



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OFFICE

**Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop
on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program (EVP):
Mindanao**

CONCEPT NOTE
(as of 20th October 2022)

Background

The International Cooperation Office (ICO) is anchored on the goal of enhancing the institutional capacity of the Department of Education (DepEd) by developing, coordinating, fulfilling, and managing the international commitments of the country on basic education. The ICO is also mandated to serve as the clearinghouse for all international transactions within DepEd and to strengthen the ties of DepEd with its international partners, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The ICO was created primarily to address the need of DepEd for a dedicated Office to oversee its international concerns. To attain this goal, the Office shall embark on:

- establishing and maintaining partnerships and commitments with international stakeholders;
- enriching international cooperation among partners, at bilateral and multilateral levels, in the field of education;
- endeavors as the relevant focal point in the planning and coordination of international and regional engagements of DepEd; and
- monitoring of foreign travels and the issuance of travel authorities of all DepEd officials and personnel.

U.S. Exchange Visitor Program

The Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) refers to the international exchange program administered by the United States, in the implementation of the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The law was intended *"to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the peoples of other countries"* through:

- An information service to disseminate abroad information about the United States, its people, and its policies; and
- An educational exchange service to cooperate with other nations in the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills; the rendering of technical and other services; and the interchange of developments in the field of education, arts, and sciences.
(<https://www.evpcommittee.ph/about-us/what-is-evp>)



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The Philippines is a participant in the EVP, where its implementation is facilitated and monitored by the EVP Committee of the Philippines. The Committee is an interagency body, chaired by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), that coordinates the country's participation in the EVP and properly channels the services of returned participants to the benefit of various Philippine government projects.

The DepEd's participation thereto was brought by the reconstitution of the EVP Committee by former President Fidel V. Ramos on January 17, 1996, as stipulated under Administrative Order No. 242. The inclusion of the teacher category was one of the EVP's thrusts to expand cultural exchanges to U.S. schools and students with Filipino teachers.

Philippine Participation in the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program

The CFO data shows that from 1998 to March 2020, a total of 64,357 Filipinos have participated in the EVP – 55,601 of which were new registrants while 8,756 were repeat registrants. Under the teacher category, the CFO recorded a total of 3,056 EVP teacher participants from 2014 to 2019.

While there were teacher-participants who garnered relatively significant gains out of their participation in the EVP, many issues persist to this day which continues to endanger the purpose of the program as well as the safety of the teacher-participants.

Based on the data gathered by DepEd, the following are the number of teacher-participants according to their Region of Origin as of July 2022:

REGION	PARTICIPANTS	RANK
Region I	27	10
Region II	11	14
Region III	104	3
Region IV-A	95	4
Region IV-B	9	16
Region V	15	12
Region VI	70	6
Region VII	197	1
Region VIII	41	8



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Region IX	44	7
Region X	92	5
Region XI	39	9
Region XII	12	13
CARAGA	18	11
CAR	10	15
NCR	139	2
BARMM	0	17
TOTAL		923

DepEd Implementation of the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program

Drawing from its experiences as the acting Secretariat of the DepEd implementation of the EVP, the ICO led several existing DepEd initiatives both at the policy and information dissemination levels in relation to the teacher category of the program especially after the EVP Committee lifted its moratorium on the participation of Filipino nationals in the program last April 2021 through the issuance of EVP Resolution No. 01-2021.

However, despite these measures, the ICO still receives an enormous number of queries as well as encounters incomplete submissions from teacher-participants and DepEd Offices alike as to the processes and requirements involved in the DepEd implementation of the program.

Activity

In this regard, the ICO will be conducting the "**Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program**" on 23-25 November 2022, in Davao City. This will be the fourth regional leg of the activity following the North Luzon, South Luzon and Visayas legs.

Moreover, the activity will follow an orientation-workshop format to be able to achieve its objectives and target outputs/outcomes.

Objectives

1. To provide an overview of the EVP-teacher category and its latest related data;
2. To outline the guidelines and processes observed by DepEd on the EVP-teacher category;



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3. To raise awareness and address the issues related to the DepEd’s implementation of as well as to the participation of DepEd teachers in the EVP;
4. To align the understanding of the DepEd Central and Field Offices on the EVP;
5. To provide a platform for consultation with the DepEd Field Offices to gather additional substantive inputs in the formulation of the “DepEd Order on the Guidelines for the Exchange Visitor Program (teacher category)”; and
6. To conform with DepEd Memorandum No. 12, s. 2019 on the protection of the welfare of Filipino teachers participating in the EVP.

Outputs/Outcomes

1. Data that will serve as DepEd’s reference in facilitating matters related to the EVP-teacher category with the EVP Committee of the Philippines;
2. Supplementary inputs (from the perspective of the Field Offices) for the crafting of the “DepEd Order on the Guidelines for the Exchange Visitor Program (teacher category)”;;
3. Creation of a DepEd Order to institutionalize the participation of teachers in the EVP; and
4. Negotiate with the U.S. Government, through the EVP Committee of the Philippines, for the ratification of an agreement for teacher-participants that will be beneficial to all Parties concerned.

Orientation Topics and Resource Persons

TOPIC/S	RESOURCE PERSON
CFO on EVP: EVP Secretariat Perspective	A representative from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)
DepEd Implementation of the EVP (DepEd Secretariat of the EVP-Teacher Category)	A representative from the DepEd-ICO
DepEd Implementation of the EVP (Personnel Actions related to the EVP-Teacher Category)	A representative from the DepEd-Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development (BHROD)



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Consultation Workshop

The consultation part of the activity will be facilitated through a workshop. The insights gained by the participants from the orientation and their EVP-related experiences on the ground will be used as points for further discussions in their breakout groups.

After the workshop, the participants are expected to present their outputs to the body where it will be critiqued and eventually, form part of the inputs to be considered by the Central Office in its drafting of the "DepEd Order on the Guidelines for the Exchange Visitor Program (teacher category)".

Participants

The target participants of the activity will be composed of the following representatives from the following DepEd Offices in the Mindanao region:

OFFICE	PREFERRED PERSONNEL	NO. OF PARTICIPANT
1. Regional Office IX	Representative from either of the following: ✓ Human Resource Development Division; or ✓ Legal Unit; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead	1
2. SDO Zamboanga del Sur	✓ Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ Assistant Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead	1
3. SDO Zamboanga del Norte		1
4. SDO Zamboanga Sibugay		1
5. SDO Zamboanga City		1
6. SDO Isabela City		1
7. SDO Dapitan City		1
8. SDO Pagadian City		1
9. SDO Dipolog City		1

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10. Regional Office X	<p>Representative from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Human Resource Development Division; or ✓ Legal Unit; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
11. SDO Bukidnon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ Assistant Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
12. SDO Cagayan de Oro City		1
13. SDO Camiguin		1
14. SDO Gingoog City		1
15. SDO El Salvador City		1
16. SDO Iligan City		1
17. SDO Lanao del Norte		1
18. SDO Malaybalay City		1
19. SDO Misamis Oriental		1
20. SDO Misamis Occidental		1
21. SDO Oroquieta City		1
22. SDO Ozamis City		1
23. SDO Tangub City		1
24. Regional Office XI	<p>Representative from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Human Resource Development Division; or ✓ Legal Unit; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
25. SDO Davao City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ Assistant Schools Division Superintendent; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
26. SDO Davao Occidental		1
27. SDO Davao del Norte		1
28. SDO Davao de Oro		1
29. SDO Davao Oriental		1

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30. SDO Davao del Sur		1
31. SDO Tagum City		1
32. SDO Igocos City		1
33. SDO Digos City		1
34. SDO Mati City		1
35. SDO Panabo City		1
36. SDO City		1
37. SDO City		1
38. Regional Office XII	<p>Representative from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Human Resource Development Division; or ✓ Legal Unit; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
39. SDO Cotabato		1
40. SDO Sarangani		1
41. SDO South Cotabato		1
42. SDO Sultan Kudarat		1
43. SDO General Santos City		1
44. SDO Kidapawan City		1
45. SDO Koronadal City		1
46. SDO Tacurong City		1
47. Regional Office XIII	<p>Representative from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Human Resource Development Division; or ✓ Legal Unit; or ✓ other representative as may be designated instead 	1
48. SDO Agusan del Norte		1
49. SDO Agusan del Sur		1
50. SDO Dinagat Islands		1
51. SDO Surigao del Norte		1



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52. SDO Surigao del Sur	✓ other representative as may be designated instead	1
53. SDO Bayugan City		1
54. SDO Bislig City		1
55. SDO Butuan City		1
56. SDO Cabadbaran City		1
57. SDO Surigao City		1
58. SDO Siargao		1
59. SDO Tandag City		1

Moreover, the basis of the preferred personnel mentioned above is on the usual Divisions or Units from the DepEd Field Offices that the ICO encounters or deals with regarding the processing and facilitation of requests for Central Office clearance and other EVP-related requirements.

As such, it is highly encouraged that the participating representatives in this activity must have an experience in processing or facilitating EVP-related documents.

Mode of Conduct

The activity will be conducted in-person at a specific venue (to be specified in due course) located in Davao City.

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