Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB)

CY 2013 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD
ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CY 2013

The Inter-country Adoption Board (ICAB) is the agency of the National Government mandated to act as the Central Authority in matters relating to the inter-country adoption of Filipino children and the policy making body for purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Inter-country Adoption Act of 1995 (RA 8043).

The following are the accomplishments of ICAB for the CY 2013 according to its functions and final outputs:

I. POLICY FORMULATION

1. Approved the Board Resolution on the Modified Medical and Psychological Requirements for Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) - the Board amended the Memorandum dated October 23, 2009 which enumerated the unacceptable medical and psychological conditions and required the submission of specified psychological tests. The Memorandum was modified to qualify the following unacceptable medical conditions:
   2. “Metabolic Syndrome” - in lieu of “Obesity” to include the complications of obesity.
   3. “Personality Disorder”

   The following alternate psychological tests for MCMI-III can be used by countries where such test is not available: Neo-PI-R; 16PF or FRI-R.

2. Approved the revision of conditional moratorium in accepting adoption applications. The conditional moratorium issued in September 2012 was revised since the projected number of children cleared and matched was not achieved in 2012 thus some adjustments were made. The policy is temporary in nature and may change if the number of children available for adoption increases.

3. Approved the renewal of accreditation/re-authorization of ICANZ New Zealand.

4. Approved the re-assessment visit to foreign adoption agencies due for re-assessment/re-accreditation for 2013.

5. Approved the appointment of three (3) social workers as members of the Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC).

6. Amended conditional moratorium: The board reviewed the amended conditional moratorium based on the actual number of children cleared for inter-country adoption from January to June 2013 and the number of approved adoptive applicants. Since there was no significant increase noted, the number of allocation/quota earlier established per adoption agency on the number of placements and adoption applications was retained by the Board.

7. Approval of the request for re-accreditation as liaison service agency was issued to Chosen Children Village and NORFIL Foundation after they have fulfilled the accreditation requirements of the Board. Both agencies were issued another three year accreditation period.
8. Clarification on the process of recruiting families for Special Home Finding cases - the Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAA) approved only to process Special Needs Children (SNC) are given 2 days ahead of the other FAAs to review the Special Home Finding (SHF) list and to consider which child they could place on hold for possible recruitment before the other FAAs receive the list.

9. Implementation of a Non-Disclosure Agreement between ICAB and CCAs re: preservation of confidential information on adoption cases so as to prevent birth families to directly contact adoptees without proper counseling and preparation.

10. Approval of host families and children participants to the Hosting Program of two adoption agencies: Sacred Portion Children Outreach and Madison Adoption Associates, USA.

11. Approval of one year provisional accreditation as liaison service agency to Kaisahang Buhay Foundation (KBF) and My Father’s House pending receipt of the DSWD accreditation of these two agencies.

12. Approval of the continuation of Holt’s Adoption Ambassador Program subject to a review of the agency’s assessment and preparation process for adoptive families identified in the program.

13. Reiteration of the prohibition on mandatory HIV testing for children prior to PAPs’ acceptance of a match in accordance with the RA 8504.

14. Semestral review of the conditional moratorium: Minor modifications on the allocation/quota per agency on the number of placements and adoption application for 2013 were issued by the Board.

15. Review of the accreditation/authorization of the following adoption agencies in Europe: Medicins du Monde (MDM), France; Les Amis Enfants du Monde (AEM), France; and Asociacion de Ayuda a la Infancia del Mundo (AAIM), Spain: Two of the board members, Sister Maria Socorro Evidente, DC and Atty. Noel Del Prado had an actual re-assessment visit to the concerned agencies whose accreditation has expired. It was determined that the agencies have continuously complied with all ICAB requirements and are positively assessed in terms of their programs and services to children and families and their financial stability, thus, re-accrediting/authorizing them for another three-year period.

16. Review of the conditional moratorium re: allocation of placements and adoption applications: The board had its quarterly review of the conditional moratorium and appropriate amendments on the number of allocations were made based on the number of children available for inter-country adoption, number of adoptive families and the agency performance/accomplishment for the 3rd quarter.

17. Implementation of standard psychological tests for children five years old and above cleared for inter-country adoption: The board in coordination with ACCAP have agreed to prescribe standard psychological tests for children to enable adoptive families to better understand children’s needs so as to properly address them. Specific guideline for the implementation is being crafted by the special committee.

18. Approval of the guidelines on the use of real time video conferencing as a way of establishing initial communication between adoptive families and their adoptive child after official acceptance of the matching proposal: The guidelines for proper implementation has been disseminated to FAAs and CCAs.
19. Approval of the submission of an *Undertaking* regarding complete and accurate information on Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) when they apply for the Philippine program.

20. Approval of the Hosting program of Children of All Nations (CAN) in partnership with a hosting agency in the USA.

21. Approval of the request of My Father’s House to terminate their liaison service with Children of All Nations (CAN), USA.

22. Approval of the re-accreditation visit of two (2) Board Members as their inherent function of accrediting/re-accrediting foreign adoption agencies and also to visit adopted children by foreign families. They re-accredited four (4) Foreign Adoption Agencies in the USA which were found compliant to all ICAB requirements and are positively assessed in terms of their programs and services to children and families and their financial stability, thus, re-accrediting/authorizing them for another three-year period. The visit was also maximized when the Board Members facilitated the removal of an eleven year old Filipino child from her current American guardian.

23. Approval of the third quarter review and subsequent amendment of the allocation/quota on new adoption applications and placement.

II. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. A total of 1,215 technical adoption inquiries were received and responded to during the CY 2013 which gave details and made clear the different policies and procedures of the ICAB, adoption documentary requirements, immigration and adoption laws of the Receiving Country and post adoption services.

2. Three hundred thirteen (313) adoption applications were assessed during the CY 2013 of which 239 or 76% were new adoption applications received from January to December and 74 or 24% were adoption applications received in the CY 2008-2012. Among the assessed applications, 278 were approved as eligible and suitable prospective adoptive parents for Filipino children.

3. A total of 1,166 approved applicants (853 carry-over from CYs 2009-2012 and 313 newly approved applications) were waiting for a child referral during the year in review. Among these approved applicants, 455 or 39% of the total approved applicants were matched and given a child referral.

4. Of the 455 approved applicants given child referral during the year under review, 299 or 66% were approved in 2008-2012 and 156 or 34% were newly approved applicants.

5. Two ninety-six (296) PAPs accepted the child referral during CY 2013 of which 22 were matched in the last quarter of 2012 but only officially accepted the child referral from January to March 2013 while 274 PAPs matched and accepted the child referral within the year. Three hundred seventy-three (373) PAPs came to the Philippines for the entrustment of their prospective adoptive child/ren.
6. For CY 2013, there were 543 children cleared for inter-country adoption according to the following:
   a. Adoption Category
      1. Regular - 340
      2. Special Needs Child/Special Home Finding - 102
      3. Relative - 76
      4. Independent Placement - 25
   b. Sex
      1. Male - 310
      2. Female - 233
   c. Legal Status
      1. Deed of Voluntary Commitment - 319
      2. Declared Abandoned/CCLAA - 224
   d. Child Caring Agency
      1. GO - 186
      2. NGO - 357

Table 1 – Distribution of Children Cleared for Intercountry Adoption According to Adoption Category, Sex, Legal Status and Child Caring Agency

7. There were 519 children matched and approved during CY 2013 of which 196 or 38% were carry-over cases of previous years and 323 or 62% were new cases. Among the carry-over cases, 84 or 43% of 196 were Special Home Finding cases. Among the children matched 294 or 56.65% were boy children, 153 or 29.48% belonged to the 2-4 age range, 297 or 57.22% were voluntarily surrendered by their birthmother/parents/guardians. Among the 519 children matched and approved, 317 or 61.08% were cared for by NGO Child Caring Agencies and 202 or 38.92% were under the custody of Governmental Agencies. These children were matched to families in the Europe (235 or 45.28%), USA (182 or 35.07%), Canada (60 or 11.56%) and Asia Pacific (42 or 8.09%).
8. Hosting Program in the USA, the program is in cooperation with 5 accredited foreign adoption agencies. Twenty-seven (27) of the children participants to the 2011 (4), 2012 (15) and 2013 (8) Hosting Program were matched during the year to their host family who pursued adoption.

9. Four hundred thirty-three (433) children were entrusted to their adoptive family of which 269 or 62.12% were regular adoption, 78 or 18.01% were under the Special Home Finding, 58 or 13.39% were relative adoption cases and 28 or 6.47% were independent placements. Two hundred fifty-six (256) of these children were under the care and custody of NGO Child Caring Agencies and 177 children were from Government Organizations. These children were entrusted to PAPs from Europe (180 or 41.57%), USA (170 or 39.26%), Canada (56 or 12.93%) and Asia-Pacific (27 or 6.24%).

10. 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 366 were endorsed to the CAs/FAAs in CY 2013. 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.
11. Two hundred eighty-seven (287) Adoption Decrees were received in 2013 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 2010-2013.

12. A Board Member traveled to Spain in February 19-22, 2013 to assist in the transfer of an 11 year old child whose placement in Spain disrupted. The child was repatriated/brought home to the Philippines and is undergoing therapy to resolve issues which triggered the disruption placement.

13. ICAB has been assisting and facilitating requests for post adoption services from either the adoptee and adoptive parents or the adoption agency. In cooperation and close coordination with the DSWD Field Offices, and NGO Child Caring Agencies a total number of 60 requests were received by the ICAB for additional information/background of the birthfamily, connecting with former peers, search of birthfamily/parent and reunion meeting. Also, 35 adoptees and adoptive families came home during the year to embark on a Motherland Tour undertaken for visiting the orphanage/center, recapturing original pieces of life history, creation of a sense connection and visit historical/tourist areas.

Search and reunion meeting between a birthmother, siblings and relatives was successfully completed for an adult adoptee from the USA. He was placed with his adoptive parents when he was only 9 months old.

ICAB in coordination with DSWD FO VII facilitated the search and reunion of an adult adoptee with his birthfamily. He was able to meet his grandparents and aunts/uncle as well as his half-sister. The adult adoptee visited the grave of his birthmother who died several months prior to his coming home to the Philippines.

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**Adult adoptees visit the Philippines to touch base with their homeland and initiate search and reunion with birthfamily.**

**Adoptees and Adoptive Parents visit the Intercountry Adoption Board during their Motherland Tour**
14. With the escalation of conflict in Zamboanga City and endangering the safety of the children at DSWD RSCC Zamboanga, ICAB transferred/evacuated 12 children to Manila. These children have all been cleared for ICA and are either for matching or placement. They were referred for temporary shelter and further case management to White Cross Children’s Home, House of Refuge, Mother Theresa Spenilli’s Treasures and Gentle Hands.

15. Typhoon Yolanda ravaged Eastern Visayas and other parts of the Visayas Island in November 2013. Devastation was extreme in Leyte particularly Tacloban and a DSWD Child Caring Agency is situated in Palo, Leyte. Considering the condition of the RSCC Palo, Leyte and that the RSCC workers were victims of the disaster themselves, it was quite obvious that they needed time for themselves and their families. Together with Usec Taraji, the RD of Region 7 and the Protective Services Bureau a decision was made to move the children to Cebu or Manila and to empty out the RSCC to make way for new orphans. The RSCC Palo would take in temporarily the children for documentation and processing.

ICAB initially transported to Manila eight (8) children already matched and waiting to be picked up by their foreign adoptive parents via a US C-130, two of the distraught families having arrived in Manila on November 11, 2013. ICAB had to go back to make sure to move other children already cleared for intercountry adoption to a secure place. A total of 35 children were relocated from Leyte of which 16 were cleared for ICA, 11 children are awaiting for their ICA Clearance and 8 children were referral from the City Social Welfare Office of Tacloban. These children were referred to children centers in Cebu and Manila.

16. Disruption in the adoption placements were reported during the year:

   a. A child who is a member of a sibling group under the Special Home Finding category transferred to a temporary/respite foster family as the single adoptive mother disclosed not having the capability to parent a sexually abused child. The adoptive mother however will pursue the adoption of the younger sibling.

   b. A disruption under the regular adoption placement occurred during the period in review because the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) difficulty to adjust to the placement of the child. They are not adapting to the changes that are inherent in adopting a pre-school child. The PAPs realized the gravity of their responsibility of providing the emotional and physical needs of a young child.

   c. A disruption during the placement supervision of an older child (16 years old) in USA was reported as the prospective adoptive parents felt incapable to manage the emotional needs and behaviour of the child i.e. disobedience to rules, rudeness towards the Prospective Adoptive Mother and inappropriate sexual behaviors toward men. The child was repatriated to the Philippines in May 2013 and currently attending school as a 3rd year high school student.

III. REGULATORY FUNCTION

1. The ICA Board Members met and conferred with the officials and adoption coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) in the USA. They discussed with the officials the different intercountry adoption policies and procedures especially on the conditional moratorium which impacts on the number of adoption applications endorsed by FAAs, disruption procedures which will require the transfer of the child/ren to respite care or replacement
family. They also met with the adoptive families and adopted children as an opportunity to observe the environment of the Filipino adopted children and their current status.

The Board members conducted and completed its accreditation/authorization visits to the following FAAs:

a. USA
   i. VIDA, New York
   ii. Pearl S. Buck International, Pennsylvania
   iii. Great Wall of China/Children for All Nation, Texas
   iv. Madison Adoption Associates, Delaware
   v. International Christian Adoptions, California
   vi. Vista Del Mar, California

b. Canada
   i. Sunrise Family Services Society, British Columbia

c. Europe
   i. Medecins du Monde, France
   ii. Les Amis Enfants du Monde, France
   iii. Asociacion de Ayuda dela Infancia, Spain

2. Consultative sessions with the different FAA Adoption Coordinators and Executive Directors from Australia, Andorra, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA which clarified issues on the Adoption Ambassador Program, Hosting Program, conditional moratorium, psychological tests, documentary requirements, placement proposals and other policies and procedures.

3. Throughout CY 2013:

a. The ICAB worked with 76 local partners and it ensured that these Child Caring Agencies/Child Placement Agencies (CCAs/CPAs/) conformed not only to the ICAB guidelines, rules and regulations, policies and procedures but also to the provisions of The Hague Convention. The monitoring of these CCAs/CPAs was accomplished through the evaluation of the CCAs/CPAs preparation of the Child Study Reports and its supporting documents, their case management (case movement of children) and assessment of the agency’s preparation of children for intercountry adoption.

b. A total of 55 international foreign partners (NGO Foreign Adoption Agencies) were monitored by ICAB during the year and these were found compliant with existing rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Philippine Intercountry Adoption program. The monitoring of these foreign adoption agencies are based on the quality of endorsed adoption dossier (substantive content and complete supporting documents), adherence to established prescriptive period i.e. acceptance of child referral, fetching of the child and the finalization and submission of Adoption Decree.

c. Six (6) Liaison Service Agencies representing a total of 15 Foreign Adoption Agencies were monitored to ensure compliance with the standards set for the delivery of liaison services for the intercountry adoption program.

d. Four (4) of the Liaison Service Agencies were re-accredited during the year of which Chosen Children’s Village Inc. and NORFIL Foundation Inc. were granted three (3)
years for completing all the standard requirements while Kaisahang Buhay Foundation and My Father’s House were given provisional certificate of accreditation to operate a liaison service agency for one (1) year unless revoked prior expiration for compliance to the submission of the DSWD Accreditation Certification. One Child Caring Agency previously accredited as a Liaison Service Agency was not considered for re-accreditation due to non-compliance to the minimum standards of ICAB for a Liaison Service Agency.

e. ICAB strongly advocated through DSWD PSB for issuance of department policy on independent placement (IP). In cases of IP, DSWD PSB should issue a policy to pull out child reported to DSWD instead of issuing foster care license to the custodians which pave the way for independent placement, hence legitimizing such an act.

IV. NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

1. The ICAB participated in the 15th National Adoption Consciousness Day. This year’s theme “Love Sees Beyond Differences” focuses on the unconditional love of adoptive parents to their adopted child and to soften the stigma on adoption. The week-long celebration (February 18-24, 2013) was highlighted by a Musical Event which was the public launching of the adoption advocacy communications campaign and the first public performance of the adoption song “I Love You Anak”. The advocacy campaign seeks to encourage families to openly declare, without guilt and without fear their love for their adopted child.

Senator Pia Cayetano shares her experience as an adoptive parent.

Singer, songwriter and president of the local organization of music talents and artists, Ogie Alcasid volunteered his talent for the advocacy through the Filipino version of the adoption advocacy song, “I Love You Anak” composed by McCann. More recently, world-renowned singer Lea Salonga shared her voice to give life to the English version of I Love You Anak.
2. The Intercountry Adoption Board, Executive Director, ICPC members and Secretariat Social Workers held dialogues with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Bureau Directors; Field Office Directors and Social Workers; Reception and Study Center Heads and Social Workers; ACCAP; National Statistics Office; Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Services; DFA Legal Affairs; Department of Justice; Spanish, Australian and USA Embassy representatives; Foreign Immigration officials; local and international partner adoption agency coordinators/directors. These dialogues were geared towards clarifying the policies of ICAB on adoption applications, new psychological report requirements, resolutions on finalized local adoption, resolving issues and concerns on the case movement of children especially older children or those staying for longer periods in the institution, discussed gaps in the adoption process, new procedures for the filing and issuance of passports, facilitating the issuance of children’s Birth or Foundling Certificate as well as defining the coordination between ICAB and other agencies.

3. A Board Member and the Executive Director attended and delivered a presentation during the Workshop on The Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption in Macau, China on March 26-30, 2013. The workshop aimed to examine the implementation of the 1993 Hague Convention in the region, share practices and ways to overcome challenges between States Parties to the Convention and States interested in becoming a party and to promote and build good working relationships between all participants.

4. The Executive Director attended and participated in the National Management Development Conference held in Tacloban City last January 10-13, 2013.

5. The Executive Director attended and participated in the CY 2013 Mid-Year National Management Development Conference held in Batangas which delved on ICAB’s delivery of 2012 NMDC agreements and directives. Also discussed and planned the Performance Commitment of the Agency.

6. Advocacy visits were made to the different Child Caring Agencies in Aklan, Angeles City, Antipolo, Baguio, Bataan, Bulacan, Calbayog, Cagayan Province, Capiz, Catarman, Cavite, Cebu City, Davao City, Dasmarinas and Silang Cavite, Dumaguete City, General Santos City, Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, Isabela, La Union, Nueva Viscaya, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Palawan, Romblon, Tacloban, Tagaytay City, Tanay, Tarlac, Zamboanga, and NCR based CCAs. These visits were intended to determine the number of children cared for in each CCA, home visits and interview to gather additional information significant to the...
assessment of the cases, conduct of case conference, provided technical assistance for the case movement of children and to assess Special Needs Children cleared for ICA as possible

7. The Global National Organizing Committee held several meetings during the semester to plan and finalize/confirmation of resource speakers, finalize lay-out of the souvenir notebook, arrangements for Global venue and update on other activities for the 12th Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services.

8. The Executive Director was interviewed by different radio programs to discuss and clarified various issues and concerns on adoption.

9. The PDO III and SWO II visited four (4) NGO Child Caring Agencies for the re-accreditation to operate as a liaison service agency and assist in the liaison service on intercountry adoption program of the ICAB.

10. The Executive Director and the SWO V attended the Operations and Programs Group (OPG) Meetings. The CY 2013 ICAB Thrusts and priority activities for CY 2013, updates on the ICAB Placement Services, schedule of the OPG Strategic Planning and the OPG Standard Operating Procedures were discussed.

11. Ten (10) ICAB Social workers attended and participated in the Fun Walk “Love Walk 2013” last February 16, 2013 in connection with the DSWD NCR celebration of the Adoption Consciousness Week.

12. The Executive Director attended and participated in the Interagency Planning Workshop to enhance the GOP-UNICEF 2012-2014 Child Protection Rolling Work Plan held at the DSWD FO IV-B.

13. The Executive Director was invited as a panelist in the DSWD NCR Quarterly Adoption Symposium which discussed and clarified issued and concerns on RA 9523 and RA 8043.

14. An ICAB Social Worker was invited as a resource person on post adoption services by DSWD Field Office II for the Adoption Forum held last February 27–March 1, 2013 in Tuguegarao City.

15. Continuing consultative sessions with the DSWD ICTMS were undertaken for the development and improvement of the ICAB website.

16. The key personnel staff of the Secretariat met with the COA representatives to discuss audit observations and findings as well as recommendations.

17. Two (2) ICAB Secretariat social workers attended and participated in the PASWI Forum at the DSWD Central Office on March 15, 2013.

18. Consultation meeting was undertaken with WEDPRO and PCW in the preparation of CY 2013 GAD Annual Report and CY 2014-2015 GAD Plans and Budget.

19. The Secretariat’s Planning and Development Unit staff conducted an orientation to the incoming social welfare attaches for Saudi Arabia and Malaysia on the intercountry processes and procedures.
20. The Executive Director was a resource person at the Orientation on Parental Care held at the Regional Trial Court in Mandaluyong. She presented an overview on the intercountry adoption program.

21. Two (2) on site Matching Conferences during the year were conducted at RSCC Lubao Pampanga and RSCC Zamboanga. This was attended and participated in by the Executive Director, Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC) Members and the Secretariat Social Workers of the Child Placement Unit. The on-site matching was aimed at helping the Child Caring Agency to improve the case management and case study writing and learn firsthand from the consultants and for ICAB to see the actual condition of the children. Effectiveness of the on-site matching:

- The on spot \((in-cito)\) Matching Conference resulted in better actual data gathering and better monitoring and implementation of policies.
- Immediate verification of health and development concerns. Child is matched/put on hold immediately.
- RSCC’s who are unable to physically attend matching conferences are exposed to the matching system of the multidisciplinary group.
- RSCC support staff and child carers were given the opportunity to ask question and seek solution from consultants.

22. The Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services was held on August 14-16, 2013 at the historic Manila Hotel. It was participated in by two hundred seventy-three (273) adoption specialists and child welfare advocates from the Philippines (215) and
across the globe (58). The “Philippine Global Consultation” is a joint project of the Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in partnership with the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP) conducted every two years where local and international adoption specialists, adoptive parents and adoptees discuss issues and concerns affecting children placed for adoption around the world.

Over the years, an increasing number of Filipino adoptees have been returning to the Philippines for Motherland Tours and Search and Reunion with their birth parents. Thus the 12th Philippine Global Consultation NOC agreed on the theme “Post Adoption Services: The Way Forward”. Highlights of the consultation includes the sharing of experiences on the journey of international adoptees from Norway and USA and the adoption experience from the perspective of adoptive parents from the USA, Australia and France. Financial issues of inter-country adoption and post adoption matters, current trends and practices on post adoption services and the role of the Sending Country were also discussed by speakers from UK, Belgium, USA, Australia, Netherlands, Finland, Canada and the Philippines.
A representative from The Hague Regional Office and UNICEF Ethiopia came and met with the ICAB Executive Director and observed the ICAB Matching Conference.

Continuous consultation between ICAB and McCann Worldwide Group for the adoption advocacy materials zeroing in the development of an E-Book on Adoption Stories. This E-book will be the first Filipino illustration book which is a tool in “adoption telling”

Last July 2013, DSWD ASec Teodulo Romo Jr. spoke on the significance of the launching of the E-Book, the first-ever written and illustrated Filipino e-books for adoptive families. Often, this story is called “the day we met” story. It is one of the most challenging but inspiring stories to tell an adoptive child. The launching was attended by adoptive parents, adoptees, ICAB Secretariat, DSWD PSB social workers and NGO representatives.

The animated version of the E-Book on Adoption was launched during the 12th Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services at the Manila Hotel.

The ICAB Executive Director provided an orientation on the intercountry adoption program to the social workers, medical and records personnel of the Ospital ng Makati. The
orientation also emphasized the significance of reporting any abandoned or neglected children to the DSWD to ensure the best interests of the child and curb human trafficking or independent placement.

27. ICAB conducted four (4) Trainings on ICA Program and Preparing Children for Adoption and participated in by 209 social workers from DSWD, NGO CCAs, LGUs and RTCs of Regions I – II – CAR- III-IVA-IVB-VI-VII-VIII and NCR. The training aimed to strengthen the capability of social workers in handling cases of children for adoption particularly for intercountry adoption. The training likewise provided the participants with the red-flags to observe in the medical and psycho-social social conditions of the children under their care as well as understand the significance of loss and grief and bonding.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

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

1. General Staff Meeting with Alternate Chairperson/Usec Parisha Taradji
2. Adoption Consciousness Celebration
4. ICAB Strategic Planning for CY 2013-2014
5. PMHA Lecture Forum on “Sa Espesyal na Bata, Maraming Magagawa” (The Importance of Multi-disciplinary Team Management for Children with Special Needs)
6. DBM Training Program on the Unified Accounts Code Structure and Online Submission of Budget Proposal System
7. FY 2014 Budget Forum
8. DBM MITHI Orientation
9. DBM Meeting on NBC 532 Cascading Revised MFOS/PAPs/PIs
10. Forum on Performance Informed Budget Structure
11. DSWD and Attached Agencies Workshop on NBC 532
12. MS Access for Records Management.
13. Continuing Education of ICAB Social Workers
   a. Medical Assessment of Children
   b. Early Growth and Development with Emphasis on Psychological Aspect
   c. Early Childhood Development: Stages of Development
14. ICAB Staff Development and Team Building
15. National Communication Planning Workshop
16. Workshop on Knowledge Management: Capturing and Packaging of Knowledge Products particularly Good Practices and Hands-On Training on KM Portal
17. Supervisory Development Course Track 2-3
18. DBM Technical Budget Hearing
19. DSWD Technical Budget Dry-Run
20. Orientation on the Mechanics of the Performance Based Bonus
21. National Consultation with Civil Society Organization
22. Forum on Single Treasury Account
24. PAGBA Quarterly Seminar
25. Performance Planning Workshop
26. Property and Supply Management System
27. GAD Planning and Budgeting 2015
28. Consultation Workshop for the Finalization of Social Protection Plan
29. Policy Study Session
30. Matapat, Mahusay, Magiliw: The Regional Leadership Journey Workshop
31. GAD Sensitivity Training
32. Fire Safety and Preventio Seminar
33. DSWD NCR Program Implementation Review and Consultation on RA 9523
34. Psychosocial Process Orientation
35. DBM Budget Forum for Budget Preparation Cy 2015-2017
36. DSWD Planning Writeshop for PCR-OSM
37. TWG on Proposed Adoption Bill
38. Year End Convocation
39. AkoParaSaBata Child Protection Network Annual Conference
40. CSC Training on Basic Customer Services Skills
41. Seminar on Management of Children with Learning Disabilities

VI. ICAB BUDGET AND EXPENSES

From January to December of FY 2013, the ICAB received a total of Php 35,976 Million allotment from the DBM/BTR of which Php 13,253 Million was derived from the Regular Allotment (GAA RA 10352) and Php 21,835 Million was from the agency’s income collected from fees/charges and assessments. Of the total allotment received of Php 35,976 Million, 38% or Php11,819 Million was allotted for Personnel Service, 60% or Php18,545 Million was for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses while 2% or Php740 Thousand was allocated for Capital Outlay. For the period under review, the ICAB had 98% of fund utilization.
A summary of allotment/obligation and balance¹ is stated below (in thousand pesos)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object Class/Expenditures</th>
<th>Allotment RA 1035</th>
<th>Use of Income</th>
<th>Add’l SARO (MPBF)</th>
<th>Total Allotment Received</th>
<th>Obligations Incurred</th>
<th>Unobligated Balance of Allotment</th>
<th>% of Fund Utilization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS</td>
<td>13253</td>
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<td>(1,111)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>13,253</td>
<td>21,835</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>35,976</td>
<td>35,523</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>97.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Income Generated in First Semester of CY 2013

- The ICAB earned Php37,201,696.84 Million for the CY 2013 which is 98% of the total target income for CY 2013 of P37,909,200.00 Million.

- Comparatively, the income earned from January to December 2013 (Php37,201,696.84 Million) is 1% higher than the collections in the previous year 2012 in the amount of Php36,602,988.45 Million. The increase in the income collected is the effect of the appreciation of the peso value vis-a-vis the US dollar i.e. CY 2012: P41=US$1 vs CY 2013 P42=US$1.

- It will be noted that income collection of Php 10,087,486.94 Million in the first quarter is lower compared to the 2nd quarter collection of Php 10,358,696.40 Million. The decrease in the collection is due to the decrease of adoption applications endorsed by Central Authorities and Foreign Adoption Agencies because of the on-going conditional moratorium on adoption applications.

- As of December 31, 2013 the ICAB earned total income of P37,201,696.84 Million. However, the DBM only allowed use of income in the amount of P21,835 Million.

- The foregoing earnings of the ICAB formed part of the agency’s Unprogrammed Fund which is earmarked to augment the Regular Fund Allocation/Allotment for the Administrative and Operations expenses, fund to support the Board activities, programs and services of the agency.
THRUSTS FOR CY 2013

I. Policy Formulation

Formulation of new and more responsive rules and regulations, policies and guidelines on intercountry adoption particularly on adoption applications and post legal adoption services.

II. Program Development and Implementation

1. Concretize post legal adoption services and enhance staff capability in conducting post legal adoption services.

2. Strengthen provision of comprehensive technical assistance on case management of children cleared for intercountry adoption to local sectoral stakeholders.

III. Networking, Advocacy and Capability Building

1. Continued capacity building through training/dialogue for local implementers on the Philippine Intercountry Adoption Program.

2. Creation/production of infomercial on adoption.

IV. Regulatory Function

1. Intensify monitoring of compliance to standards and provisions of RA 8043 and conformity to the statutes of The Hague Convention of 1993.

2. Periodic authorization by the Board of Hague Country Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) and accreditation of Non-Hague Country FAAs.

V. Organizational Structure and Agency Strengthening

1. Improvement of ICT Infrastructure/Network, Database System and Website Content Management

2. Digitilization of adoption files/records for post legal adoption services.

3. Improvement of office facilities for conducive working environment and efficient delivery of services.

Prepared and submitted by:

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PDO III

Approved by:

BERNADETTE B. ABEJO
Executive Director

Reviewed and noted by:

GINA C. ESCALANTE
SWO V