

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

March 4, 1980

MEC M E M O R A N D U M  
No. 47, s. 1980

RECOGNITION OF PHILIPPINE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS  
IN AUSTRALIA IN THE PROFESSIONAL FIELD OF TEACHING

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Chiefs of Services and Heads of Units  
Schools Superintendents  
Presidents, State Colleges and  
Universities  
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges  
and Universities

1. Inclosed is a letter of the Assistant Secretary, International Educational Branch, Department of Education, Canberra, Australia, concerning the recognition of Philippine academic qualifications in Australia, particularly the professional field of teaching.
2. In this connection, attention is invited to paragraphs 3 and 5 of the aforesaid letter emphasizing the criteria adopted in assessing the educational qualifications of teacher-applicants.
3. It is requested that this Memorandum be given wide publicity for the information and guidance of all concerned particularly those who are interested in applying for teaching positions in Australia.

(SGD). GEORGE D. CORPUZ  
Minister of Education and Culture

Incl.:

As stated

Reference:

N o n e

Allotment: 1-2-3-4--(D.O. 1-76)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

QUALIFICATIONS  
TEACHERS

(Inclosure to MEC Memorandum No. 47, s, 1980)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. Box 826  
Wooden, A.C.T. 2606  
Telephone 89 1333  
Telegraphic Code:  
"Education" Canberra

In reply please quote:

73/2104  
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Refer to:

.....

Mrs. Leticia R. Shahani  
The Ambassador of the Philippines  
Embassy of the Philippines  
1 Moonah Place  
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

27 July 1979

Attention: Mrs Rosalinda V. Tirona  
Minister-Counselor

Your Excellency

RECOGNITION OF PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

I refer to your letter of 10 July 1979 concerning recognition of Philippine educational qualifications in Australia, particularly those awarded in the professional field of teaching.

In Australia employing authorities and educational institutions are autonomous and make their own decisions on the acceptability of overseas qualifications including those awarded by Philippine institutions for employment or enrolment purposes. The role of this Department in evaluating overseas educational qualifications is to provide an advisory service in the assessment of overseas qualifications for the government departments, educational institutions and employing authorities which have responsibility for assessing overseas qualifications.

The approach followed by our Department in the evaluation of overseas educational qualifications including those from the Philippines is to consider each case on its individual merits. The main criteria adopted in assessing overseas qualifications include the status of the insti-

tution, the overall duration of formal studies completed, the admission requirements, the level of formal studies reached, the marks awarded, the subjects studied and length and depth of study in each subject. We do not have a selected list of accepted Philippine institutions but we, of course, take into account whether the institution in question has been recognised by the Philippine Government.

One of the main criteria used in assessing tertiary qualifications from the Philippines against Australian qualifications is the number of years of formal study involved. As the education system in the Philippines comprises a total of ten years of primary and secondary schooling compared with twelve to thirteen in Australia depending on the State, it would seem that a high school graduate from the Philippines could not be considered to have reached the same level as an Australian matriculant. At the tertiary level therefore Australian authorities do not normally consider a four-year first degree from the Philippines as comparable in standard to an Australian degree, although the assessment in each case would also take into account other criteria mentioned above, such as the institution attended and the level of marks awarded.

It is understood that in the professional field of teaching Australian teacher employing authorities including State education departments generally require teachers from the Philippines to hold a master's degree, eg Master of Education, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Teaching before they would be considered acceptable by Australian standards.

Teachers qualified in the Philippines who wish to teach in Australia are advised to contact Australian teacher employing authorities to establish whether their qualifications are acceptable. If an assessment is needed the teaching authority would contact the Committee on Overseas Qualifications (COPQ) which, through its expert panel in teaching makes assessments on overseas teaching qualifications. COPQ would welcome an enquiry should you wish to obtain further information on this matter. Their address is:

Mr. Tony Becket  
Secretary  
Expert Panel on Teaching  
Committee on Overseas Professional  
Qualifications  
PO Box 1407  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601  
(Phone 732548)

Yours sincerely

(SGD.) F. R. SMITH  
Assistant Secretary  
International Education Branch

A true copy