



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202

MAY 6 2002

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Honorable Ester Garcia
Chairman
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue
Rodrigas Center, Pasig City
Republic of the Philippines

Dear Ms. Garcia:

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., on March 1, 2002, to review, among other things, the annual report submitted by the Commission on Higher Education regarding accreditation activities involving the medical schools in the Philippines.

The NCFMEA members wish to thank Dr. Remigia Nathanielsz and Dr. Roger Perez for attending the March meeting to provide additional information regarding the status of medical accreditation activities in the Philippines, including the planned transition from the Medical Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) to the newly created Commission on Medical Education (CME). At the meeting, the NCFMEA members decided to defer acceptance of the annual report submitted by the Philippines, pending the receipt of additional information for review at the September 2002 NCFMEA meeting.

The NCFMEA members were unclear about the level of accreditation activity and oversight undertaken by MEAC during the past year when the community has been focused on creating CME. Therefore, they are interested in receiving the previously-requested summary of accreditation activities conducted by Medical Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) since January 2001, including:

- An overview of key activities and actions (accreditation reviews conducted, meetings held and accreditation decisions reached)
- A summary of any changes in the laws and regulations of the Philippines affecting MEAC's accreditation of medical schools
- A summary of any changes in the accreditation standards, processes and procedures used by MEAC to evaluate medical schools, and
- A schedule of upcoming MEAC site visits and meetings planned through December 2002.

The NCFMEA also requested additional information on the upcoming transfer of accreditation authority from MEAC to the newly established Commission on Medical Education (CME), including the following:

Our mission is to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation.

- A copy of any legal documents transferring authority from MEAC to CME.
- A report on the progress made by CME in establishing operational policies and procedures, and
- A copy of the standards, processes, and procedures that are to be used to accredit medical schools as of the date of transfer from MEAC to CME.

Lastly, the NCFMEA also requested the opportunity for NCFMEA members to observe a CME evaluation team conduct an accreditation review of a Philippine medical school once CME is operational.

Please send the requested information by July 1, 2002, to the Executive Director of the NCFMEA at the address below:

Bonnie L. LeBold
Executive Director, NCFMEA
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street NW – Room 7007
Washington, DC 20006-7563
U.S.A.

The Executive Director will contact you in the late spring of this year to provide information regarding the September 2002 meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. LeBold at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Bonnie.LeBold@ed.gov (e-mail).

I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I appreciate your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

cc: Dr. Roger E. Perez
Executive Director

Dr. Remigia A. Nathanielsz
Technical Consultant