



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION



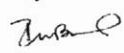
June 30, 2021

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 453, s. 2021

To: SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
This Region

NEW EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP) REQUIREMENT
FOR TEACHER PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION (DEPED) AS PROVIDED UNDER EVP
COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021

1. Relative to Memorandum DM-OUCI-2021-220 dated June 16, 2021, the field is hereby informed of the New Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) Requirement for Teacher Participants under the DepEd as provided under EVP Committee Resolution No. 01-2021.
2. Attached is the above-stated Memorandum for details.
3. Should your Office have further questions and/or concerns regarding this matter, you may get in touch with the International Cooperation Office through ico@deped.gov.ph or 637-6463.


EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV
Director IV 

Encl/s.: As stated

Reference/s: DM-OUCI-2021-220 dated June 16, 2021

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

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP)

CLM/emv
06/30/2021



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2021-06-8073

Document Control No:
DepEdRO13-F-REC-013/R3/02-18-2020



Republika ng Pilipinas

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

#21-02-7439

**MEMORANDUM
DM-OUCI-2021-220**

FOR : MINISTER, BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION, BARMM
REGIONAL DIRECTORS

FROM : DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO
Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT : NEW EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP)
REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHER PARTICIPANTS
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED)
AS PROVIDED UNDER EVP COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021

DATE : 16 JUNE 2021

THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM (EVP)

Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) refers to the international exchange program administered by the United States to implement the Mutual Education and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, Public Law 87-256, 22 USC 2451, et seq. (1988).

The establishment and development of the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) may extend as far back as January 1948, when the United States Congress passed the Information and Education Exchange Act, also known as the Smith-Mundt Act. 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;
- 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.evpcommittee.ph/about-us/what-is-evp>)

The Philippines is a participant to the EVP, whose aim is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States (US) and the peoples of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange.

EVP COMMITTEE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021

Last April 2021, the EVP Philippine Committee agreed to lift the moratorium it imposed last 2020 during the onset of the COVID-19, through the approval of Resolution No. 01-2021 entitled **“LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF FILIPINO NATIONALS IN THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”**. Said resolution took effect last May 2021 after due compliance with its publication in the Official Gazette.

Among the added provision on the protection of participants was ***Item 3 (e)*** which states:

“For participants under the Teacher category, specifically public-school teachers, submission of clearance from the Department of Education (DepEd).”

The format process was presented to and approved by the eleven (11) member agencies, including the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) which acts as the EVP Secretariat. In order to have the clearance endorsed by the Central Office, the following procedures must be duly complied with by the applicant teacher, to wit:

1. The teacher applicant will file for the clearance from the school where he or she teaches;
2. When the clearance is already secured at the school level, the clearance will be endorsed to the Division Office;
3. Once the Division Office finds the clearance to be in order and free from irregularities, the clearance will then be endorsed to the Regional Office where the latter will validate the clearance before endorsing the same to the Central Office;
4. The clearance in the Region will finally be forwarded to the Central Office through the International Cooperation Office, and subsequently endorsed by the Office of the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction to the CFO.

CLEAR STATEMENT OF REQUEST

It is therefore in this regard that we request the Division as well as the Regional Offices to issue a Clearance Certificate to qualified teacher applicants in the EVP based on the following guidelines, namely:

1. Issuance of the Clearance must originate from the school level up to the regional level before it is forwarded to the Central Office through ICO, ***following the hierarchy of offices in administrative processes***;
2. Clearance must be based on the absence of any existing liability of the teacher from any accountability in the form of issued equipment, existing loans, pending administrative cases ***and other analogous circumstances*** consistent with the intent of the provision;
3. Even if the teachers have already resigned, the region shall still issue the requested clearance (based on the above), for the sole purpose of its submission to the EVP as a requirement thereto;

4. Signatories of the documents are the following:

- For the School - School Principal;
- For the Division – Schools Division Superintendent; and
- For the Region – Regional Director.

However, in the absence of the School Principal, Schools Division Superintendent or Regional Director, a duly authorized representative of the aforementioned head of office may sign the clearance in their behalf.

Only the School Principal, Schools Division Superintendent, and the Regional Director may designate and authorize a representative to sign the clearance in their behalf. Unauthorized individuals who will intentionally deviate from this procedure shall be held administratively liable.

5. Transmittal to the Central Office of the clearance issued by the region shall be done through electronic mail to expedite the process; and
6. Regional Offices shall forward the regional clearance to ICO through its email address is: ico@deped.gov.ph

Should your Office have further questions and/or concerns regarding this matter, you may get in touch with the International Cooperation Office through ico@deped.gov.ph or 637-6463.

Thank you.

Attachment:

- *EVP Committee of the Philippines Resolution No. 01-2021*

ICO/FCO
DM-OUCI-2021-220

Exchange Visitor Program Committee of the Philippines

RESOLUTION NO. 01 - 2021

**LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON THE
PARTICIPATION OF FILIPINO NATIONALS IN THE
EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, the Philippines has been participating in the Exchange Visitor Program (EVP) of the United States of America (US) since 1948 to enhance the educational, cultural, scientific, and technological capabilities of the country through an inter-country exchange of knowledge and expertise;

WHEREAS, the EVP Committee of the Philippines, hereafter referred to as the "Committee," is mandated to promulgate policies, rules and regulations to implement Philippine participation in the Program under the Administrative Order No. 242;

WHEREAS, many Filipinos have been participating in the EVP, traveling to the US throughout the years under various categories of the Program, and having completed their respective trainings, are required to return to the Philippines to share and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills to benefit the Philippines;

WHEREAS, due to the urgent nature and life threatening implications associated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 which affected citizens and economies worldwide at an unprecedented scale, the Committee adopted Resolution No. 01-2020, which provided for a moratorium on the participation of Filipino nationals in the EVP for a period of one (1) year; or until six (6) months after the travel restrictions as provided by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) are lifted or accordingly revised; whichever is longer;

WHEREAS, the Committee has exempted participation to US government-funded programs through Resolution No. 02-2020 in recognition of its consistency with the purpose of the EVP and the assurance of the US government of the safety of participants in these programs; and of to participants whose programs are funded by universities, colleges, training or research institutions, international organizations, and other reputable institutions which provide security and safety nets for participants who are under their jurisdiction; as well as some participants under the category of Teacher who have perfected contracts and were placed in US school districts prior to the imposition of the moratorium through Resolution No. 03-2020;

WHEREAS, there is the need for the Committee to safeguard the integrity of the EVP and ensure that participants are fully aware of the purpose of the Program;

WHEREAS, the moratorium afforded the Committee an opportunity to review the implementation of Philippine participation in the Program;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Philippine government to ensure the safety and welfare of all Filipino citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, the EVP Committee, **RESOLVED**, as it so **RESOLVES** to lift the imposed moratorium on the sending of Filipino nationals or participants under the Exchange Visitor Program of the United States of America on 25 May 2021, or after one (1) year from its implementation starting 25 May 2020.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the EVP Committee will adopt the following policy actions following the lifting of the imposition of the aforesaid moratorium to safeguard the integrity and purpose of the exchange program and protect Filipino EVP participants from any circumstance that may endanger their safety and welfare for the duration of the program and even after its completion or termination:

1. Intensify information campaign in order to inculcate into the consciousness of the public that the Exchange Visitor Program of the United States is not an alternative path to employment or immigration but a cultural and educational program where participants are required to return to the Philippines upon completion of their respective programs to share and apply their knowledge acquired under the EVP;
2. Assist EVP participants who have a valid cause of action against intermediaries or third-party providers and sponsors in filing formal complaints in court or tribunals in coordination with relevant offices;
3. Adopt more stringent measures in the screening process and approval of participants of the EVP prior to their participation in the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar and issuance of Registration Sticker. These should include, but not limited to the following requirements:
 - a. undertaking from the U.S. sponsor and local representative that they will ensure the safety and welfare of participants, including the compliance with the international health standards and protocols and repatriation in case of premature program termination for whatever reason;
 - b. signed and approved health insurance of the participants stipulating coverage of the medical management of diseases, which includes COVID-19, that may be acquired by the EVP participant for the duration of the Program, and medical evacuation to the Philippines and/or repatriation of remains;
 - c. notarized Affidavit from the participant stating the following:
 - that the participant has a clear understanding that participation in EVP is for educational and cultural exchange, and not for purposes of acquiring employment or immigrating to the United States;
 - that the participant fully comprehends, that after his/her program has ended, he/she will return to the Philippines to comply with the two-year home-country residency requirement of the EVP program;
 - that the participant is fully aware of the personal risks involved in participating in the EVP; and
 - that the participant will be sufficiently insured for the duration of the program.

- d. For participants under the Alien Physician and Research Scholar categories, submission of reintegration plan to include research and work programs for the duration of their training and/or scholarship; and
 - e. For participants under the Teacher category, specifically public school teachers, submission of clearance from the Department of Education (DepEd).
4. Explore the possibility of a Government-to-Government (G-to-G) arrangement or a possible framework for enhanced bilateral cooperation with the US government that will allow for greater oversight over the private exchange side of the EVP and address any pending concerns, which include but are not limited to: work hours, deployment sites, stipend, and safety nets such as repatriation and emergency accommodations, etc.;
 5. Institute registration and monitoring systems for participants in coordination with Philippine Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) in the United States to allow for the continued assessment of the effectivity of the program as well as for communication and appropriate guidance or action in cases of emergencies, crises, or contingencies;
 6. Issue amended guidelines on the issuance of No Objection Statement (NOS) and waiver of the two-year home-country residency requirement for Filipino exchange visitors to ensure that its grant will only be for highly meritorious cases that will redound to the benefit and national interest of the Philippines and maintain the purpose of the EVP for educational and cultural exchange, and not for employment or immigration in the United States;
 7. Continue with the efforts to craft and adopt the Guidelines for the Accreditation of Local Representatives to regulate third-party intermediaries facilitating the participation of Filipinos whose program sponsors are US private companies;
 8. Continue to hold technical working group meetings and invite resource persons and stakeholders to discuss the ongoing improvement and optimization of Philippine participation in the EVP;
 9. Officially inform the U.S. Embassy in Manila of the lifting of the moratorium, through its chair, the Department of Foreign Affairs;
 10. Resume the conduct of registration and Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar for the EVP participants affected by the moratorium; and the evaluation of applications for No Objection Statement (NOS) through the Committee secretariat, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) under this resolution and the amended NOS guidelines that may be adopted; and
 11. Issue and publish a public advisory on this Resolution, and disseminate the same to all academic institutions and third-party providers involved in the exchange programs through the CFO.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval and publication.

Done this 6th day of April, 2021 in the City of Manila, Philippines.

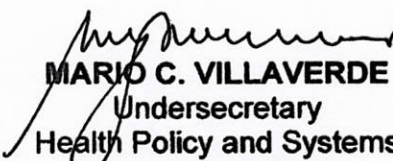
THE EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF THE PHILIPPINES

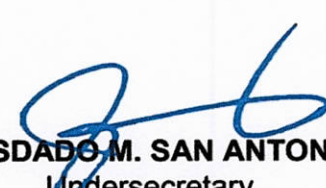

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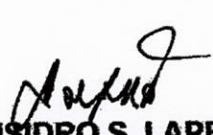

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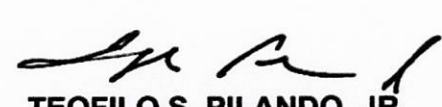

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FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA
Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

CHAIRPERSON:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Isleta', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MARIA LUMEN B. ISLETA
Assistant Secretary
Office of American Affairs
Department of Foreign Affairs