



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

August 16, 2022

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **915** 2022

INVITATION FOR DEPED REGIONAL OFFICE VIII IN THE "REGIONAL ORIENTATION AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE U.S. EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM: VISAYAS"

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Division Focal Persons for ICO
All Others Concerned

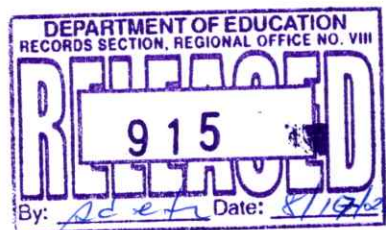
1. Attached is a DepEd Memorandum, dated August 11, 2022 from the Director of the International Cooperation Office (ICO) requesting the participation of the Regional and Division Offices in the Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop in the US Exchange Visitor Program: Visayas on August 17-18, 2022 in Cebu City.
2. The preferred participant from each Schools Division Office is any of the following:
 - a. Schools Division Superintendent; or
 - b. Assistant Schools Division Superintendent; or
 - c. Other representative as maybe designated instead.
3. Page 7 of the Concept Note relative to the conduct of this activity states in part: *"Moreover, the basis of the preferred personnel mentioned above is on the usual Divisions or Units from the DepEd Field Offices that the ICO encounters or deals with regarding the processing and facilitation of requests for Central Office clearance and other EVP-related requirements."*
4. All the other provisions and the online registration link are in the attached Memorandum.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired


EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV
Regional Director 

Enclosures: As stated
References: As stated

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

CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ICO
ESSD-SPSS-EAD





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Office of the Director

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **EVELYN R. FETALVERO**
Regional Director, DepEd Regional Office VIII



FROM : 
MARGARITA CONSOLACION C. BALLESTEROS
Director IV

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FOR DEPED REGIONAL OFFICE VIII IN THE
"REGIONAL ORIENTATION AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP
ON THE U.S. EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM: VISAYAS"**

DATE : August 11, 2022

This is in reference to the fourth regional leg of the International Cooperation Office (ICO)'s activity entitled "*Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program: Visayas*" scheduled on August 18, 2022 in Cebu City.

Background

The Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) refers to the international exchange program administered by the United States, in the implementation of the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The law was intended "to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the peoples of other countries" through:

- An information service to disseminate abroad information about the United States, its people, and its policies; and
- An educational exchange service to cooperate with other nations in the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills; the rendering of technical and other services; and the interchange of developments in the field of education, arts, and sciences. (<https://www.evpccommittee.ph/about-us/what-is-evp>)

The Philippines is a participant to the EVP, where its implementation is facilitated and monitored by the EVP Committee of the Philippines. The Committee is an interagency body, chaired by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), that coordinates the country's participation in the EVP and properly channels the

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services of returned participants to the benefit of various Philippine government projects.

The DepEd's participation thereto was brought by the reconstitution of the EVP Committee by former President Fidel V. Ramos on January 17, 1996, as stipulated under Administrative Order No. 242. The inclusion of the teacher category was one of the EVP's thrusts to expand cultural exchanges to U.S. schools and students with Filipino teachers.

DepEd Implementation of the U.S. EVP

The DepEd implementation of the U.S. EVP is currently led by the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction, with the ICO serving as the acting Secretariat. Since 2020, the ICO has been facilitating all requests for Central Office clearances from teacher-participants to the EVP (teacher category) as well as representing DepEd in meetings convened by the EVP Committee of the Philippines.

Drawing from its experiences so far, the ICO led the following existing DepEd initiatives related to the program's teacher category:

- At the policy level, DepEd issued DM-OUCI-2021-220 on June 16, 2021 outlining DepEd's implementing guidelines on the participation of public school teachers in the EVP.

This was released shortly after the EVP Committee of the Philippines issued EVP Resolution No. 02-2021 last April 2021, which lifted the moratorium on the participation of Filipinos in the EVP and required the submission of a DepEd Central Office Clearance from EVP teacher-participants.

The DepEd, through the ICO, has also been an active member in the EVP Committee of the Philippines through its regular participation in the Regular EVP Committee of the Philippines Meetings.

- On the information dissemination aspect, the ICO collaborated with the CFO and Department of Foreign Affairs last June 8 and 10, 2021 on the conduct of the "Info-Webinar on J-1 Visa" via Zoom. It served as a platform to orient participants from DepEd Regions I, II, III, VI, VII, VIII, and NCR on the U.S.' J-1 visa, the visa category issued to EVP participants.

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Moreover, in pursuit of an efficient and streamlined facilitation of requests and concerns from EVP teacher-participants, the ICO prepared and released an infographic set titled "*Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the DepEd Implementation of the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program*" which contains the frequently asked questions and concerns by teacher-applicants and the Central Office's corresponding responses to each. This was published in the DepEd Philippines Facebook page on September 10, 2021.

Through the assistance of the ICTS-Solutions Development Division, the ICO also requested for the creation of a dedicated DepEd email account (ico.evp@deped.gov.ph) for EVP-related submissions and transactions. The requested email account was successfully granted and issued on September 1, 2021.

Moreover, three out of five of the regional legs of the "*Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program*" were successfully conducted in Baguio City, Naga City, Camarines Sur, and San Fernando, Pampanga. The participants – which were composed of Schools Division Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, Division Chiefs/Supervisors, and Education Program Specialists from Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, Cordillera Administrative Region, and National Capital Region – provided their respective inputs and recommendations on the draft Department Order on the DepEd Guidelines for the US EVP (Teacher Category).

Despite these measures, the ICO still receives enormous number of queries and encounters incomplete submissions from teacher-participants and DepEd Offices alike as to the processes and requirements involved in the DepEd implementation of the program.

Activity

It is within this context that the ICO is conducting the "*Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program (EVP)*", with the North Luzon, Central Luzon, National Capital Region, South Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao regions as its target areas.

The activity aims to:

1. align the understanding of the DepEd Central and Field Offices on the DepEd's implementation of the U.S. EVP (teacher category);

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2. prevent further loss of our public school teachers by strengthening efforts in emphasizing the nature of the program, in disseminating and highlighting correct information related to the program, and rectifying inaccurate assumptions on the program; and
3. function as a consultative platform with the DepEd Field Offices to consequently serve as the Central Office's guide in its crafting of the Guidelines on the DepEd Implementation of the EVP.

On August 18, 2022, the ICO will be conducting the "*Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program (EVP): Visayas*" Cebu City.

For the Visayas leg, we are expecting around 56 participants composed of Schools Division Superintendents, Assistant Schools Division Superintendents, and other managerial-level personnel from the Regional and Schools Division Offices in DepEd Regions VI, VII, and VIII to learn and engage in the discussions.

Clear Statement of Request and Recommended Action

In this regard, **we respectfully request for the assistance of DepEd Regional Office VI in extending this invitation to one (1) participant from the Regional Office and from each Schools Division Office under your jurisdiction to participate in the "Regional Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the U.S. Exchange Visitor Program: Visayas" on August 18, 2022 at 8:00 AM-4:00 PM in Cebu City.**

Please refer to the Concept Note attached herewith for the details of the preferred personnel to participate in the activity, for guidance.

As the activity will be conducted under an in-person set-up, please be informed that the accommodation and meal arrangements of the participants in Cebu City from August 17-18, 2022 will be covered by our Office. However, transportation to and from Cebu City as well as other related requirements must be borne by the participant. Further administrative details will also be provided should this invitation merit their consideration.

Attached is the Concept Note and Provisional Program, for reference.

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We look forward to receiving the confirmation of the designated participants through the accomplishment of this online Registration Form: bit.ly/ICO_EVPVISAYAS_RegistrationForm on or before August 16, 2022.

For your consideration and appropriate action.

For further information and coordination on the matter, please contact the ICO through the email address ico@deped.gov.ph or telephone numbers (02) 8637-6462/6463.

Thank you very much.

Attachment/s:

1. *Concept Note*
2. *Provisional Program*

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