

Republika ng Pilipinas
(Republic of the Philippines)
MINISTERIO NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE)
Manila

November 7, 1978

MEMORANDUM
No. 307, = 1978

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (IYC) 1979 AND
THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR EDUCATION

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Coordinator, State Colleges and Universities
Schools Superintendents
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities

1. The 31st session of the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the year 1979 as the International Year of the Child (IYC), with major objectives as follows:

- a. To provide a framework for advocacy on behalf of children and for enhancing the awareness of the social needs of children on the part of decision-makers and the public;
- b. To promote recognition of the fact that the programs for children should be an integral part of economic and social development plans, with a view to achieving in both the long-term and the short-term, sustained activities for the benefit of children on the national and international levels.

2. In this connection, all school officials and students are enjoined to observe the Year with fitting school activities aligned with the National Plan of Action for Education for the Decade of the Filipino Child (1977-1987).

3. The National Plan of Action for Education and suggested activities in the framework of the International Year of the Child are enclosed.

4. Immediate dissemination of the contents of this Memorandum is desired.

(SCD) WILSON ALDRACEY
Acting Minister of Education and Culture

Incl
As stated

Reference
MEC Memorandum No 300, s. 1972

Attachment 1-2-3-4-5 (D O 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects

✓ CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
OFFICIALS
SCHOOLS
✓ STUDENTS

**A. NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
FILIPINO CHILD - 1977-1987**

Deeply conscious that it is essentially through education that a child is enabled to develop his full potential and achieve maximum fulfillment, the National Plan of Action for Education in the next decade is as follows:

I. No Child of School Age Shall be Deprived of Basic Education

Children who, for economic or other reasons, cannot attend the formal school system shall, nevertheless, be provided adequate educational opportunities. Toward this end, learning centers shall be established and self-instruction or distance-learning schemes, fully utilizing appropriate educational technology, shall be instituted.

The Department of Education and Culture shall recognize any learning obtained in a non-formal way, and shall accord it as a means of opening the door to further education for children and youth who do not enjoy the advantages of formal schooling.

Special classes and activities shall be organized in every school to meet the needs of the mentally gifted, the mentally retarded, the physically handicapped, and other children with special problems.

II. The Department of Education and Culture, Aware of the Acute Nutritional Deficiencies of Many of our Children, Will Continue to Expand its Nutrition and School-Fooding Program

Poor health and malnourishment have been recognized as among the chief causes of absence and of dropping out from school. We shall make greater use of locally produced nutritious foods in carrying out this program.

III. Local Governments and School Boards Shall Provide for Pre-School Education After Top Priorities Have Been Met

IV. More Urgent Than All These, is the Development Among Our Youth and Children, of Certain Moral Values and the Qualities of Character Which Shall Enable Them to Cope Successfully With the Varied Circumstances and Challenges of Life, Such as, Reverence, Self-reliance, Integrity, Industry, Social Responsibility, Discipline, and Determination

The educational system shall provide appropriate situations and the kind of environment in which such values can emerge and flourish.

The Youth Civic Action Program will be directed toward more meaningful activities. The value-re-orientation and re-training of teachers will be undertaken to the end that they may help to inculcate human values by example, as well as by precept.

V. Schools Shall Continue To Implement Any Program Supportive of Development.

Such programs shall integrate study and work, emphasize vocational and technical skills, academic excellence, and social involvement. These programs should promote in the youth a finer appreciation of the New Society and develop in them an enthusiasm for building a just and good society.

3. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD 1979 PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

I. Suggestions for National Programs

National book promotion programmes could be especially oriented, in 1979, toward national children's book campaigns, organized by National Book Councils or similar organizations and making maximum use of press, radio and television to create widespread public interest and involvement.

Such a campaign may include activities such as

1. Reading festivals

Festival-type activities, attractive to the general public, but devised to stimulate interest in children's voluntary reading and in reading aloud (for instance, with the participation of authors) could be organized at various levels (local and national or over language-lines across frontiers), for particular age-groups or ethnic communities, within various institutional frameworks (schools, libraries, museums, children's hospitals, etc.) or in relation to appropriate public events (fairs, agricultural shows, religious assemblies, etc.)

2. Literary competitions

Young people, individually or in groups, could be encouraged to produce literary works, with or without illustrations, possibly suitable for publication on subjects of interest to them. Exhibitions and public performances related to such works and special award ceremonies could be organized along the same lines as the reading festivals mentioned above, and close cooperation being maintained with schools and youth organizations. In areas where national languages are still struggling to assert themselves (e.g. Swahili in East Africa) such competitions could be used to support national language movements.

Outstanding works could be published and widely distributed.

3. Poster competitions

Many countries will no doubt wish to issue special posters concerned with children's reading in 1979 and will organize competitions for posters designed either (a) by children or (b) by artists and designers. These competitions would need to be held early in 1978 and adjudicated in the middle of the same year if questions of finance, production and the awarding of prizes are to be dealt with in time for the posters to be widely distributed early in 1979. Posters should of course carry the slogan "Books for All" along with the symbol of the International Year of the Child.

Too judges entrusted with the award of prizes should be representative of all institutions and associations concerned with children and books.

4. Book fairs

National, regional and local book fairs, book weeks, etc., may include special exhibits and activities related to children's books and children's reading habits. The International Year of the Child would offer a good opportunity on the establishment of such children's book events where the need exists.

