

U. S. Department of Education
Staff Analysis
Of the Annual Report Submitted by
The Republic of the Philippines

Prepared February 2001

Background

At its March 1999 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the accreditation standards used by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and administered by the Medical Education Accreditation Council (MEAC), the accrediting body that evaluates medical schools in the Philippines, were comparable to those used to evaluate programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States. As part of its decision, the NCFMEA requested that CHED submit annual reports of its activities with respect to the accreditation of the medical schools in the Philippines. In addition, the NCFMEA requested that CHED provide data on the number of non-Philippine citizens who graduate (and the percentage of those who are U. S. citizens) from all medical schools in the country and also from the four medical schools accredited as of March 4, 1999. The first annual report was reviewed and accepted by NCFMEA at its March 17, 2000 meeting. As part of that decision, the NCFMEA requested that the Commission continue to provide annual reports describing MEAC's accreditation activities with respect to the medical schools in the Philippines. This second annual report is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the annual report submitted by the CHED, Department staff concludes that though the Republic of the Philippines has provided a brief synopsis its procedures, a general overview of accreditation of medical schools in the Philippines, and provided an update on the development of the proposed Accrediting Council started by the Philippines Medical Colleges, it is not clear that it has outlined its accreditation activities of the past year, as requested. A representative of the CHED may provide the Committee with the information it has requested during the meeting.

Staff Analysis

The report submitted by CHED outlines its procedures as follows:

1. New medical schools are visited yearly and operate under a yearly permit until they graduate their first class. At that time, having demonstrated sustained compliance with the CHED's requirements, the medical school is awarded full recognition status by the government.
2. CHED monitors the performance of the medical schools via licensure examination results. Schools performing below par are subject to surprise visitations and warned that full recognition and their permit to operate may be withdrawn.

The CHED report also reinforces that accreditation, as mandated by the Education Act (1982), is voluntary and is still conducted by the Philippine Medical Education Accreditation Council (MEAC). Medical schools that satisfy the MEAC's accreditation standards are awarded Full Accreditation for a period of five years while schools not meeting MEAC's standards are revisited after one year. Non-accredited schools may reapply for accreditation.

A new Accrediting Council started by the Association of the Philippine Medical Colleges in 1997 has, thus far, developed tools for evaluating and accrediting medical schools and is in the process of forming the accreditors group which will be under the association of university accreditors. Full implementation of the accrediting activity is expected to take another three years. In the interim, MEAC continues to accredit medical schools in the Philippines.

1. In June 1999, MEAC conducted an on-site visit to the College of Medicine, Fatima Medical Science Foundation, in Valenzuela City, Philippines. MEAC accredited the college upon finding that the medical school satisfactorily complied with the MEAC standards.
2. MEAC has received an application for accreditation from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. A site visit has been scheduled.
3. The Association of Philippine Medical Colleges-MEAC has established an affiliation with the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges

and Universities, one of the accrediting bodies of the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines.

NOTE: Department staff made several attempts to contact CHED to obtain the data requested by the NCFMEA concerning non-Philippine graduates of the medical schools accredited by the MEAC. As of the time this analysis is being completed, however, staff has been unable to reach the appropriate CHED officials. Staff will continue to try to reach them before the March NCFMEA meeting.