment to advance Philippine national interests in their respective regions, guided by the DFA Strategic Plan. Moreover, the Heads of Posts also attended the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) 3-day training on Strategic Management and Leadership aimed to equip them with the necessary skills to efficiently pursue their duties.

In defining the Department's strategies and determining its future direction, the Department embarked on a two-day strategic planning workshop in Tagaytay City, Cavite. During the said workshop, the DFA Strategic Plan for 2012-2016 was finalized and approved by the Secretary. A copy was later presented to the Office of the President. To ensure its implementation, a Department Order (DO) was issued mandating all offices in the Department and all Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions to implement the Strategic Plan through a comprehensive work plan. All work plans are required to be in alignment with the goals, strategies, and activities in the Strategic Plan.

To enhance awareness and generate public support for the Department's key programs and activities, and in line with the commitment to make the Department more accessible to the tech-savvy public, an official Twitter account was created by the Public Information Service Unit (PISU). Through the use of social media, public advisories and selected media releases were easily and effectively circulated to the public.

The Department also assisted in strengthening the government's public diplomacy capabilities. In 2012, DFA-PISU conducted 16 lectures, seminars, and/or trainings on public diplomacy, media relations, and crisis communications with DFA personnel, with the academe, and those of other agencies, such as DOLE and ISAFP.

Financial Management

In 2012, the Department's budget utilization was 76.5% from 01 January to 31 October. From the PhP11.19 billion agency allotment, PhP8.56 billion had been obligated.

The International Commitment Fund's utilization rate was 80% from 01 January to 30 November. From an allotment of PhP1.65 billion, PhP1.31 billion had been utilized.

In consistently practicing prudence in managing its fiscal affairs, the Department undertook regular surveillance audits and compliance checks. This year, the surveillance audits and compliance checks were conducted by the Department's Internal Audit Service (IAS) in Cagayan de Oro and Bacolod RCOs in January and February, respectively. These yielded management improvements, correction of some financial management practices, and restoration of internal controls.

In April, IAS also facilitated the Management and Financial Audit Philippine Consulates-General in Hong Kong and Macau. These expedited the Consulates' establishment of performance standards and process guidelines.

In the Home Office, the Department has undertaken the rationalization of the work of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat by continuously streamlining the procurement process through the adoption of a DFA procurement manual. A total of nine (9) projects have been procured through public bidding. More than 184 resolutions for procurement projects have been made by the Department through Alternative Methods of Procurement.

The Department also recognized the need to have a firmer coordination between the budgeting and planning functions, as part of sound financial management. An institutionalized adoption of the zero-based budgeting system is being worked out at the Department level, following the new thrust of the bureaucracy. The adoption will require the various Offices and Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions to plan and budget their activities more thoroughly.

Foreign Service Allowance

The Department, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), proposed a new set of allowance indices for Foreign Service Personnel. The new indices will update the current set which was approved in 2005 and are meant to be reflective of the current economic conditions at Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions which the current set does not address. Under the new indices, the increase in overseas and living quarters allowances shall range from 10% to 50%, while the family allowance shall increase by 100% for the dependent child and 67% for the dependent spouse.

The draft EO stipulating the new allowances is awaiting the final approval of has been approved by DBM Secretary Florencio Abad and has been transmitted to the Office of the President.

Passport Revolving Fund (PRF) and Tax Remittance

The Department's total Passport Revolving Fund (PRF) collection from January to September 2012 is P221,645,350.00. The expenses charged to the PRF amounted to P134,331,576.52 and, as of 30 September 2012, the Department's net income from the PRF is P87,313,773.48.

Reconciliation and remittance of what used to be unremitted interest income from Landbank Fixed Deposit Accounts amounting to P8,613,124.58 has been completed. The withholding tax of P18,686,853.70, out of P27,786,147.24 according to Commission on Audit (COA) findings, has also been remitted and reconciled.

Cash Advance Liquidation

Continued aggressive collection efforts of the Department have significantly reduced the amount of unliquidated cash advances. Demand letters to accountable personnel are periodically sent and those who cannot settle in full are required to execute Affidavits of Undertaking to be implemented through deduction from their salaries or other claims. In observance of laws, rules and regulations on cash advances, officers and employees of the Department are not allowed to request a cash advance unless the previous cash advance is settled or proper accounting thereof is made. Moreover, a clearance for no outstanding cash advance is required before promotion or deployment of personnel is effected. Accounts amounting to P50,000.00 and above are reported to COA on a quarterly basis, which COA, in turn, endorses to the Office of the Ombudsman for appropriate legal action.

Results-Based Budgeting System

In August 2012, the Department submitted a new Organizational Performance Indicators Framework (OPIF) which will replace the current OPIF crafted in 2004. The OPIF is an accountability mechanism that defines the outputs and outcomes that the Department is supposed to achieve in relation to its annual budget. Under the new DFA OPIF, the old Major Final Outputs¹ (MFO) were expanded to include the changing role of the DFA, particularly on Assistance-to-Nationals. The three MFOs of the Department contain the Key Results Areas (KRAs) of President Aquino's Social Contract with the Filipino People, the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) and the DFA Strategic Plan (2012-2016). The new OPIF will be the basis for setting of the 2013 performance targets, preparation of OPIF book for FY 2013 and the performance-based budget structure for 2014.

At the Department level, cascading of performance targets is ensured by requiring each office a work plan that is aligned with the new MFOs. The performance targets shall serve as criteria in determining the performance rating of all offices as well as their overall ranking as best, better or good delivery units, in line with the Performance-

¹ These MFOs are: 1) Foreign Policy Formulation and Implementation; 2) Foreign Policy Recommendation and Coordination; and 3) Delivery of Consular, Legal, Assistance-to-Nationals and other related Services.

Based Incentive System (PBIS) of the current administration. The AO 25 Composite Team, in-charge of the PBIS and the DBM Technical Working Group's suggestions were taken into consideration in the latest submission of the Department's logical framework and performance measures.

This year, the Department institutionalized the forced-ranking system of its personnel and offices. The Department is also gearing towards the adoption of a new Performance Management System (PMS) that will easily evaluate performance based on verifiable, observable, credible and sustainable indicators. The goal of the PMS is to strengthen performance monitoring and appraisal systems that will link individual performance to organizational performance. Objectivity in the ranking of offices is ensured with the creation of the Performance Management Group composed of all the Undersecretaries of the Department who will be responsible for evaluating the performance of all the offices of the Department.

With the approval of the new OPIF, and by achieving 91% of its MFO targets and 100% of its good governance conditions, the Department has gained eligibility to receive the Performance-Based Bonus for 2012.

Protocol Assistance

Several high-level visits of Ministers and other foreign dignitaries were held during the year in which the Department provided assistance.

From January to December 2012, the DFA-OP assisted 51 socials/activities/events. The guests who attended these events include the visits of the US Congressional and Senate Delegation, the Malaysian Foreign Minister Dato Sri Anifah H.J. Aman, the First Deputy Prime Minister and foreign Minister of the Czech Republic Karel Schwarzenbert, the Premier of British Columbia Christy Clark, the Minister of foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq Hoshyar Zebari, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Murray McCully, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada John Bird, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Edward Nalbandian, the Undersecretary of State of the Republic of Poland HE Jerzy Polmonawski, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Prof. Exmeleddin Ihsanoglu, US Senator Richard Lugar, the Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs, Republic of Hungary, and Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Le Luong Minh

In addition to socials and other events, the Department provided protocular assistance to 54 projects such as the Regional Consultative Meetings, the visit of the Emir of Kuwait, the ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group and the ASEAN-US Dialogue, the inauguration of regional and mall-based consular offices, among others.

Additionally, the Office of Protocol granted agreements to 24 foreign ambassadors; assisted in the presentation of credentials of 14 foreign ambassadors and accreditation

of 11 Philippine ambassadors; arranged 509 courtesy calls; sent out a total of 58 diplomatic correspondences to the Office of the President, 116 to DFA offices, 235 to Foreign Service Posts, and 99 to other offices; and facilitated 1586 airport courtesy endorsements.

Human Resource Management

In order to enable employees to contribute productively to the overall direction of the Department and play an effective role in accomplishing the organization's goals and objectives, the Department carried out several projects and initiatives throughout the year.

In closing down ten Embassies, Consulates General and Missions (Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona, Philippine Embassy in Caracas, Philippine Embassy in Dublin, Philippine Embassy in Koror, Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt, Philippine Embassy in Stockholm, Philippine Embassy in Bucharest, Philippine Embassy in Havana, Philippine Embassy in Helsinki, Philippine Consulate General in Saipan) this year, the Department undertook efforts to reallocate displaced personnel and resources to Embassies and Consulates General that needed strengthening. The personnel were transferred to Posts that service a high population of Filipinos. Twenty-two (22) personnel were cross-posted to the Middle-East and Africa; nine (9) personnel were transferred to the Asia-Pacific. In addition, four (4) personnel were sent to Philippine Embassies in Brasilia, Moscow, New Delhi, and Pretoria, respectively, to augment economic diplomacy work in these rapidly growing economies.

The Department's new Bidding Rotation System was fully implemented this year, ensuring a transparent method of applying for positions at Philippine Embassies, Consulates General and Missions. This allows for better matching of personnel skills with the requirements of these Embassies, Consulates General and Missions.

In compliance with Executive Order No. 80, entitled "Directing the Adoption of a Performance-Based Incentive System for Government Employees" the Department began the implementation of the Performance Based Bonus. The Office of Personnel and Administrative Services (OPAS), for its part, has begun to facilitate the rating of individuals within offices (as provided in the Order) as Good, Better, and Best, to determine the bonus they would receive at the end of the year.

Following the Secretary's vow of recruiting only "the best and the brightest" and pursuant to its mandate, the Board of Foreign Service Examinations (BFSE) successfully conducted the Foreign Service Officer Examination in 2012. A total of nine (9) examinees were recommended by the Secretary for appointment. Additionally, the BFSE certified the eligibility of 20 candidates to the position of Career Minister in March.

To ensure that the skills of its current pool of talents are enhanced and further honed, the Department had its employees and officers undergo training at the Foreign Service Institute in public service, public diplomacy, assistance to nationals, gender sensitivity, financial literacy, economic diplomacy, national security, and environmental policy conservation and protection.

ANNEX A

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES

I. NATIONAL SECURITY

	Bilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States on Political Consultations and other Matters of Common Interest	16 February 2012		
2	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republic of the Philippines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		12 July 2011	08 May 2012
3	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China		23 December 2010	08 May 2012
4	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Navy and the Vietnam's People's Navy for the Enhancement of Mutual Cooperation and Information Sharing		10 May 2012	
5	Memorandum of Agreement on the Establishment of a Hotline Communication Mechanism between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Vietnam Marine Police		19 June 2012	
6	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada on the Establishment of a Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation	21 June 2012		
7	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Australia on the Status of Visiting Forces of Each State in the Territory of the Other State		23 December 2010	24 July 2012
8	Supplemental Implementing Arrangement (SIA) between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea on the Procurement of Certain Defense Materials and the Arrangement for the Transfer of Naval Ammunitions	13 August 2012		
9	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the Establishment of Political Consultations	15 August 2012		

10	Memorandum on Mutual Understanding and Cooperation (MMUC) in the Field of Elections between the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the COMELEC	22 August 2012		
11	Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Federal Police and the Philippine National Police on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation	03 October 2012		
12	Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of New Zealand and the New Zealand Defence Force	23 October 2012		
13	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Canadian Government on Government-to-Government Transactions in Defense and Military-Related Equipment Materials, Systems and/or Services	10 November 2012		
14	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation in Search and Rescue at Sea		28 November 2012	
15	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation in Oil Spill Preparedness and Response		28 November 2012	
16	Implementing Arrangement on the Procurement of Defense Materials and Equipment between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State Israel	05 December 2012		
17	Joint Plan of Action between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11 December 2012		
	Multilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	Accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		09 December 2010	06 March 2012
2	Protocol No. 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts		23 December 2010	06 March 2012
3	ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve Agreement (APTERR)		27 March 2012	
4	Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinating Centre on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)		27 March 2012	
5	1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matter, 1972		27 March 2012	
6	Instrument of Incorporation of the Rules for Reference of Non-Compliance to	02 April 2012		

	the ASEAN Summit to the Protocol to the ASEAN Charter on Dispute Settlement Mechanism			
7	Declaration on Drug-Free ASEAN 2015 by the ASEAN Leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit	04 April 2012		
8	ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan on Disaster Relief	12 July 2012		
9	Statement of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea	20 July 2012		
10	Accession to the International Convention on International Collisions at Sea, 1972		16 November 2012	

II. ECONOMIC/ CULTURAL

	Bilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States	16 February 2012		
2	Executive Program for the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Kuwait for the Years 2012-2014	23 March 2012		
3	Philippine-Kuwait Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture and Fisheries Cooperation	23 March 2012		
4	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea	02 April 2012		
5	Philippine-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation	10 April 2012		
6	Philippine-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding on Study of Investment Cooperation	10 April 2012		
7	Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport (the Russian Federation)/ Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy/ and the Philippine Sports Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Physical Culture and Sport	16 April 2012		
8	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Mine Reclamation/Rehabilitation in the Philippines	25 April 2012		

9	Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Project Protection and Rehabilitation of Coastal Ecosystems for Improved Adaptation to Climate Change in the Philippines and the Coral Triangle	07 May 2012		
10	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Foreign Service Institute and the Lao Institute of Foreign Affairs	10 May 2012		
11	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Sports Commission and the Lao Ministry of Education and Sports Cooperation	10 May 2012		
12	Agreement on Debt-for-Development Swap between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Italian Republic	29 May 2012		
13	Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Project Disaster Prevention in Urban Areas	15 June 2012		
14	Financing Agreement between the Philippines and the European Union to Support Local Government Units for More Effective and Accountable Public Finance Management	03 July 2012		
15	Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Degrees in Higher Education between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China		04 July 2012	
16	Philippines-European Union Partnership and Cooperation Agreement	11 July 2012		
17	Philippine-Mexico Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Customs Matter	31 August 2012		
18	Confidential Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on Air Services	06 September 2012		
19	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Sports Commission of the Representative of the Philippines and the Secretariat of Sports of the Argentine Republic on Sports Cooperation	14 September 2012		
20	Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the Argentine Republic	14 September 2012		
21	Philippine-US Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation		18 September 2012	
22	Philippine-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation	10 April 2012	18 September 2012	

23	Confidential Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Air Services	25 September 2012		
24	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of South Africa on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultative Forum	27 September 2012		
25	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Communications Concerning Cooperation in the Field of Shipping and Ports		16 October 2012	
26	Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income		18 October 2012	
27	Declaration of Intent between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the French Republic Relating to a Study for Energy Production from Biomass	19 October 2012		
28	Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the French Republic on the Philippine Exhibition at the Musee Du Quai Branly	19 October 2012		
29	Agreement of Collaboration on the Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Studies and Academic Programs between the Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports of the Kingdom of Spain	23 October 2012		
30	Memorandum of Understanding for the Improvement and Promotion of Spanish Language and Culture Teaching between the Department of Education of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain	23 October 2012		
31	Agreement of Collaboration between the Philippine Normal University (PNU) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain, the Cervantes Institute, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation	23 October 2012		
32	Sports Cooperation Programme between the Philippine Sports Council and the High Council for Sports of Spain	23 October 2012		
33	Agreement of Collaboration between the Technical Education and Skills	23 October 2012		

	Development Authority of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport; and the Sports Cooperation Programme of the Kingdom of Spain			
34	Arrangement on Working Holiday Scheme between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of New Zealand	23 October 2012		
35	Arrangement on Geothermal Energy Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of New Zealand	23 October 2012		
36	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Australia Relating to Air Services	24 October 2012		
37	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Presidential Communication Operations Office (PCOO) and the State of Council Information Office (SCIO) of China on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation		29 October 2012	
38	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines represented by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and the Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD) on AFD's Development Cooperation Activities in the Philippines	23 May 2012	29 October 2012	
39	Financing Agreement between the Philippines and the European Union on "Justice for All: Enhancing Accessibility, Fighting Impunity"	07 November 2012		
40	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines relating to Air Services	14 November 2012		
41	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology	19 November 2012		
42	Financing Agreement between the Philippines and the European Union on Trade Related Technical Assistance Programme III	03 December 2012		
43	Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United Kingdom, Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Air Services	11 December 2012		
	Multilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) to Establish an Office of the World Fish Center in the Philippines		27 January 2011	06 March 2012

2	Protocol to Implement the Fifth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services		27 March 2012	
3	Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services		27 March 2012	
4	Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning International Registration of Marks		27 March 2012	
5	ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on the Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services and its Protocols 1 and 2		28 March 2012	
6	Second Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Among the Governments of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea		04 July 2012	
7	Establishment of Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as an International Organization		18 September 2012	
8	Endorsement for the Ratification Process of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit	16 October 2012		
9	ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Inter-State Transport		28 November 2012	

III. ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS

	Bilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Kuwait on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports	23 March 2012		
2	Consular Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China		31 March 2012	08 May 2012
3	Arrangement between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Member of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post	09 May 2012		
4	Convention on Social Security between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain		06 September 2011	15 May 2012
5	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and	15 August 2012		

	Government of the Republic of Armenia on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for holders of diplomatic, special and official passports			
6	Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines represented by the Department of Labor and Employment and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon represented by the Ministry of Labor		16 August 2012	
7	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Kuwait in the Field of Labor Cooperation		30 August 2012	
8	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Swiss Federal Council on the Performance of Remunerated Activities by Dependents of Members of Diplomatic Missions, Consular Posts, and Permanent Missions		30 August 2012	
9	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Denmark	11 September 2012		
10	Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of the Philippines and Argentine Republic on Remunerated Activities for Dependant Relatives of Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical Staff of their Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices and of their Representatives before International Organizations	14 September 2012		
11	Agreement on Social Security between the Republic of the Philippines and the Portuguese Republic	14 September 2012		
	Multilateral Agreements	Date Signed	Presidential Ratification	Senate Concurrence
1	ILO Convention 185 (Seafarers' Identity Convention, Revised), 2003	11 October 2011	19 January 2012	
2	ILO Convention 189 (Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers)		18 May 2012	06 August 2012
3	Maritime Labour Convention, 2006		28 May 2102	13 August 2012

ANNEX B
OFFICIAL TRIPS OF PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO AND SECRETARY
ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO

JANUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
01-03 January	Official Visit	Syria	SFA
29 January	Official Visit	Iraq	SFA
FEBRUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
08-09 February	Official Visit	Myanmar	SFA
15-17 February	Official Visit	Mexico	SFA
MARCH			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
12-14 May	Official Visit	Russia	SFA
APRIL			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
02-04 April	20th ASEAN Summit	Cambodia	PBSA and SFA
30 April	Official Visit	United States	SFA
JUNE			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
04-06 June	Official Visit	United Kingdom	PBSA and SFA
06-09 June	Official Visit	USA	PBSA and SFA
20-22 June	Official Visit	Canada	SFA
25-28 June	Official Visit	Japan	SFA
AUGUST			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
21-22 August	Official Visit	New Zealand	SFA
25 August	Official Visit	China	SFA
29-30 August	Official Visit	Republic of Korea	SFA
SEPTEMBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
02-09 September	APEC Summit	Russia	PBSA and SFA
04-05 September	Official Visit	Syria	SFA
22-23 September	Visit	Brunei Darussalam	PBSA and SFA
24-29 September	Official Visit	United States (inc. UN General Assembly)	SFA
OCTOBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
11 October	Official Visit	Singapore	SFA
22-23 October	State Visit	New Zealand	PBSA and SFA
24-26 October	State Visit	Australia	PBSA and SFA
NOVEMBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
05-06 November	9 th ASEM Summit	Lao People's Democratic Republic	PBSA and SFA
17-21 November	21 st ASEAN Summit	Cambodia	PBSA and SFA

ANNEX C

INCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

JANUARY		
Date	Event	Official Guest
19 January	Official Visit	PM Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand
MARCH		
Date	Event	Official Guest
19-21 March	Official Visit	Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg of Czech Republic
21-23 March	Official Visit	Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization
23-25 March	Official Visit	Amir of the State of Kuwait
APRIL		
Date	Event	Official Guest
10 April	Official Visit	Emir of Qatar
11-14 April	State Visit	Governor-General Quentin Bryce of Australia
MAY – JUNE		
Date	Event	Official Guest
10-12 May	Official Visit	PM Thongsing Thammavong of Laos
17-20 May	Official Visit	Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin of the UN Food Programme
19 May	Official Visit	Premier Christy Clark of British Columbia, Canada
30 May-03 June	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari of Iraq
JULY		
Date	Event	Official Guest
02-06 July	Official Visit	Her Highness Queen Sofia of Spain
16-19 July	Official Visit	Foreign Minister John Baird of Canada
17-18 July	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Murray McCully of New Zealand
AUGUST		
Date	Event	Official Guest
15 August	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian of Armenia
SEPTEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
13-14 September	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Hector Timmerman of Argentina
OCTOBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
14 October	Official Visit	PM Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun

		Abdul Razak of Malaysia
19-21 October	Official Visit	Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault of France
NOVEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
09-11 November	Official Visit	Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada
DECEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
11 December	Official Visit	Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Hugo Swire of United Kingdom
16-17 December	Official Visit	Director General Guy Ryder of the International Labor Organization

ANNEX D
OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS/MEETINGS/VISITS HEADED BY
DFA SENIOR OFFICIALS

JANUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Head of Philippine Delegation
09-10 January	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-15 January	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)	China	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 January	17 th Foreign Ministry Consultations	China	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
17 January	1 st Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting Chairman's Support Group	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
23 January	4 th Philippines-Myanmar Political Consultations	Myanmar	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
25-29 January	Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue	United States	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
FEBRUARY			
04-07 February	5 th Philippines-Switzerland Political Consultation	Switzerland	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
04-07 February	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting on Business Mobility Group	Russia	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
09 February	1st Philippines-Sweden Political Consultation	Sweden	Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio
11-14 February	Delhi Dialogue IV	India	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
13-17 February	Implementation and Assessment Group Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism	Morocco	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
18-19 February	APEC 1 st Senior Officials Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
23-24 February	APEC Business Advisory Council Senior Officials' Meeting Dialogue	Hong Kong	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
24-25 February	Enhancing Peace Through Mediation: New Actors, Fresh Approaches, Bold Initiatives	Turkey	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
MARCH			
01-02 March	Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Senior Officials' Meeting	Denmark	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
01-03 March	18 th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
03-06 March	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, ASEAN Senior	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

	Officials' Meeting, Senior Official Committee for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Meeting and Joint Preparatory Meeting		
07-09 March	Regional Seminar on International Civil Aviation Organization Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group	Austria	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
09 March	Asia-India Eminent Persons Group	Malaysia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16 March	Negotiations with Kuwaiti Officials on Pending Philippines-Kuwait Bilateral Agreements	Kuwait	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
22-23 March	ASEAN Awareness	Rome	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
23 March	Unarmed Civilian Protection High-Level Briefing in the United Nations	United States	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
23-24 March	Philippines-Japan Vice Ministerial Strategic Dialogue	Japan	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26-27 March	2 nd Nuclear Security Summit	South Korea	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
27-29 March	Negotiations with Qatari Officials on Pending Philippines-Qatar Bilateral Agreements	Qatar	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
31 March-04 April	ASEAN Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
APRIL			
April	Launching of the 2012-2013 China-Philippines Years of Friendly Exchanges in Beijing	China	Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro
18 April	Philippines-Oman Informal Bilateral Consultations	Oman	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
23-27 April	ASEAN – European Union (EU) Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting and the ASEAN – EU Ministerial Meeting	Brunei	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26 April	19 th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Bilateral Meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, Finland, Croatia, and Hungary)	Brunei	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
MAY			
07-10 May	Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meeting	Egypt	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
09-10 May	6 th Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting	Israel	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-16 May	Official Visit	Sri Lanka	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
15-16 May	Philippines-Iran Informal Bilateral Consultations	Iran	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia

17-18 May	Conference on the Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction	Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
13-16 May	Official Visit	Sri Lanka	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23-28 May	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting, ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3) Senior Officials' Meeting, Ad-Hoc Consultations among East Asia Summit Senior Officials, ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting, Joint Meeting of ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC, and 14 th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
24-27 May	APEC Senior Officials' Meeting II on Business Mobility Group	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
JUNE			
02-03 June	APEC 2 nd Senior Officials' Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
05-07 June	2 nd Conference on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for Border Management	Thailand	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
08-09 June	4 th ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials' Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 June	Senior Officials' Meeting	Myanmar	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14-15 June	4 th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Senior Officials' Meeting	Republic of Korea	OUP Senior Special Assistant Lamberto V. Monsanto
14-15 June	7 th International Forum on the electronic Apostille Pilot Program	Turkey	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
15 June	Technical Working Group for the Consultation with the Russian Federal Migration Service	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
24-26 June	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
29 June	1 st Philippines-Russia Bilateral Consular Consultation	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
JULY			
06-13 July	45 th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting / Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) / 19 th ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives and Signing Ceremony for the Protocol	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

	to the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty		
17-18 July	7 th Round of the Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting	Egypt	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
21-23 July	Philippine National Day at the Yeosu Expo	South Korea	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
24 July	Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Committee Meeting	Philippines	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
25-27 July	Official Mission to Palau	Republic of Palau	Executive Director Bernardita L. Catalla
AUGUST			
15-17 August	10 th East Asia Forum	Myanmar	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
SEPTEMBER			
03-07 September	16 th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and the Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM), the 8 th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum, and the 8 th DGICM + Australia Consultation	Thailand	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
10-15 September	Joint Preparatory Meeting, ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting, ASEAN+3 Senior Officials' Meeting and Ad-Hoc Consultations among EAS Senior Officials	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
12-13 September	ASEM Senior Officials Meeting	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
15-16 September	4 th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Commission Meeting	Iran	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
16-17 September	4 th ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group	India	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16-17 September	Joint Meeting of the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23-29 September	UN General Assembly's 67 th Session, High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law, and other meetings at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly	United States	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26-28 September	Scoping Mission	Mongolia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
OCTOBER			
01 October	2 nd Philippines-Croatia Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
04-05 October	Budapest Conference on Cyberspace	Hungary	Undersecretary Jose S. Brillantes
10-12 October	Hungary-ASEAN Awareness Forum	Hungary	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
11 October	2 nd Philippines-Poland Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

11 October	Meeting with the Chief Minister of Sabah	Malaysia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-15 October	Asia Cooperation Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting	Kuwait	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16 October	1 st Philippines-Colombia Bilateral Consultations Meeting	Colombia	Assistant Secretary Carlos D. Sorreta
17 October	Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting	Colombia	Assistant Secretary Carlos D. Sorreta
23 October	Meeting on Philippines-Vietnam Agreement on Merchant Shipping	Vietnam	Assistant Secretary Gilberto B. Asuque
23 October	Philippines-Spain High Level Political Consultations	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23 October	1 st Philippine-Spain Joint Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Sports	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
28-30 October	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Retreat	Thailand	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
NOVEMBER			
01-03 November	ASEM Senior Officials Meeting	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
08-09 November	2 nd Philippine-Brazil Bilateral Consultations Meeting	Brazil	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
12 November	4 th Philippines-Hungary Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-18 November	39 th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers	Djibouti	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
14-21 November	ASEAN Senior Officials Preparatory Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
21 November	Philippines-Republic of Korea Bilateral Consular Consultation Meeting	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
21-22 November	Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit Meeting	Mauritius	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
26 November	3 rd Philippines-UK High Level Meeting	United Kingdom	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
27-28 November	4th Philippines- Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting	Saudi Arabia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
27 November	Philippines-Ireland 1 st Bilateral Consultation	Ireland	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
28-29 November	Joint ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights -Australian Human Rights Commission Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility	Singapore	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
DECEMBER			
05-06 December	2nd Philippines-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting	Nigeria	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

06-07 December	APEC Informal Senior Officials' Meeting	Indonesia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
10 December	8 th Philippines-Russia Political Consultations	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
10 December	Meeting on the 7 th Philippines-Vietnam Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation –Senior Officials' Meeting	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
11-12 December	3 rd Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 December	Senior Officials' Meeting of the 7 th Philippines-Vietnam Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

ANNEX E

SPEECHES/ REMARKS/ STATEMENTS OF THE SECRETARY

Date	Title
20 January	Statement of Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario Commending the Filipino Crew of MV Costa Concordia
21 February	"Economic Diplomacy Towards Achieving Inclusive Growth" (Speech delivered at the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines General Membership Luncheon)
29 February	"Advancing the Three Pillars of Philippine Foreign Policy" (Remarks of Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario at the "MOPC Diplomatic Night")
11 March	Press Statement of Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario, Joint Press Conference on the Philippine-Russian Bilateral Meeting in Moscow
20 March	Press Statement of Secretary Albert F. del Rosario on the visit of Czech Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg
20 March	Welcome Remarks On the Occasion of the Launching of the 2012-2013 Philippines-China Years of Friendly Exchanges
02 May	Common Challenges, New Developments in the Philippines-US Alliance (Remarks by the Secretary Albert F. del Rosario at the Heritage Foundation)
08 May	Statement of Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario on the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
16 May	Remarks of Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario on Philippine Foreign Affairs at the Joint Membership Meeting of the Makati Business Club and the Management Association of the Philippines
23 May	Giving Life to the Letter and Spirit of our Charter (Statement by the Secretary at the High Level Meeting on the "The Role of Member States in Mediation")
30 May	2012 Philippine Commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
26 July	The Commemoration of the 148 th Anniversary of the Birth of Apolinario Mabini
03 August	Opening Remarks by Secretary Albert F. del Rosario at the Angara Centre for Law and Economic Policy Inaugural Conference on Globalization, Innovation and Economic Growth
10 August	Remarks 45th Anniversary of the Founding of ASEAN
16 August	A Principled Philippine Foreign Policy
03 September	Remarks of Secretary Albert F. del Rosario on the Occasion of the Observance of the National Peace Consciousness Month
26 September	Philippine Foreign Policy: In Pursuit of a Just and Enduring Peace
01 October	Statement of Secretary Albert F. del Rosario at the General Debate of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
10 October	Sustained Growth Via Good Governance (International Gala Night, 38 th Philippine Business Conference)
13 December	Statement of Secretary Albert F. del Rosario on the Occasion of the Unveiling of the Commemorative Stamp on the 30th Anniversary of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes
13 December	Foreign Policy Under the Aquino Administration: The European Perspective by Secretary Albert F. del Rosario at the Luncheon Hosted by European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

(Additional)

Date	Title
11 January	Statement of Secretary del Rosario at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat
16 January	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Foreign Affairs and SM Prime Holdings Inc.
26 January	Speech of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the National Day of India
26 January	Speech of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the National Day of Australia
08 February	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario during the Dinner Reception with the Filipino Community in Myanmar
22 February	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the 51 st National Day and the 21 st Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait
23 February	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the 28 th National Day of Brunei Darussalam
24 February	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario for the Distinguished Service Award Ceremony
28 February	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Inauguration of the DFA Consular Office-Cebu
01 March	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Reception in Honor of Senior Justice Prof. Dr. Florentino P. Feliciano, Philippine Candidate to the International Court of Justice
05 March	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Reception for the Delegates to the Regional Consultative Meetings and AIM Strategic Management and Leadership Program
11-15 March	Opening Remarks of Secretary del Rosario during the Bilateral Meeting with Minister Sergey Lavrov
	Press Statement of Secretary del Rosario at the Joint Press Conference Bilateral Meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
	Speech by Secretary del Rosario in Moscow
19 March	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at a Lunch with the Team Philippines Germany
27 March	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the Visit to the Global Gateway Logistics City, Clark Freeport Zone
29 March	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of Philippines-Japan Exchange of Notes on Six (6) Japanese Yen Loan and Two (2) Grant Aid Projects
14 April	Draft Opening Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the DFA Strategic Planning Workshop
14 April	Draft Remarks of Secretary del Rosario during the Fellowship Dinner of the DFA Strategic Planning Workshop
30 April	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Joint Press Availability (Washington DC)
30 April	Opening Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the 1 st Philippines-US 2+2 Meeting
09 May	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of Europe Day Reception

21 May	Welcome Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Dinner for the Delegates to the 1 st Meeting of the ASEAN-US Eminent Persons Group and the 25 th ASEAN-US Dialogue
25 May	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the Opening of the GCC Photo Exhibit
01 June	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the National Day of the Italian Republic
21 June	'Engaging Canadian Business in Conversation' (Opening Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Conversation with Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Business Enablers)
28 June	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Luncheon Meeting Hosted by the International Friendship Exchange Council
02 July	Intervention of Secretary del Rosario at the ASEAN Regional Forum
03 July	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Signing of Philippines-EU Program Support to Local Government Units for More Effective and Accountable Public Financial Management
09 July	Statement of Secretary del Rosario at the 45 th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Retreat Session
12 July	Intervention of Secretary del Rosario at the Plenary Session of the 2 nd East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting
17 July	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Lunch with Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand
28 July	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the 65 th Founding Anniversary of the All Nations Women's Group
30 July	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario at the Inauguration of DFA-Angeles and Awarding of CSC Seal of Excellence Award
09 August	Remarks of Secretary del Rosario on the Occasion of the 47 th National Day Reception of the Republic of Singapore

ANNEX B
OFFICIAL TRIPS OF PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO AND SECRETARY
ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO

JANUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
01-03 January	Official Visit	Syria	SFA
29 January	Official Visit	Iraq	SFA
FEBRUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
08-09 February	Official Visit	Myanmar	SFA
MARCH			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
12-14 May	Official Visit	Russia	SFA
APRIL			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
02-04 April	20th ASEAN Summit	Cambodia	PBSA and SFA
30 April	Official Visit	United States	SFA
JUNE			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
04-06 June	Official Visit	United Kingdom	PBSA and SFA
06-09 June	Official Visit	USA	PBSA and SFA
20-22 June	Official Visit	Canada	SFA
25-28 June	Official Visit	Japan	SFA
AUGUST			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
21-22 August	Official Visit	New Zealand	SFA
25 August	Official Visit	China	SFA
29-30 August	Official Visit	Republic of Korea	SFA
SEPTEMBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
02-09 September	APEC Summit	Russia	PBSA and SFA
04-05 September	Official Visit	Syria	SFA
22-23 September	Visit	Brunei Darussalam	PBSA and SFA
24-29 September	Official Visit	United States (inc. UN General Assembly)	SFA
OCTOBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
11 October	Official Visit	Singapore	SFA
22-23 October	State Visit	New Zealand	PBSA and SFA
24-26 October	State Visit	Australia	PBSA and SFA
NOVEMBER			
Date	Event	Country	Participation
05-06 November	9 th ASEM Summit	Lao People's Democratic Republic	PBSA and SFA
17-21 November	21 st ASEAN Summit	Cambodia	PBSA and SFA

ANNEX C

INCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

JANUARY		
Date	Event	Official Guest
19 January	Official Visit	PM Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand
MARCH		
Date	Event	Official Guest
19-21 March	Official Visit	Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg of Czech Republic
21-23 March	Official Visit	Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization
23-25 March	Official Visit	Amir of the State of Kuwait
APRIL		
Date	Event	Official Guest
10 April	Official Visit	Emir of Qatar
11-14 April	State Visit	Governor-General Quentin Bryce of Australia
MAY – JUNE		
Date	Event	Official Guest
10-12 May	Official Visit	PM Thongsing Thammavong of Laos
17-20 May	Official Visit	Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin of the UN Food Programme
19 May	Official Visit	Premier Christy Clark of British Columbia, Canada
30 May-03 June	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari of Iraq
JULY		
Date	Event	Official Guest
02-06 July	Official Visit	Her Highness Queen Sofia of Spain
16-19 July	Official Visit	Foreign Minister John Baird of Canada
17-18 July	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Murray McCully of New Zealand
AUGUST		
Date	Event	Official Guest
15 August	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian of Armenia
SEPTEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
13-14 September	Official Visit	Foreign Minister Hector Timmerman of Argentina
OCTOBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
14 October	Official Visit	PM Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun

		Abdul Razak of Malaysia
19-21 October	Official Visit	Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault of France
NOVEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
09-11 November	Official Visit	Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada
DECEMBER		
Date	Event	Official Guest
11 December	Official Visit	Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Hugo Swire of United Kingdom
16-17 December	Official Visit	Director General Guy Ryder of the International Labor Organization

ANNEX D
OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS/MEETINGS/VISITS HEADED BY
DFA SENIOR OFFICIALS

JANUARY			
Date	Event	Country	Head of Philippine Delegation
09-10 January	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-15 January	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC)	China	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 January	17 th Foreign Ministry Consultations	China	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
17 January	1 st Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting Chairman's Support Group	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
23 January	4 th Philippines-Myanmar Political Consultations	Myanmar	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
25-29 January	Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue	United States	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
FEBRUARY			
04-07 February	5 th Philippines-Switzerland Political Consultation	Switzerland	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
04-07 February	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting on Business Mobility Group	Russia	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
09 February	1st Philippines-Sweden Political Consultation	Sweden	Undersecretary Erlinda Basilio
11-14 February	Delhi Dialogue IV	India	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
13-17 February	Implementation and Assessment Group Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism	Morocco	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
18-19 February	APEC 1 st Senior Officials Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
23-24 February	APEC Business Advisory Council Senior Officials' Meeting Dialogue	Hong Kong	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
24-25 February	Enhancing Peace Through Mediation: New Actors, Fresh Approaches, Bold Initiatives	Turkey	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
MARCH			
01-02 March	Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Senior Officials' Meeting	Denmark	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
01-03 March	18 th ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Consultations	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
03-06 March	Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, ASEAN Senior	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

	Officials' Meeting, Senior Official Committee for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Meeting and Joint Preparatory Meeting		
07-09 March	Regional Seminar on International Civil Aviation Organization Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group	Austria	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
09 March	Asia-India Eminent Persons Group	Malaysia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16 March	Negotiations with Kuwaiti Officials on Pending Philippines-Kuwait Bilateral Agreements	Kuwait	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
22-23 March	ASEAN Awareness	Rome	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
23 March	Unarmed Civilian Protection High-Level Briefing in the United Nations	United States	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
23-24 March	Philippines-Japan Vice Ministerial Strategic Dialogue	Japan	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26-27 March	2 nd Nuclear Security Summit	South Korea	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
27-29 March	Negotiations with Qatari Officials on Pending Philippines-Qatar Bilateral Agreements	Qatar	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
31 March-04 April	ASEAN Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
APRIL			
April	Launching of the 2012-2013 China-Philippines Years of Friendly Exchanges in Beijing	China	Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro
18 April	Philippines-Oman Informal Bilateral Consultations	Oman	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia
23-27 April	ASEAN – European Union (EU) Senior Officials' Preparatory Meeting and the ASEAN – EU Ministerial Meeting	Brunei	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26 April	19 th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Bilateral Meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, Finland, Croatia, and Hungary)	Brunei	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
MAY			
07-10 May	Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meeting	Egypt	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
09-10 May	6 th Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting	Israel	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-16 May	Official Visit	Sri Lanka	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
15-16 May	Philippines-Iran Informal Bilateral Consultations	Iran	Assistant Secretary Petronila P. Garcia

17-18 May	Conference on the Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction	Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
13-16 May	Official Visit	Sri Lanka	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23-28 May	ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting, ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3) Senior Officials' Meeting, Ad-Hoc Consultations among East Asia Summit Senior Officials, ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting, Joint Meeting of ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC, and 14 th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
24-27 May	APEC Senior Officials' Meeting II on Business Mobility Group	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
JUNE			
02-03 June	APEC 2 nd Senior Officials' Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
05-07 June	2 nd Conference on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for Border Management	Thailand	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
08-09 June	4 th ASEAN-Russia Senior Officials' Meeting	Russia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 June	Senior Officials' Meeting	Myanmar	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14-15 June	4 th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Senior Officials' Meeting	Republic of Korea	OUP Senior Special Assistant Lamberto V. Monsanto
14-15 June	7 th International Forum on the electronic Apostille Pilot Program	Turkey	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
15 June	Technical Working Group for the Consultation with the Russian Federal Migration Service	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
24-26 June	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
29 June	1 st Philippines-Russia Bilateral Consular Consultation	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
JULY			
06-13 July	45 th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting / Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) / 19 th ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives and Signing Ceremony for the Protocol	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

	to the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty		
17-18 July	7 th Round of the Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting	Egypt	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
21-23 July	Philippine National Day at the Yeosu Expo	South Korea	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
24 July	Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Committee Meeting	Philippines	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
25-27 July	Official Mission to Palau	Republic of Palau	Executive Director Bernardita L. Catalla
AUGUST			
15-17 August	10 th East Asia Forum	Myanmar	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
SEPTEMBER			
03-07 September	16 th Meeting of the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and the Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM), the 8 th ASEAN Immigration Intelligence Forum, and the 8 th DGICM + Australia Consultation	Thailand	Executive Director Wilfredo C. Santos
10-15 September	Joint Preparatory Meeting, ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting, ASEAN+3 Senior Officials' Meeting and Ad-Hoc Consultations among EAS Senior Officials	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
12-13 September	ASEM Senior Officials Meeting	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
15-16 September	4 th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Commission Meeting	Iran	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
16-17 September	4 th ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group	India	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16-17 September	Joint Meeting of the ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23-29 September	UN General Assembly's 67 th Session, High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law, and other meetings at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly	United States	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
26-28 September	Scoping Mission	Mongolia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
OCTOBER			
01 October	2 nd Philippines-Croatia Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
04-05 October	Budapest Conference on Cyberspace	Hungary	Undersecretary Jose S. Brillantes
10-12 October	Hungary-ASEAN Awareness Forum	Hungary	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
11 October	2 nd Philippines-Poland Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

11 October	Meeting with the Chief Minister of Sabah	Malaysia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-15 October	Asia Cooperation Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting and Ministerial Meeting	Kuwait	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
16 October	1 st Philippines-Colombia Bilateral Consultations Meeting	Colombia	Assistant Secretary Carlos D. Sorreta
17 October	Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting	Colombia	Assistant Secretary Carlos D. Sorreta
23 October	Meeting on Philippines-Vietnam Agreement on Merchant Shipping	Vietnam	Assistant Secretary Gilberto B. Asuque
23 October	Philippines-Spain High Level Political Consultations	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
23 October	1 st Philippine-Spain Joint Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Sports	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
28-30 October	ASEAN-China Senior Officials' Retreat	Thailand	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
NOVEMBER			
01-03 November	ASEM Senior Officials Meeting	Lao PDR	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
08-09 November	2 nd Philippine-Brazil Bilateral Consultations Meeting	Brazil	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
12 November	4 th Philippines-Hungary Political Consultation	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
13-18 November	39 th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers	Djibouti	Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis
14-21 November	ASEAN Senior Officials Preparatory Meeting	Cambodia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
21 November	Philippines-Republic of Korea Bilateral Consular Consultation Meeting	Philippines	Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda
21-22 November	Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit Meeting	Mauritius	Assistant Secretary Eduardo Martin R. Meñez
26 November	3 rd Philippines-UK High Level Meeting	United Kingdom	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
27-28 November	4th Philippines- Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting	Saudi Arabia	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
27 November	Philippines-Ireland 1 st Bilateral Consultation	Ireland	Assistant Secretary Elizabeth P. Buensuceso
28-29 November	Joint ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights -Australian Human Rights Commission Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility	Singapore	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
DECEMBER			
05-06 December	2nd Philippines-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting	Nigeria	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio

06-07 December	APEC Informal Senior Officials' Meeting	Indonesia	Undersecretary Laura Q. Del Rosario
10 December	8 th Philippines-Russia Political Consultations	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
10 December	Meeting on the 7 th Philippines-Vietnam Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation –Senior Officials' Meeting	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
11-12 December	3 rd Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue	Philippines	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio
14 December	Senior Officials' Meeting of the 7 th Philippines-Vietnam Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation	Vietnam	Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio