



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS  
DECS Complex, Morajo Avenue  
Pasig City, Philippines



Sama-Sama  
sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Kalihim  
Office of the Secretary

March 26, 2001

DECS MEMORANDUM

No. 101, s. 2001

**AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE  
AND SPORTS (DECS) AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
(CHED) ON THE NONFORMAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION  
AND EQUIVALENCY (NFE A&E) SECONDARY  
LEVEL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS**

To: Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau/Service/Center Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Superintendents  
Private Elementary and Secondary School Principals

1. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Bureau of Nonformal Education (BNFE), developed the Nonformal Education Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE A&E) System under the Asian Development Bank (ADB)- assisted Philippines Nonformal Education Project.
2. The NFE A&E System provides an alternative means of certification of learning to those who have dropped out of the formal elementary and secondary schools system. Through this program, Out-of-School Youth and Adults are provided the opportunity to gain a certification which is comparable to the elementary and secondary diploma of the formal school system.
3. In order to ensure that the NFE A&E program completers can gain access to further education and training opportunities as avenues to improve employability and quality of life, the DECS is forging articulation agreements with institutions providing post-secondary education and training programs.
4. To this end, the DECS has established a linkage with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on January 17, 2001 with the following commitments:
  - 4.1 That DECS and CHED will work to ensure articulation of their nonformal education learning systems across all levels of program implementation;
  - 4.2 That as part of this articulation, CHED and its member institutions recognize the NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate as a qualification comparable to that of the Diploma of the formal school system;
  - 4.3 That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be accepted into the post-secondary education programs of CHED member institutions subject to the usual screening procedures of such institution for regular enrollees;

- 4.4 That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be eligible for consideration of the Recognition of their Prior Learnings through access to **CHED's** Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP);
  - 4.5 That **DECS** and **CHED** will collaborate to advocate for improved access to post-basic education and training programs offered by private providers and State Universities/Colleges for NFE A&E Secondary level Certificate holders;
  - 4.6 That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to support efforts to institutionalize the Recognition of Prior Learning as a mechanism to improve educational access opportunities for poor and underserved Filipinos Out-of-School-Youth (OSY) and Adults;
  - 4.7 That **DECS** and **CHED** will coordinate closely with other education providers to support the development of national equivalency competency standards to provide multiple pathways of learning for Filipinos who are unable to avail of the educational opportunities of the formal education system;
  - 4.8 That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to support efforts to strengthen skills and competency development of Out-of-School-Youth and Adults in preparation for entrance to post-secondary education programs including the development of academic-focused bridging programs for NFE A&E Secondary Level passers;
  - 4.9 That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to strengthen the development, implementation and expansion of educational equivalency programs as part of the formation of a national alternative learning system incorporating nonformal and post basic education;
5. With this agreement, thousands of out-of-school-youth and adults will benefit from the NFE A&E program and CHED education and training programs to improve their basic skills in critical thinking, problem solving and decision making, thus opening other opportunities and life choices to improve the quality of their life and that of their families.
6. Attached is a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DECS and CHED for your reference.
7. Immediate and wide dissemination of the contents of this Memorandum to all concerned is desired.

  
**ISAGANI R. CRUZ**

Undersecretary for Programs and Projects

Reference: DECS Order No. 22, s. 1999

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

ACCREDITATION  
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
EQUIVALENCY  
NONFORMAL EDUCATION  
TERTIARY EDUCATION

18-04

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

### KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This **AGREEMENT** made and entered into by and between:

The **Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)** with office address at DECS Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, herein represented by **DECS Secretary, Bro. ANDREW B. GONZALEZ, FSC**, hereinafter referred to as the **First Party**.

- and -

The **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** with principal address at the **Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)**, San Miguel Drive, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, herein represented by **Chairman ESTER A. GARCIA**, hereinafter referred to as the **Second Party**.

- WITNESSETH -

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Government, through the **Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have entered into Loan Agreement No. 1254-PHI (SF), otherwise known as the **Philippines Nonformal Education (PNFE) Project**;

**WHEREAS**, the **PNFE Project** envisions to contribute to the country's poverty alleviation program by raising the basic and functional literacy skills of the poor to enhance their capabilities to engage in self-help and community activities;

**WHEREAS**, a core component of the **PNFE Project** is the **Development of a Nonformal Education Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE A&E) System** as an alternative means of certification of learning to those Filipinos aged 15 years and above, who are unable to avail of the formal school system, or who have dropped out of formal elementary or secondary school;

**WHEREAS**, the **NFE A&E System** is a pioneering effort to offer a uniquely nonformal alternative learning system to formal schooling, with a truly nonformal curriculum and utilizes a range of innovative nonformal learning strategies designed to break down traditional learning barriers of time, accessibility and resources;

**WHEREAS**, the **NFE A&E System** incorporates two levels of equivalency testing and certification comparable to the elementary and secondary levels of the formal school system;

*Justiniano*

**WHEREAS**, the **DECS** and **CHED** are committed in improving equity and access to education services in order to improve the marketable skills and life opportunities of Out-of-School Youth and Adults.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises and the mutual stipulations and covenants herein set forth, **DECS** and **CHED** hereby agree on the following:

- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will work to ensure articulation of their nonformal education learning systems across all levels of program implementation;
- ◆ That as part of this articulation, **CHED** and its member institutions recognize the NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate as a qualification comparable to that of the Diploma of the formal school system;
- ◆ That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be accepted into the post-secondary education programs of **CHED** member institutions subject to the usual screening procedures of such institutions for regular enrollees;
- ◆ That NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders will be eligible for consideration of the Recognition of their Prior Learnings through access to **CHED**'s Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP);
- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will collaborate to advocate for improved access to post-basic education and training programs offered by private providers and State Universities/Colleges for NFE A&E Secondary Level Certificate holders;
- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to support efforts to institutionalize the Recognition of Prior Learning as a mechanism to improve educational access opportunities for poor and underserved Filipinos OSY and Adults;
- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will coordinate closely with other education providers to support the development of national equivalency competency standards to provide multiple pathways of learning for Filipinos who are unable to avail of the educational opportunities of the formal education system;
- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to support efforts to strengthen skills and competency development of Out-of-School-Youth and Adults in preparation for entrance to post-secondary education programs including the development of academic-focused bridging programs for NFE A&E Secondary Level passers;
- ◆ That **DECS** and **CHED** will work jointly to strengthen the development, implementation and expansion of educational equivalency programs as part of the formation of a national alternative learning system incorporating nonformal and post-basic education;

*Jerryman*  
A

This **AGREEMENT** shall take effect upon signing of this Agreement by the **FIRST PARTY** and the **SECOND PARTY**.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, the **Parties** have signed this **AGREEMENT** on the date and place appearing on the acknowledgement hereof:

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS)**

**COMMISSION ON HIGHER  
EDUCATION (CHED)**

By:

*Andrew B. Gonzalez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ANDREW B. GONZALEZ, FSC**  
Secretary

*Esther A. Garcia*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ESTER A. GARCIA**  
Chairperson

Signed in the Presence of:

*Rosario J. De Guzman*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ROSARIO J. DE GUZMAN**  
Director IV

*Roger P. Perez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ROGER P. PEREZ**  
Witness

Date signed: January 17, 2001

**A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) S.S.  
PROVINCE OF Manila)

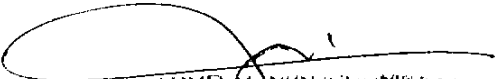
BEFORE ME, this 17th day of Jan <sup>JAN 17 2001</sup> 2000, personally appeared the following:

Name	Res. Cert. No.	Date & Place of Issu
1. SEC. ANDREW B. GONZALEZ, FSC.	<u>01590223</u>	<u>Jan. 5, 2000 Pasig City</u>
2. DR. ESTER A. GARCIA	<u>027 06507</u>	<u>Feb. 10, 2000 R. C.</u>

Known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instruments and acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed and that of the principals represented by them.

**WITNESS MY HAND and SEAL, on the date and place written above.**

Doc. No. 30  
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Book No. 11  
Series of 2000

  
MAGSAYO D. MARIKUHOMBO  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
UNTIL DEC 31, 2001  
PTR No. 012020  
MANILA JAN 10, 2001

**NOTARY PUBLIC**