



7 March 2013 – The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in partnership with the Commission

on Elections (COMELEC) recently conducted a three-day training on the conduct of voting, counting and canvassing for the personnel of Philippine Foreign Service Posts and Manila Economic and Cultural Offices who will act as Special Board of Election Inspectors (SBEI), Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group (SBRCG) and Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC) on the May 13, 2013 national elections.

The training was conducted at Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila from February 11 to 13.

The session with the singing of the Philippine national anthem by the COMELEC Chorale. This was followed by speeches and remarks from Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jose S. Brillantes, Chairman of the DFA's Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat, COMELEC Chairman Sixto S. Brillantes Jr. and COMELEC Committee on Absentee Voting (COAV) Chairman, Commissioner Lucenito N. Tagle.



A total of 85 representatives from different FSPs in Asia and the Pacific Region which also includes the MECOs and a number of FSPs in the Middle East and African Region attended and participated the aforementioned training which is just a kick-off of a series of similar trainings that will be conducted in strategically located areas abroad to cover all regions of the world.

The first two days focused on lectures, while the last day was devoted to hands-on training

through a mock election. Overseas Voting 2013 t-shirts were given as prizes to groups that excelled in the mock elections.

The closing program was highlighted with messages from two training participants, Philippine Ambassador to Australia Belen F. Anot and former OAV Vice Chairman, Philippine Ambassador to Israel Generoso D.G. Calonge.

The three-day training concluded with the awarding of certificates of appreciation to the participants and certificates of commendation to the COMELEC trainers and members of the training secretariat from DFA-OAVS and COMELEC-COAV. END

AREA (Posts Covered)	DATES (Exclusive of travel time)
BERLIN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	28 February 2013 to 02 March 2013
CHICAGO, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	08 March 2013 to 10 March 2013
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	03 April 2013 to 05 April 2013
	07 April 2013 to 09 April 2013
RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	06 April 2013 to 08 April 2013
JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	10 April 2013 to 12 April 2013
KUWAIT, STATE OF KUWAIT	
HONG KONG, SAR	9 April 2013 to 11 April 2013
SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE	