

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

Prepared February 28, 2000

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 an annual report 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, which was submitted by the CHED in February 2000, is the subject of the staff analysis that follows.

Summary of Findings

The report submitted by CHED summarized the activities of MEAC, the accrediting body for medical schools in the Philippines that falls under the umbrella of the Federation of Accrediting Associations of the Philippines, the accrediting arm of CHED, during 1999 as follows:

1. The accreditation committee on medical education held a workshop in May 1999 to work on the evaluation processes to be followed in accrediting medical schools.
2. 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 upon finding that the medical school satisfactorily complied with the MEAC standards.

3. 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.
4. 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.

Staff Analysis

No detailed staff analysis of the report submitted by the Council on Higher Education is presented as the NCFMEA merely requested the Council to report on its activities with respect to its accreditation of the medical schools in the Philippines. Department Staff has summarized those activities reported by the CHED above.