



INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT CY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Having signed and ratified the Hague Convention of 1993, on June 7, 1995, the Philippine Congress passed the Inter-country Adoption Act of 1995 or Republic Act 8043. The law established the Inter-country Adoption Board (ICAB) which serves as the Central Authority to ensure compliance with the Hague Convention of 1993. In compliance with RA 8043, ICAB passed the "Implementing Rules and Regulations" of Republic Act 8043 (Implementing Rules) on December 26, 1995. The IRR has undergone two amendments – on March 22, 2004 whereby the highlights included: (1) authorization and accreditation of foreign adoption agencies among the Non-Hague States; (2) provisions on failure of the physical transfer to occur, emergency intervention and reporting; and (3) disruption and termination of placements. The Board deliberated on the re-amendment of the 2004 Amended IRR and a public forum was held on May 18, 2006. It focused on inclusion of the Board's powers and functions; authorization by the Board of a foreign adoption agency coming from a Contracting State; accreditation by the Board of a foreign adoption agency coming from a Non-Contracting State; authorized representatives of the Board to undertake authorization or accreditation; authorization or accreditation costs; and procedures for the suspension or revocation of authorization/accreditation. On March 23, 2007 the approved 2007 Amendment of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Inter-country Adoption Law of 1995 (RA 8043) was published in two leading newspapers. The 2007 Amended IRR took effect on April 16, 2007 which better articulated the requirements and procedures of the inter-country adoption program and gave authority to the Board to charge accreditation/authorization fees.

The Board is the policy-making authority. The Board sets guidelines for the manner of selection and matching of prospective adoptive parents and verifies that a child is qualified for adoption. The Board makes the final decisions on adoption applications and matching proposals.

Two (2) teams of Placement Committees exist and are scheduled to attend the Matching Conference alternately once a week. The ICPC carries out the following functions: (1) Matching of adoption applicants and children; (2) Recommend to the Board approval of application and matching proposals; (3) Assist in the Board in its accreditation function; and (4) Act as consultants to the Secretariat in their field of experience.

II. MAJOR FINAL OUTPUTS

A. Policy Formulation and Research

Policy formulation continues to serve as a fundamental tool in translating the agency' s vision, mission and goals into operational context. The following policy resolutions and guidelines were formulated and issued:

1. Amendment on Procedures and Requirements Governing the Application for and Renewal of Authorization and Accreditation of Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) in Contracting and Non-Contracting States – the five (5) year validity period of authorization for FAAs in Contracting States and the four (4) year validity period for accreditation of agencies in Non-contracting States limits and restricts the Board's ability to implement updated Philippine and Hague requirements on accreditation and adoption. The period of validity for authorization of FAAs in Contracting States will be 3 years and 2 years for non-contracting States.
2. Approved the accreditation of four (4) Child Caring Agencies as Liaison Service Agencies for the Philippine intercountry adoption program. These Liaison Service agencies represented 14 Foreign Adoption Agencies.
 - a. Chosen Children Inc.
 - b. Kaisahang Buhay Foundation Inc.
 - c. Parenting Foundation of the Philippines Inc.
 - d. Norfil Foundation Inc.

3. Approved the working relationship on intercountry adoption program between ICAB and the following foreign adoption agencies:
 - a. Adopt Abroad Inc., USA
 - b. Medecins Du Monde, France
4. Resolution granting SAMARITANS PLACE INC. a temporary permit to operate and to participate in the liaison service program of the ICAB for two (2) years. The Board issues a Permit to Operate as a Liaison Service Agency to a CCA with no experience in liaison work.
5. Resolution recognizing the liaisons relationship between the following Child Caring Agencies and Foreign Adoption Agencies:
 - a. SAMARITANS PLACE INC. and Holston United Methodist Home for Children, USA
 - b. Chosen Children Inc. and Madison Adoption Associates, USA
6. Approved the prohibition of posting of advertisements in the internet using Filipino children as a means to solicit donation. This is an addendum to the current policy on prohibition of photo listing of children in the internet (specific to the children's photos and identifying information).
7. Approved the resolution prohibiting any form of direct communications (internet, webcam, skype, video messaging or telephone) between the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) or Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) and Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) as soon as the child is officially accepted by the PAPs but prior to the actual physical placement of the child with the families without the approval of ICAB. It has been determined that direct communication without prior assessment results in problems which ICAB would like to prevent.
8. Approved the issuance of medical assistance to 6 children from 6 Child Caring Agencies (Chosen Children, KBF, Hospicio de San Jose, Friendship Home, Help International and Shekinah Home) to determine the children's current medical and developmental condition in order to facilitate their immediate placement.

9. The Board modified the age of a child to be considered as “special needs” or hard to place child for Special Home Finding and set it to nine (9) years old and above. This was brought about by the increasing number of “regular” adoptive families becoming more open to accepting children (single placement) up to eight (8) years old. Children below nine years old who do not belong to a sibling group and do not have any medical issues are now considered “regular” children.
10. Approved the modification on the type of children acceptable to PAPs to include some additional developmental and medical issues.
11. Approved the continuing education/training for Secretariat social workers for enhancement of the specific training activities which focus on exercises that indicate application of knowledge and skills of social workers.
12. Approved the new logo of the ICAB which made the child the central image emphasizing ICAB's mandate to make the Filipino child's interest its primary concern, but furthermore, showing the entire family in the logo making the statement that this mandate can only be completed when a loving family volunteers their home and shares their love with the child.
13. The Board clarified that no matching of children with families being liaised by the Child Caring Agency still applies.
14. The Board clarified an inquiry on whether ICAB will allow Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) to adopt three (3) children at the same time from two (2) different Child Caring Agencies. The Board pointed out that prior to any decision on the request, complete assessment on PAPs must be undertaken and in the event that the Board considers such request it will have to be emphasized that placing unrelated children in one family will not be a set rule and should not be considered a precedent case.
15. Approved the resolution prohibiting any form of communication between Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) or Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) and Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) prior to the actual placement of the child and without prior written approval from the Board.
16. The Board clarified that for older children, the religious affiliation of PAPs should be one of the major considerations since our children already have their own spiritual

foundation and beliefs. There should be a clear description on how the family practices their faith, their future plan and educational plans for the children.

17. The Board approved Dr. Aida Muncada as the chairperson of the 11th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services to be held in 2011.
18. Approved the proposed Ambassadorship Program of Holt Children Services in 2011 specifically for Cebu Child Caring Agencies where adoption ambassadors/advocate families will come to the Philippines and stay for several days to meet the children and advocate/find families for them. Eight (8) ambassadors and 2 staff from Holt will come and stay in Cebu for 10 days. The program intends to assist and find families for up to 12 older children whose age ranges from 7-14 years old.
19. Approved Great Wall for China Adoption (GWCA) to conduct Summer Hosting Program since the children participants in the program are older children who are in the Special Home Finding list. GWCA was approved by ICAB to process Special Needs Children/Special Home Finding cases.
20. Approved the list of psychological test requirements for children cleared for intercountry adoption. ICAB currently has no specific requirement for psychological tests for children. To shorten the process, ICAB will indicate the list of psychological requirements for children and the DSWD Field Offices will indicate which of the tests are available in the region.
21. Approved the attendance and participation of Usec. Alicia Bala and one ICAB Technical staff to the International Forum on Post Adoption in the USA and the 55th Anniversary of Holt International Children Services on April 2011.
22. Approved the temporary moratorium on accepting adoption applications. It was resolved that all agencies which have endorsed 10 or more applications per year for the past three (3) years (2008-2010) will have to temporarily refrain from sending additional applications until the waiting period has gone to about 2 years or until such time that ICAB have processed/matched the waiting families. The cut-off period for accepting application from PAPs with a certificate of suitability/approval from their Central Authority will be January 30, 2011.

The reason ICAB is regulating/limiting the number of application because of the dilemma on the large number of PAPs that are currently in the Roster of Approved Applicants (a total of 1,140 families) and the very limited number of available children for intercountry adoption that consequently results in much prolonged waiting period for placement.

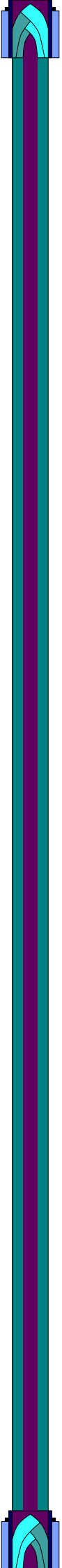
23. Approved the appointment of new Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC) members as well as those whose term of office were renewed by Secretary Soliman:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| a. Fr. Melchor Bernal, SVD | - Psychologist |
| b. Angelita Alegre – Sun and Moon | } NGO representatives |
| c. Maritona Labajo – CRIBS | |
| d. Wilhelmina Dacanay | - Social Worker (3 rd term) |
| e. Susan Ortega | - Psychologist (2 nd term) |

24. The Board agreed to revisit all its previous policies to determine which needs modifications, further study or are already outdated.

B. Regulatory: Standard Setting, Licensing and Accreditation

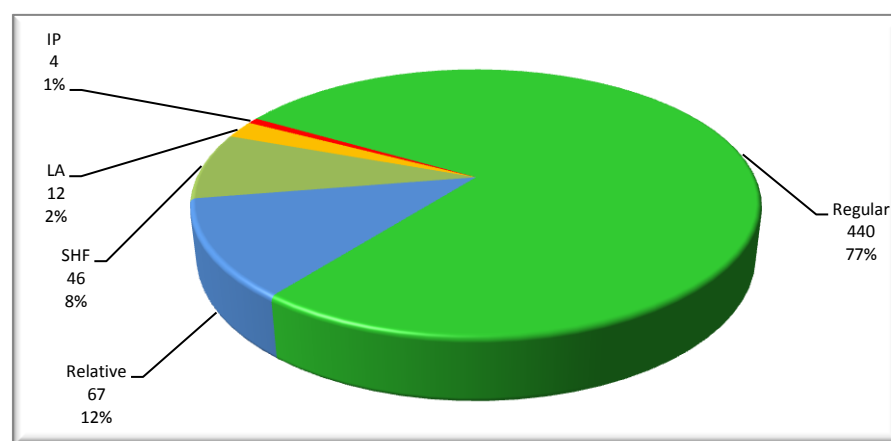
- ✚ The ICAB works with 110 international partners consisting of: fifty one (51) central authorities, fifty four (54) Non-governmental Foreign Adoption Agencies, five (5) government adoption agencies. The non-governmental partners are broken down as follows: Austria (1); Belgium (2); Denmark (2); Finland (1); France (2); Germany (1); Hong Kong (1); Italy (4); Japan (1); Netherlands (1); Norway (1); Spain (6); Sweden (1) Switzerland (1); USA (25); New Zealand (1); and Canada (3).
- ✚ The ICAB monitored 110 international/foreign partners (CAs/FAAs/GAAs). These agencies complied with existing rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Philippine Inter-country Adoption program.
 - The monitoring of these adoption agencies were done by assessing the quality of endorsed dossiers, their adhering to established time frame of accepting child referral, fetching of child proposed to them and finalizing adoption.

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- ✚ The ICA Board Members and an ICPC Consultant met and conferred with the officials of Central Authority on Inter-country Adoption as well as Adoption Coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies in Europe and the USA. They conferred with the officials on the different inter-country adoption policies and procedures, met with PAPs and observed the situation of children adopted by European and American families. They conducted and completed its accreditation/authorization visits to the following Central Authorities and foreign adoption agencies:
 - Europe
 - Catalan Institute for Foster Care and Adoption, Barcelona, Spain
 - Asociacion de Ayuda a la Infancia del Mundo (AAIM), Barcelona, Spain
 - Les Amis Enfants du Monde (LAEM), Montrouge, France
 - Mediciens Du Monde, Paris, France
 - Central Authority of the Czech Republic
 - Central Authority of Malta
 - Central Authority of San Marino
 - Central Authority of the Principality of Andorra
 - USA
 - International Christian Adoptions, Temecula California, USA
 - Vista Del Mar, California USA
 - Bay Area Adoption Services, California, USA
 - Welcome House Social Services Pearl S. Buck International, Pennsylvania, USA
 - Voice for International Development and Adoption (VIDA), New York, USA
 - Great Wall of China Adoption, Texas
 - ✚ Four (4) Child Caring Agencies were re-accredited as Liaison Service Agencies for the Philippine intercountry adoption program after submission of all documentary requirements and meeting the minimum standard requirements based on the new Guidelines on Liaison Service Program.
 - ✚ One (1) Child Caring Agency with no prior experience in undertaking liaison services on intercountry adoption program was granted a permit to operate as a Liaison Service Agency for 2 years after an accreditation visit was undertaken and the CCA met the minimum standard requirements for a Liaison Service Agency.

- ✚ Monitored five (5) Liaison Service Agencies representing 15 FAAs and ensured compliance to the standards set for the delivery of liaison service.
- ✚ The ICAB worked closely with 62 Child Caring Agencies (CCAs): DSWD Field Offices -12; Reception & Study Center for Children- 9 and 41 NGOs.
 - Actively participated in the inter-country adoption placement of children under their care and custody.
 - Monitored and evaluated based on the preparation of Child Study Reports and supporting documents.
 - Focused on the agencies' manner of preparing their children for inter-country adoption and case management/permanency planning of children under their care.
 - Called the attention of selected Child Caring Agencies on photo listings of their children and uploading of advertisements in the internet for purposes of obtaining donations.

C. Placement Services

- ✚ A total of 897 inquiries were received and responded to during the semester under review which clarified the policies and procedures of the ICAB, immigration requirements of the receiving country and adoption documentary requirements.
- ✚ Five hundred sixty-nine (569) adoption applications were assessed of which 440 or 77% were regular adoption applications, 67 or 12% belonged to the relative adoption category, 46 or 8% were for Special Home Finding applications, and 4 or 1 % were independent adoption placement applications. The remaining 12 or 2% were adoption applications of finalized local adoptions which have to be ratified by the ICAB to ensure the issuance of the entry visa of the adoptive child.



IP – Independent Placement
 LA – Local Adoption with ICAB Ratification
 SHF – Special Home Finding

Table 1. Distribution of Prospective Adoptive Applicants According to Adoption Category

- ✦ Among those assessed during the year in review, 446 were approved by the Board of which 376 received their child referral during CY 2010.
- ✦ Three hundred sixty (360) of the 376 Prospective Adoptive Parents who received their child referral during the year in review accepted the child proposed to them.
- ✦ Among those who accepted their child referral, 378 PAPs came to the Philippines for the official entrustment and familiarized themselves with the Child Caring Agency where the child came from. The most number of PAPs who came for the entrustment of their child was during the months of March (37 or 9.79%) and April (38 or 10.05%).
- ✦ For the CY 2010, there were 507 children cleared for inter-country adoption with 296 or 58% belonging to the Regular Adoption category, 96 or 19% were under the Special Home Finding category, 87 or 17% were Relative Adoption cases and 24 or 5% were Independent Placement cases. Four (4) or 1% was local adoption cases needing ratification by the ICAB to meet the immigration and adoption requirements of the Receiving Country. There is a 5.186% increase in the number of children cleared for intercountry adoption for CY 2010 compared to the same period of CY 2009. However, there is decrease of 6.66% among the cases of children under the regular and special home finding category. This could be attributed to the following:
 - Increase in the number of children placed for regional or inter-regional adoption; or

- Difficulty in completing the requirements for the DSWD Certificate of Child's Availability for Adoption per RA 9523.

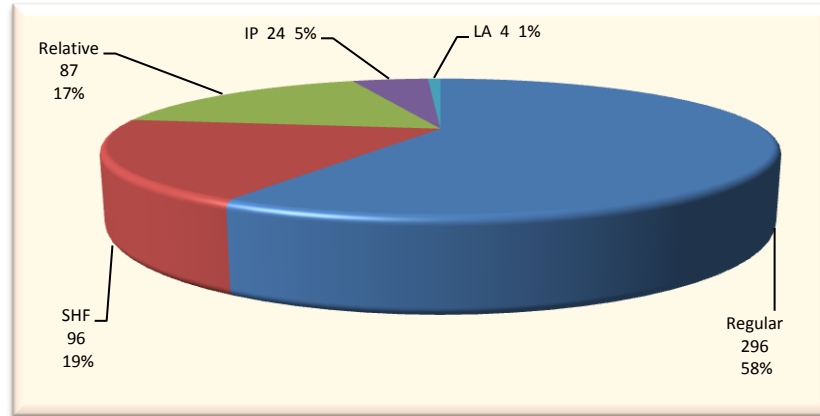


Table 2. Distribution of Filipino Children Cleared for ICA According to Adoption Category

- ✚ Among the 507 children cleared for intercountry adoption,
 - 220 or 43.39% were declared abandoned/issued Certificate of Legally Available for Adoption (CLAA)
 - 287 or 56.61% were voluntarily surrendered by their birthparent/s or guardians.
 - 297 or 58.58% cleared for ICA were boy children
 - 210 or 41.42% were girl children.
 - 314 or 61.93% were under the care and custody of non-governmental Child Caring Agencies
 - 193 or 38.076% were cared for by government institutions or centers
 - 115 or 59.28% were endorsed by the DSWD Field Offices
 - 78 or 40.21% were under the custody of the DSWD Reception and Study Center for Children

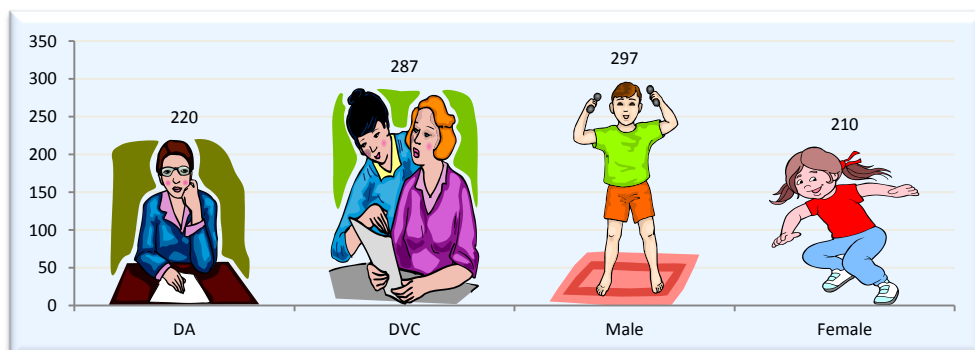


Table 3. Distribution of Children Cleared (N=507) According to Legal Status and Sex

Region	DSWD FOs	RSCCs	NGOs	TOTAL	%
NCR	29	5	155	189	37.3%
IV-A	20	0	50	70	13.8%
III	16	13	24	53	10.5%
VI	14	0	22	36	7.1%
VII	1	5	30	36	7.1%
XI	2	23	3	28	5.5%
V	4	15	3	22	4.3%
X	7	11	0	18	3.6%
I	7	0	8	15	3.0%
IV-B	4	0	10	14	2.8%
VIII	4	3	2	9	1.8%
CAR	3	1	4	8	1.6%
II	2	2	3	7	1.4%
XII	2	0	0	2	0.4%
TOTAL	115	78	314	507	100%

Table 4. Distribution of Children Cleared for ICA According to Child Caring Agency

- ✦ There were 462 children matched and approved during the year in review of which 202 (43.72%) were matched to USA-based Prospective Adoptive Parents, 181 (39.18%) referred to Europe based PAPs, 48 (10.39%) to Canada based PAPs and 31 (6.74%) were matched to Asia-Pacific based PAPs. Among the 462 children matched, 293 (63.42%) were voluntarily surrendered by their birthparent/s while 169 (36.58%) children were declared abandoned through the courts or by the DSWD per RA 9523. Two hundred sixty-six (266) or 57.58% were boy children and 196 or 42.42% were girl children. There were 55 sibling groups or a total of 141 children matched during the year under review.
- ✦ Hosting Program in the USA has been found to be an effective strategy for finding adoptive parents for older children or sibling groups. This program is in cooperation with 4 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies and an NGO partner. Forty (40) children participated in the Summer Hosting Program held in Idaho, Montana, Indiana and Illinois in July and August 2010. Another group of seven (7) children spent three weeks in California for the Winter Hosting Program (Nov-Dec). These children and their escorts have attended the orientation on the hosting program to prepare them for their scheduled visa interview, travel to the USA and their stay with the host families. Eighteen (18) children participants to the 2009 Hosting Program were eventually entrusted/adopted by their host family in 2010; while 3 of the 2010 Hosting program participants were matched and approved by the Board in 2010. On the other hand, thirteen (13) of the 2010 hosting program participants are for Board presentation in 2011 and 10 are waiting for the submission of the PAPs dossier.
- ✦ Four hundred twenty-six (426) children were entrusted to their Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) during the period under review of which 184 (43%) were accepted by

their PAPs in 2009 but whose travel document/entry visa was released only in 2010. Of the 426 children, 192 (45.07%) were entrusted to USA-based PAPs, 156 (36.62%) to Europe-based PAPs, 49 (11.50%) were entrusted to PAPs from Canada and 29 or 6.81% were from the Asia Pacific.

- ✦ The DSWD Secretary or the Undersecretary for Policy and Programs issues the Affidavit of Consent to Adoption (ACA) if the existence of a reciprocal child-adoptive family bonding is proven. The outcomes of the three (3) post placement reports done every two months during the 6 months trial custody period are the bases for the issuance of this legal document. A total of 633 children were under post placement supervision during the year of which 391 ACAs were endorsed to the CAs/FAAs. This means that the placements completed the required supervisory trial custody period to a satisfactory degree and therefore the legalization/finalization of the adoption of the child/ren by the prospective adoptive parents must now be pursued.
- ✦ Four hundred thirty two (432) Adoption Decrees were received during the year in review which indicated that the erstwhile Filipino child finally became an integral and legal part of the family. The Adoption Decrees received during the year were for the children whose placement occurred from 2008-2010.
- ✦ The ICAB has established a program for post legal adoption services in cooperation with the local Child Caring Agencies, Central Authorities and the FAAs. The ICAB assists the adoptive child/ren and their adoptive family (and even birth family/relatives who desire to know their child's situation) in tracing their birth family/relatives in the hope of completing the missing link in their life. For the CY 2010 there were thirty-seven (37) adoptive children who came home to touch base with their Motherland and returned to the institutions/orphanages where they spent the early years of their life. These adoptive children and adoptive parents came from Canada, Finland, Norway, Netherlands and the USA.
- ✦ Nine (9) children had disruption in their adoption placement of which 3 were Relative adoption cases and 6 were under the Special Home Finding adoption category. The Prospective Adoptive children under the Relative adoption category were repatriated and returned to their birth family. The reasons for the disruptions were:
 1. The PAPs does not have a positive connection with the child and is unwilling to undergo further counselling to build a more positive relationship;

2. The PAPs separated because of the female adoptive parent moved out of the family home and the child was transferred to the care of the mother of the female adoptive parent;
3. The child wants to come home to the Philippines as she misses her birth family and the female adoptive parent was unable to emotionally bond with the child.
4. An adoptive couple did not push through with the entrustment of the child as they could not feel any attachment with the child at the time of their visit at the Child Caring Agency;
5. Another adoptive couple decided not to go through the entrustment and adoption placement after learning of some long term medical conditions of the child and they do not have the financial resources to meet the medical needs of the child.
6. One more adoptive couple backed out of the adoption placement while the children were undergoing their visa medical examinations as the PAPs were encountering some financial problems.

D. CAPABILITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

- ✚ Dialogues and consultative sessions with ACCAP, DSWD Bureau and Field Office Directors, RSCC Head Social Workers, DFA Consular Services/Legal Affairs, Council for the Welfare of Children, Department of Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Embassy personnel and Immigration officials. These dialogues threshed out issues and concerns on case management of children cleared for inter-country adoption to facilitate case movement of children in CCAs/CPAs; child trafficking; policy of the Special Commission of The Hague on separation of intercountry adoption from contributions, donations and development aid and to update on immigration and adoption laws of receiving countries.
- ✚ Consultative sessions with different Central Authorities (CAs) and Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) Coordinators and Executive Directors from Canada, France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and Vietnam. The sessions clarified issues on the Summer Hosting Program, placement proposals, ICA process and procedures, new psychological requirements for PAPs. The CAs/FAAs representatives expressed their appreciation for the positive working relationship with the ICAB and indicated their continuous support for the placement of Filipino children.

- ✚ Bilateral orientation provided to and by embassy/immigration staff or officials of foreign adoption agencies on inter-country adoption law and other issues and concerns on adoption.
- ✚ The ICAB participated in the 11th National Adoption Consciousness Day. This year's observance focuses on the theme "Isulong! Legal na Pag-ampon, Hindi Simulation" which aims to encourage families to adopt a child through the legal process. Public forum, publicity activities, and radio/television guestings and adoption help-desks were undertaken and participated in by DSWD, Council for the Welfare of Children, ICAB, Adoptive Families Foundation, LGUs and ACCAP. Adoption Forums were held in all DSWD Regional Offices and on February 7, 2010, Adoption Help Desks were set-up in strategic places in SM North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM Centerpoint and SM Southmall where queries on the procedures and requirements for Domestic Adoption and Inter-country Adoption were responded to.
- ✚ The ICA Board Members and an ICPC Consultant met and conferred with the officials of Central Authority on Inter-country Adoption as well as Adoption Coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies in Europe (8) and the USA (7). They conferred with the officials on the different inter-country adoption policies and procedures, met with PAPs and observed the situation of children adopted by European and American families.
- ✚ The Alternate Chairperson attended the Adoption Conference in Vietnam in January 2010 to review the adoption process of Vietnam and presented the Philippine inter-country adoption program processes and procedures.
- ✚ A Board Member (Dr. Aida Muncada) was invited as a resource person on the Philippine intercountry adoption program in the Second International Congress on Adoption sponsored by the Ministry of Social Protection of the Columbian Institute of Families, Bogota, Columbia on May 23-27, 2010.
- ✚ A Board Member (Atty. Noel Del Prado) and a Secretariat social worker represented the ICAB in the Third Meeting of the Special Commission of the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption held in the Netherlands last June 15-27, 2010.

- ✚ A Board Member (Mr. Rafael Tinio) attended the Annual International Adoption Conference sponsored by Great Wall of China Adoption (GWCA) in San Antonio Texas, USA on September 23-30, 2010 where positive feedbacks on the Philippine intercountry adoption process were received. He also met with the officers of GWCA and noted that the adoption agency is a good resource especially since ICAB does not have an accredited agency yet in Texas.
- ✚ Two (2) Board Members (Atty. Cielo Rondain and Dr. Aida Muncada) had productive meetings with the Central Authority of the Republic of San Marino, Central Authority of the Czech Republic, Central Authority of Malta and the Central Authority of the Principality of Andorra. They were oriented on the peculiarities on adoption procedures of these countries.
 - The meeting with the adoptive children and families was the highlight in the visit in Andorra while the issue of child trafficking in Malta was one of the concerns in their discussion. A stronger working relationship with these countries is expected.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director attended the 2nd Special Committee Meeting in The Hague held last February 15-17, 2010 participated in by the different Central Authorities. They reviewed line by line the practical operation of The Hague Convention.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director on the other hand, participated as member of the "Experts Working Group" in the Special Commission of the Third Meeting of the Special Commission of The Hague Convention held in The Netherlands last June 13-27, 2010. The Philippines has been acknowledged by The Hague as one of the Sending Countries with best adoption practices and as such ICAB was identified as member of the Experts Working Group that developed the Manual on Guide to Good Practice on accreditation and accredited bodies which was presented during the Third Meeting of the Special Commission.
- ✚ The Secretariat SWO V and SWO III (Family Resource Unit) met the social work students from Bicol University and gave an orientation on the inter-country adoption program, ICAB as an organization and its programs and services.
- ✚ The Focal person of the Special Projects Unit conducted orientation and briefing session with the 9 social workers/escorts and 41 children participants to the Summer/Winter

Hosting Program to prepare them for the visa interview, travel to the United States and spending their summer living with identified host families for three (3) to four (4) weeks.

- ✦ Submission of the Country Profile for Intercountry Adoption – State of Origin to the Permanent Bureau for inclusion in the Guidelines on Good Practices for inter-country adoption of the Hague Conference on Private International Law .
- ✦ Submission to the International Social Service, International Reference Centre for the Rights of Children responses to the questionnaire about maintaining the natural birth order in intercountry adoption. This matter is becoming an increasingly critical issue in intercountry adoption because nowadays there is a greater trend for profile of children in need of adoption to be older.
- ✦ A Board member (Dr. Lyra del Castillo) and the ICAB Executive Director participated and provided technical assistance to the Cambodian government in crafting rules and guidelines on the implementation of The Hague Convention.
- ✦ The ICAB Executive Director was invited and participated as a member of the Technical Working Group on the Preparations for the National Summit on Family Courts.
- ✦ The Executive Director and an ICAB Secretariat staff attended the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Judges Association one-day National Summit on Family Courts last March 12, 2010 at the Manila Hotel. Selected Family Court judges, branch clerks of court, court interpreters, social workers, prosecutors, representatives from the Public Attorneys Office, Senate and House of Representatives, other government agencies, civil society and media participated in the National Summit on Family Courts. It was the culmination of the regional conferences conducted which resulted in identifying problems, exploring possible solutions and developing workable consensus on how to improve access to justice in family courts.
- ✦ The Executive Director was invited to provide technical assistance to the Cambodian Government on October 31 to November 5, 2010 relative to their plan to resume its intercountry adoption program by March 2011.

- ✦ The Executive Director and Secretariat Social Worker attended the Technical Working Group at the Senate and Congress for the crafting of House Bill on Codification of Alternative Child Care and the passage of the Foster Care Bill of the Philippines.
- ✦ An ICAB Social Worker attended and participated in the Assessment Workshop on the Internship of Social Workers to the International Social Services-Japan Branch on July 28-29, 2010 at the Fontana Leisure Park, Pampanga. The activity aimed to review and assess the internship of the Filipino/DSWD social workers during the internship with ISS-J and to determining gaps and issues confronting them.
- ✦ One of the senior social workers of the ICAB Secretariat familiarized the 2 DSWD social workers for Secondment to the International Social Services, Japan Branch on the Philippine intercountry adoption program, its policies, processes and procedures.
- ✦ The ICAB Planning Unit staff attended the Council for the Welfare of Children's Inter-Agency Conference on Subabay Bata Macro Monitoring System (SBMMS). This was undertaken to disseminate among the members of the SBMMS Technical Working Group the format and content of the Narrative Report on Children for CY 2007-2009 as per each agency's commitment on the institutionalization of the Macro Monitoring System.
- ✦ The Planning Officer and Senior Social Worker oriented social workers and technical staff from the DSWD Field Office V during their Lakbay Aral to Metro-Manila on the programs and services of ICAB.
- ✦ ACCAP representatives, ICAB SWO V and the Special Projects Unit focal person met and discussed the proposed amendments to the ICAB's Hosting Program Guideline.
- ✦ Advocacy visits were made to the different Child Caring Agencies in Bataan, Bulacan, Cebu, Laoag Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, NCR, Palawan, Pampanga. These visits were aimed primarily to determine the number of children cared for in each Child Caring Agencies, provide technical assistance for the case movement of children, to assess Special Needs/Special Home Finding children cleared for ICA and familiarize the agency in preparing children participants to the ICAB's Hosting Program.
- ✦ The ICAB conducted its Regional Consultation Dialogue for Regions VII, VIII and IX. One hundred fourteen (114) social workers from the DSWD Regional Offices, Reception and

Study Center for Children, NGO Child Caring Agencies, Regional Trial Court and Local Government Units and 5 private practicing lawyers attended the Regional Consultation Dialogue. The consultation dialogue was a venue

1. to disseminate the different policies, processes and procedures of the ICAB
2. to update the participants on the new law in declaring a child legally free for adoption,
3. to apprise the participants on the different immigration and adoption requirements of the Receiving Countries.
4. to educate the participants on the normal and “red-flags” in the psycho-social and medical condition of children under their care.
5. to help the social workers systematize the conceptualization of important/integral facts, features, information and circumstances that are basic inputs in the CSR in accordance to adoption category.

✚ The **Board**, **ICPC** and the **Secretariat** participated in and attended activities aimed at developing and improving their knowledge, skills and attitude relative to their workload. They actively participated in the following activities:

1. Adoption Consciousness Technical Working Group Meeting
2. DSWD Sponsored “Adoption Forum” held at the Makati City Auditorium
3. DSWD Sponsored Organizational Performance Indicator Framework (OPIF) Workshop/Write shop
4. ICAB OPIF Cascading Workshop
5. Board/ICPC/Secretariat Consultative Dialogue
6. Department of Justice Inter-Agency Committee on Child Trafficking
7. DSWD National Management Development Conference
8. DSWD TWG on Annual Report Committee
9. Norfil’s Seminar on “Adoption Telling”
10. National Summit on Family Courts
11. World Social Work Day Conference
12. 1st Integrity Development Action Plan and Moral Renewal Action Plan Follow-Up Meeting
13. ICAB Annual Staff Development and Team Building
14. FY 2011 Budget Forum
15. FY 2011 Budget Call

16. Civil Service Commission/Bureau of Internal Revenues Second Quarter Cluster Meeting
17. In-house Continuing Education for ICAB Social Workers
18. DSWD MANCOM Meetings
19. 11th Global Consultation National Organizing Committee Meeting
20. ICAB's 15th Anniversary Celebration
21. Consultative Meeting with COA
22. Special Meeting of the Committee on Family and Alternative Care
23. Basic Disaster Management Seminar
24. Gender and Development Seminar
25. Product Awareness Seminar
26. Technical Learning Session on RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act and the revised Supreme Court Rule on Juveniles in Conflict with the Law
27. CWC Technical Working Group on Macro Monitoring System for Children

E. ICAB Budget & Expenses

The summary of allotment/obligations and balance, December 31, 2010 is stated below (In Thousand Pesos):

Allotment/Object Class of Expenditures	Allotment (RA 9977)	Use of Income	Add'l SARO	Total Allotment Received	Obligations Incurred	Unobligated Balance of Allotment	% of Fund Utilization
PS	P4,799	-	P1,142	P5,941	P6,148	(P207)	(103%)
MOOE	-	P20,024	-	P20,024	P17,084	P2,940	85%
CO	-	P2,800	-	P2,800	P1,881	P919	67%
Grand Total	P4,799	P22,824	P1,142	P28,765	P25,113	P3,652	87%

Table 5. ICAB's Statement of Allotment, Obligations and Balances (SAOB)

For the CY 2010, the ICAB received a total of Php 28,765 Million allotment from the DBM of which Php4,799 Million was derived from the Regular Allotment (GAA RA 9977) and Php22,824 Million was from the agency's income collected from fees/charges and assessments. Of the total allotment received Php 5,941 Million was allotted for Personnel Service; Php20,024 Million was for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses while Php2,800 Million was allocated for Capital Outlay. For the period under review, the ICAB had 87% of fund utilization.

Income Generated in FY 2010

The ICAB earned a total of Php 41,989,564.18 Million which is 116.69% of the target income for FY 2010 (Php35, 981,200.00M). The income earned in FY 2010 increased by 16.698% compared to income earned in FY 2009. The earnings of the ICAB formed part of the agency's Unprogrammed Fund which is earmarked to augment the Regular Fund Allotment for the Administrative and Operations expenses, fund to support the Board activities, programs and services of the agency.

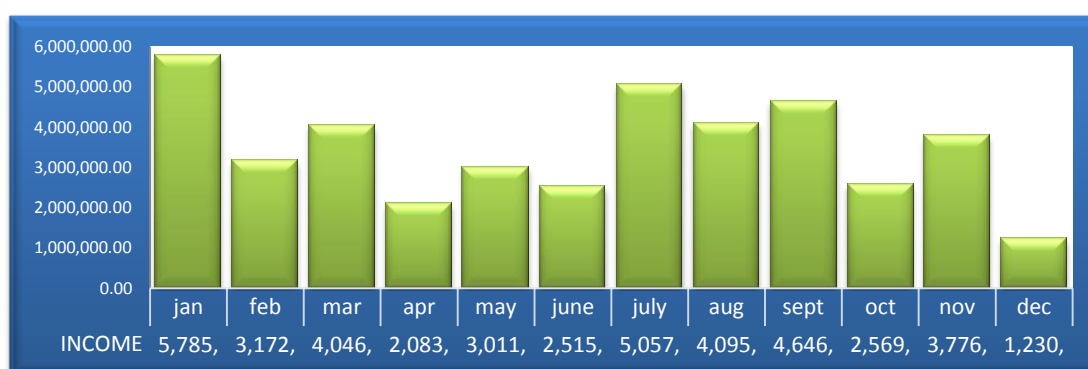


Table 6. Monthly Income Generated by the ICAB for FY 2010

The total income of ICAB for the FY 2010 amounted to Php41, 989,564.18 Million of which 13.78 % was generated in the month of January. It was in the months of July, September, August and March where increase in income was also noted with 12.05%, 11.07%, 9.80% and 9.64% respectively.

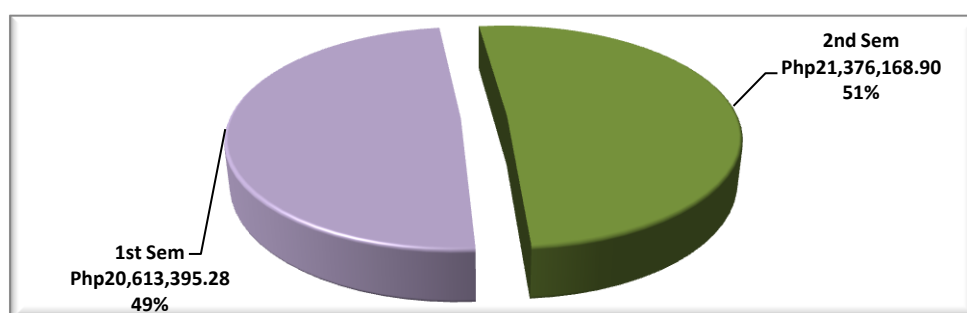


Table 7. Semestral Income Generated by the ICAB for FY 2010

The first semester income generated by the ICAB of Php 20,613,395.28 Million is 49 % of the total income for FY 2010 (Php41, 903,058.78) while the income earned for the 2nd semester is Php 21,376,168.90 or 51% of the total income.

F. ICAB THRUSTS FOR CY 2011

1. POLICY FORMULATION AND RESEARCH

- a. Strengthen advocacy for the passage of law amending RA 8043
- b. Formulation of new and more responsive rules and regulations, policies and guidelines on inter-country adoption particularly on adoption applications and post legal adoption services.

2. STANDARD SETTING AND ACCREDITATION

- a. Intensify monitoring of compliance to standards and provisions of the RA 8043 and conformity to the statutes of The Hague Convention of the Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs), Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) and Liaison Service Agencies (LSAs).
- b. Periodic authorization by the Board of Hague Country Foreign Adoption Agencies and accreditation of Non-Hague Country FAAs.

3. NETWORKING, ADVOCACY AND CAPABILITY BUILDING

- a. Advocacy with key legislative representatives to help sponsor amendment of ICA Law and increase plantilla positions in the agency.
- b. Continuing capacity building through trainings/dialogues for local implementers on the Philippine Inter-country Adoption program.
- c. Hosting of the 11th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services

4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

- a. Concretize post legal adoption services and enhance staff capability in conducting post legal adoption services.
- b. Strengthen provision of comprehensive technical assistance on case management of children cleared for inter-country adoption to local sectoral stakeholders.

5. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND AGENCY STRENGTHENING

Further capacitate and empower ICAB staff for improved and efficient performance in the accomplishment of mandate and goals through human resource development.

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