



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CLUBD MEMORANDUM ORDER

NO. 31

Series of 1996

SUBJECT : PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (HRE)

In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and by virtue of Resolution No. 001, Series of 1995, of the Commission en banc, all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and all concerned officials and employees of the Commission are hereby informed and/or enjoined and/or directed in re, thus:

1. The Commission entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 08 May 1996 with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the Amnesty International Pilipinas (AIP) and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) with the aim of promoting Human Rights Education (HRE) in the country through HEIs, among others; a copy of the MOA is attached for easy reference;


2. Consequently, all HEIs should conduct HRE and training projects anent thereto, including, but not limited to, integrating Human Rights (HR) concepts in all their curricular offerings.

3. Likewise, all HEIs should document their HRE accomplishments and submit a semestral/trimestral written report to the Higher Education Regional Office (HERO) concerned.

4. All HEROS should thereafter consolidate the reports of the HEIs within their respective jurisdictions and submit the same to this Office [Attention: The Director, Office of Programs and Standards (OPS)].

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, Philippines, May 16, 1996


ANGEL C. ALCALA
Chairman

Copy Furnished:

All HEIs

All HEROS

Commission on Human Rights

Amnesty International Pilipinas

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into between and among the:

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, an independent government office organized and existing pursuant to the Constitution of the Philippines, with principal office and address at Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as CHR, represented by its Chairman, Honorable Aurora Navarrete-Recifia;

and

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS, a government entity existing under the laws of the Philippines with principal office and address at the University of Life Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as DECS, represented by its Secretary, Honorable Ricardo T. Gloria;

and

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PILIPINAS, the duly registered Philippine Section of the worldwide human rights movement of Amnesty International, with principal office and address at 114 Scout Limbaga St., Kamuning, Quezon City, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as AI, represented by its Chairperson, Honorable Rene V. Sarmiento

and

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, a government entity existing under the laws of the Philippines with principal office and address at the Development Academy of the Philippines Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City, hereinafter referred to as CHED, represented by its Chairman, Honorable Angel C. Alcala.

Witnesseth:

Whereas, pursuant to a suggestion of the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 1995 as the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, and urged governmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to establish and implement programmes of human rights education, as recommended in the Plan of Action of the Secretary-General, in particular by preparing and implementing national plans for human rights education;

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Whereas, the Philippine Constitution under Article II, Section 11 declares a State policy to the effect that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for Human Rights;

Whereas, the Philippine Constitution under Article XIV, Section 3(2) requires all educational institutions to "inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship ...";

Whereas, the Commission on Human Rights, through its Public Information and Education Office (PIEO), undertakes its constitutional mandate to "establish a continuing program of research, information and education to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights" and in pursuance of the thrust, coordinates and taps the services and assistance of any department, bureau, office and agency in the performance of its functions;

Whereas, the CHR has been implementing its Human Rights Education and Training Programme (HRETP) since 1987 as well as its Plan of Action for the UN Decade for Human Rights Education since 1995, both of which cater to all sectors of Philippine society;

Whereas the DECS is mandated under Executive Order No. 27 issued on 4 July 1986 "to maximize respect for human rights" by including the study and understanding of human rights as part of the curricula of all educational institutions, adopting the scope and treatment of the subjects or courses on human rights to the respective levels of education and training;

Whereas CHR entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the DECS on 9 December 1992, at which time the Bureau of Higher Education was still part of the DECS. Now that BHE is a separate institution known as the Commission on Higher Education, there is a need to renew each agency's commitment on human rights and its stepped-up dissemination;

Whereas, the DECS and CHR have been jointly planning and implementing projects/activities since 1987 and have gone far in promoting human rights;

Whereas, the AI and other non-governmental organizations have also been engaged in human rights promotion since the Martial Law years, there is a need to document and assess the extent of accomplishments made by both the governmental and non-governmental organizations and synchronize, if not consolidate and step up all their efforts towards more accelerated, meaningful and effective human rights education in the Philippines;

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Whereas there is a need to sustain the efforts made by the above-mentioned organizations/agencies and others involved in human rights promotion;

Whereas CHA, CHC, CHD and CHED need to join hands in assessing the extent of accomplishments made by both GOs and NGOs in order to come up with a national vision of and programme of action for HRE for the years to come;

Now, therefore, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the herein parties hereby mutually agree to the terms, conditions and objectives stated hereunder:

1. To jointly undertake a nationwide GO-NGO-Academe Consultative Workshop with the end view of producing a Long-Term National Plan of Action on Human Rights Education, inclusive of a national vision on human rights in the Philippines;
2. To jointly implement and/or cause the implementation of the Long-Term National Plan of Action on Human Rights Education as maybe formulated through a series of regional consultations and national public hearing;
3. To jointly document the gains made so far in the field of human rights education (HRE) by, as much as possible, all GOs, NGOs and academic institutions in the Philippines. In furtherance of this thrust, all the parties herein shall together put up and maintain an HRE Resource and Documentation Center to be housed at the CHR-PIEO;
4. To jointly undertake the publication and production of documentaries on HRE in the Philippines, and other HRE materials;
5. To periodically monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Long-Term National Plan of Action on HRE;
6. To take the lead in:
 - CHR - Documenting and consolidating the accomplishments of both GOs and NGOs in HRE promotion.
 - The actual conduct of information, education and training projects.
 - Providing necessary HR reference materials during trainings.
 - Disseminating HR information and invitations to the government sector.
 - Causing the establishment and activation of HR Desk in each government agency.
 - Developing materials for input to textbooks prescribed by DECS.

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- AR - Documenting and consolidating the accomplishments of NGOs in HR education.
 - The actual conduct of training projects.
 - Directing and coordinating and invitations to the NGOs.
 - The actual dissemination to the NGOs.

- DECS - Documenting and consolidating the accomplishments along HRE of the elementary, secondary, vocational and technical schools as well as non-formal education.
 - The actual conduct of training.
 - The coordinating integration of HR concepts in elementary, secondary, vocational and technical schools as well as non-formal education.
 - The dissemination of information to the entire academic community, most especially to teachers and students of the elementary, secondary, as well as non-formal education.

- CHED - Documenting and consolidating the accomplishments along human rights education in higher education.
 - The actual conduct of the human rights education and training projects.
 - The continuing integration of HR concepts in all higher educational courses.
 - The information dissemination to all higher educational institutions in the country, including vocational and technical schools.

7. An Inter-Agency HRE Task Force is hereby created and constituted by the herein parties as follows:

CHR - the Director of the Public Information and Education Office (PIEO);

DECS - the Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Development; the Executive Director of the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP);

ATP/PHILAC - the Coordinator of the Human Rights Education Program (also known as the Solidarity for Freedom Project); and

CHED - the Director of the Office of Programs and Standards.

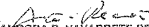
8. The Inter-Agency HRE Task Force shall be responsible in ensuring that all the agreements stated above are at least satisfactorily complied. Each member of the Task Force is authorized to act for and in behalf of his/her respective agency. All decisions of the Task Force shall be subject to review and/or approval of the heads of the herein parties.

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
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In witness whereof, we hereby affix our signatures this ____ day of _____, 1996
in Pasig City, Philippines.

Commission on Human Rights
By:


AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECIÑA
Chairman

Department of Education, Culture and Sports
By:

RICARDO T. GLORIA
Secretary 


Commission on Higher Education
By:

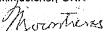

ANGEL C. ALCALA
Chairman


Amnesty International Pilipinas
By:

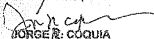

ATTY. RENE V. SARMIENTO
Chairperson

Signed in the Presence of:



NASSER A. MAROHOMSAJIC
Commissioner, CHR


MERCEDES V. CONTRERAS
Commissioner, CHR


VICENTE P. SIBULO
Commissioner, CHR


JORGE R. COQUIA
Commissioner, CHR

MONA D. VALISNO
Commissioner, CHED

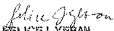

ESTER A. GARCIA
Commissioner, CHED


GUTIERREZ A. MANGANSAKAN
Undersecretary, DECS


ERLINDA C. PEFIANCO
Undersecretary, DECS

ALEJANDRO W. D. CLEMENTE
Undersecretary, DECS

ANTONIO E. B. NACHURA
Undersecretary, DECS


FELICE I. YEEBAN
Deputy Chairperson, AIP


KATE C. BOTENGAM
Commissioner, CHED


ROLANDO DELA GOZA
Commissioner, CHED