



Country Brief – Philippines

Update

Australia is a key partner with the Philippines and the largest provider of overseas development assistance (ODA) to the Philippines. Education is a key feature of the ODA provided through AusAID.

- AusAID's works in the education sector is focused on basic education (the building of schools infrastructure and funding and facilitating the development and progression of the Philippines education from a K-10 to a K-12 system) and the provision of development scholarships.

The Department's government to government work in the Philippines is limited and focused on cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), together with the promotion of Endeavour Awards.

Government to Government

Some government to government work is undertaken in the Philippines by the Counsellor (Education and Research) based in Bangkok. This work covers issues associated with regional policy, harmonisation and integration, qualifications recognition and quality assurance.

Priority activities that will be pursued with the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) in 2013-14 are as follows:

1. Ongoing work with CHED on a project to undertake university and campus consolidation in conjunction with improving quality assurance arrangements; development of a Philippines Qualifications Framework for the higher education sector; and
2. Future activities will involve arranging a workshop in the Philippines on the development of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF), facilitated by Australian experts, which would build upon the 2011 ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) Forum on the development of an ASEAN Regional Qualifications Framework and seek to form the basis of a longer-term process for improving education outcomes, teaching and assessment standards and quality assurance arrangements in the Philippines higher education institutions.

Activities are also focused on Endeavour Awards promotional activities with leading private and public institutions.

Institutional Linkages

Institutional cooperative activities are increasing between institutions in the Philippines and Australia.

Activity around nursing education has been a feature of this interaction, with several Australian institutions considering linkages with Philippines institutions to provide bridging programs and / or in-country training to meet Australian nursing registration and accreditation requirements.

The Department is working with Austrade to identify possible TNE opportunities for Australian institutions in the Philippines, in addition to joint / dual program collaborative activities.

Key Players

Minister of Education: Brother Armin Altamirano Luistro

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA): Emmanuel Joel J. Villanueva - Director General

Commission on Higher Education: Patricia B. Licuanan - Chairperson

Philippines Ambassador to Australia: HE Ms Belen F. Anota

Australia Ambassador to Philippines: HE Mr Bill Tweddell

Student Numbers

In 2012, the Philippines ranked 17th for international student enrolments, up from 28th in 2007.

Growth in the English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) has increased by 29.2% but makes up only 6.4% of all enrolments and does not make a significant contribution to the overall Philippines cohort.

Higher education enrolments currently make up 21.2% of all enrolments.

2012 VET enrolments (3,938) represented growth of 18.7% when compared to 2011.

Counsellor contact details

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