



**INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION
BOARD (ICAB)
ANNUAL REPORT
CY 2014**

A FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD



INTRODUCTION

The Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB) as the Central Authority of the Philippines acts as the policy making body for purposes of carrying out the provisions of Republic Act 8043 (The Intercountry Adoption Act of 1995) and continuously take initiatives to achieve its commitment based on its mandate. The ICAB has undertaken activities and strategies to ensure the protection of Filipino children cleared for intercountry adoption through regular monitoring and regulation of partner foreign adoption agencies (FAAs) and child caring agencies (CCAs) in complying with the standards and deter improper practices which will jeopardize the welfare and interests of Filipino children. ICAB addressed the need to strengthen and empower the stakeholders particularly the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices by conducting capacity building packages on a regional level.

For CY 2014, the ICAB has accomplished activities aligned with the year's thrusts and priorities:

- ✚ POLICY FORMULATION AND RESEARCH
 - Develop and formulate activities and policies designed to address emerging issues on intercountry adoption program including post adoption services.
- ✚ STANDARD SETTING AND ACCREDITATION
 - a. Periodic authorization by the Board of Hague Country Foreign Adoption Agencies.
 - b. Monitor and assess compliance and implementation of policies and procedures on intercountry adoption (ICA).
- ✚ Networking, Advocacy and Capability Building
 - a. Institutionalize the case management coaching strategy on children for intercountry adoption among Child Caring Agencies
 - b. Enhance competencies of local stakeholders through administration of capability building activities on intercountry adoption program.
- ✚ Program Development and Implementation
 - a. Ensure gender responsive systems, structures, policies and procedures.
 - b. Streamline intercountry adoption documentation and processing to speed up allocation of children to approved applicants.



Organizational Strengthening

- a. Fully implement an integrated and inter-operable information system for frontline and back office support services.
- b. Continual improvement of database of population group (prospective adoptive parents and prospective adoptive children) as basis for sound policies and effective programs.
- c. Raise the standard of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency, capability, professionalism and integrity.
- d. Implement competency-based recruitment, enhancement and nurturing of Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB) technical and support staff.
- e. Ensure compliance with good governance conditions such as mandatory posting of budgetary, procurement and other reports in the Transparency Seal, and PhilGeps Posting .



I. POLICY FORMULATION AND REGULATION OF FOREIGN ADOPTION AGENCIES

The ICAB is mandated to prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of RA 8043 and to develop policies, guidelines, procedures, programs and services that will protect the Filipino child adopted abroad.

There were 40 Board meetings during the year where issues and concerns on ICAB policies and procedures, bilateral agreements and problems were discussed, deliberated upon and resolutions arrived at.

- ✚ CY 2014 Allocation Policy on conditional moratorium for adoption agencies. The Allocation Policy on conditional moratorium aims to manage the waiting period for child referral as well as allocate equitably placements and applications for Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) and Central Authorities (CAs). The policy is temporary in nature and may change if the number of children available for adoption increases.
 - ❖ End of the semester evaluation and subsequent modification of the allocation/policy on conditional moratorium based on the actual number of children cleared for intercountry adoption during the period on review.
 - ❖ ICAB continued to review the corresponding modification on the 2014 allocation pertaining to the number of adoption applications and placement per foreign adoption agency which would lessen the waiting period for child referral to the approved adoption applicants.

- ✚ Renewal of accreditation/re-authorization of the following Foreign Adoption Agencies (Europe – 6 and USA 14) following a detailed re-assessment of these FAAs compliance to the Philippine intercountry adoption program, guidelines and standards as well as enhance systems of cooperation and partnership:
 - Europe
 1. AC International Child Support, Denmark
 2. Institut Genus (ECAI), Barcelona Spain
 3. Creixer Junts, Mallorca Spain
 4. Asociacion Para El Ciudadado dela Infancia (ACI), Madrid Spain
 5. Mediciens Du Monde (MDM) France
 6. Intercountry Adoption Centre, UK

 - USA
 1. Associated Catholic Charities (ACC), Maryland
 2. Madison Adoption Associates (MAA), Delaware
 3. Vista Del Mar (VDM), California
 4. International Christian Adoptions (ICA), Temecula California
 5. Adopt Abroad (AA), Pennsylvania
 6. Wide Horizons for Children (WHFC), Massachusetts
 7. Holt International Children’s Services Inc. (HOLT), Oregon
 8. Family Adoption Consultants (FAC), Ohio
 9. Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Wisconsin

10. Crossroads Adoption Services (Crossroads), Minnesota
 11. Hope Adoption & Family Services International Inc. (Hope) Minnesota
 12. Hawaii International Child & Family Services (HIC/CFS), Hawaii
 13. Resources for Life (RFL), Hawaii
 14. Bay Area Adoption Services (BAAS), California
- ✚ N.B. Crossroads and Hope are two (2) ICAB accredited adoption agencies in Minnesota, USA which merged into one and recently received a US-Hague accreditation. It is now known as EVOLVE Adoption and Family Services. It was evaluated and found compliant to ICAB standards.
 - ✚ Approved Madison Adoption Associates, Delaware USA to process regular/non-relative adoption cases aside from special needs placement.
 - ✚ Approved Gladney Center for Adoption to undertake CY 2015 Hosting Program of Filipino children cleared for intercountry adoption.
 - ✚ Approved Lutheran Social Services' undertaking of the Adoption Ambassador Program from April 23-30, 2014 for seven (7) older children participants.
 - ✚ Approved the request of the Central Authority of British Columbia, Canada for ICAB to consider CHOICES Adoption and Family Counseling Agency for relative adoption and special needs placements subject to its adherence to the process of authorization/accreditation as provided in the Philippine Intercountry Adoption Law.
 - ✚ Approved the request of two (2) adoption agencies – ICANZ an Gladney Center to enlist and work with SAMARITANS Place as a Liaison Service Agency.
 - ✚ The reactivation of working relationship and cooperation between the Philippines (ICAB) and Israel was further reviewed before the final decision was made to guarantee the safety of any Filipino child to be placed for adoption.
 - ✚ Approved the Working Agreement on intercountry adoption with Luxembourg in relation to the latter's request to process relative adoption case.
 - ✚ The Board resolved to obtain the written approval from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and the Commission on Audit (COA) for the hiring of an American lawyer to represent the ICAB in the legal suit filed against it by an adoptive parent to ensure that the interest of the Filipino (sibling group of 2 whose adoption placement disrupted) children will be protected and secured.
 - ✚ Approved a Board Member to undertake negotiation/compromise agreement in the USA concerning a disrupted placement of a sibling group.

- ✚ Approved the modification of the Guidelines on Hosting Program to include provision of meals and incidental allowance to ICAB escorts.
- ✚ Approved four (4) ICAB social workers and one (1) NGO social worker to travel to the USA as escorts/guardians and as observer-participant vis a vis the Hosting Program operationalization, activities and parent-child interaction.
- ✚ Approved the continuous undertaking of Hosting Program for older children by 4 USA-based Foreign Adoption Agencies. The Hosting Program is an opportunity for high risk children (older, sibling group of 3 or more and/or with mild medical or psychological problems) to be exposed and to experience living in a family setting. The Hosting Program proved effective in finding permanent homes for these category of children with 85% adoption placement of hosting program participants.
- ✚ Approved the profiles of host families and older children participants in the 2014 Hosting Program to be conducted by the following Foreign Adoption Agencies:
 - A. Hand in Hand International, Indiana USA from June 15—July 15, 2014
 - B. Sacred Portion Children’s Outreach , Wyoming USA from July 8—August 5, 2014
 - C. International Christian Adoptions, Temecula California from July 15—August 7, 2014
 - D. Children of All Nations, Austin Texas USA – December 22, 2014 – January 22, 2015
- ✚ Approved the 1st Winter Hosting Program of Associated Catholic Charities with 5 children participating and will be held in February – March 2015.
- ✚ Approved full authorization/accreditation to My Father’s House as a Liaison Service Agency after completion and submission of the DSWD Accreditation Certificate as a Social Welfare and Development Agency.
- ✚ Approved the Provisional one-year authorization issued to Parenting Foundation and Kaisahang Buhay Foundation for them to continue providing liaison services pending completion of their documentation (DSWD Certificate of Accreditation).
- ✚ Approved the resolution on the following:
 - a. The guidelines/criteria on selecting new set of ICA Board members and appointment of new set Board Members on a staggered basis.
 - b. Re-appointment of the Executive Director
 - c. The re-appointment of three (3) members of the Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC): 1 social worker, 1 NGO representative and 1 psychologist.
- ✚ Approved the attendance of the Executive Director to the Special Commission meeting scheduled for June 8-12, 2015. The ICAB Executive Director has been designated by The Hague Permanent Bureau to Chair the Special Commission meeting.

- ✦ Approved the guideline on the use of excess pre-travel fees as required by the Permanent Committee Technical Working Group (DBM, DoF an COA). The unutilized pre-travel fees being charged among foreign nationals who have intentions to adopt Filipino children will be used as an emergency fund instead of reverting to the Bureau of Treasury. The emergency fund will be for the following purposes:

- ❖ For expenses related to securing the safety of prospective adoptive children who are at risk (e.g. victims of disaster (Tacloban/Legazpi) or in violent stricken areas (Zamboanga);
- ❖ For expenses related to the developmental, psychological or medical evaluation of prospective adoptive children;
- ❖ For legal and administrative expenses; and
- ❖ For disruption cases, pre-adoptive and other miscellaneous emergency expenses.

The Permanent Committee technical Group recommended that said cash account balance be maintain in ICAB's favor considering that it has legal basis to use the above-mentioned fund.

- ✦ Approved to furnish concerned Child Caring Agencies of Post Placement Reports and Adoption Decree through email to reduce the use of paper and the costs associated to photocopying and mailing.

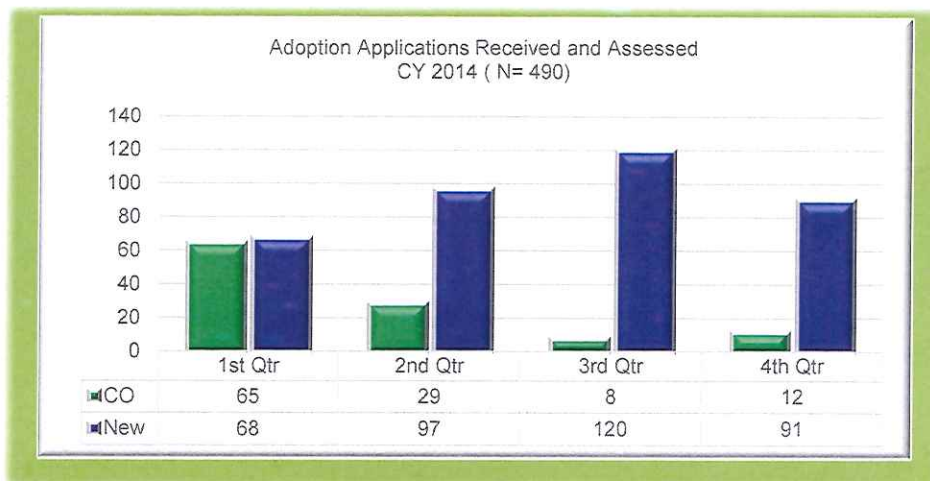
✦ Throughout CY 2014:

- a. The ICAB worked with 76 Local Partners (CCAs/CPAs) and it ensured that a total of 56 or 74% of Child Caring/Placing Agencies (GOs and NGOs) conformed not only to the ICAB guidelines, rules and regulations, policies and procedures but also to the provisions of The Hague Convention. The monitoring of these CCAs/CPAs was achieved via an evaluation of the CCAs/CPAs preparation of the Child Study Report (CSR) and its Supporting Documents (SDs), their case management skills together with the assessment of these agencies' manner of preparing a child for inter-country adoption through the pre-matching conference of the CCA/CPA social workers with the ICAB Secretariat social worker, the actual ICPC matching conference and during the Board's disposition of the case.
- b. A total of 106 international/foreign partners (CAs/FAAs/GAAs) : 54 NGO Foreign Adoption Agencies and 52 Central Authorities were monitored by ICAB during the semester and these were found to comply with the existing rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Philippine Inter-country Adoption Program. The monitoring of these foreign partners was undertaken through the assessment of these agencies' quality of endorsed dossiers (e.g. Home Study Report which abides by the Board's guidelines; child preference which follows stipulated Board policy on nurturance; ages of PAPs and their number of marital years, etc.), their adherence to established time frame for their clients' accepting and fetching of the child proposed to them and their finalization of the minor's adoption.
- c. Six (6) Liaison Service Agencies representing a total of 15 Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) were monitored to ensure the compliance with the standards set for the delivery of liaison service for the Inter-country Adoption Program of the Philippines.

2. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Adoption is a welfare and protection measure that enables an orphaned, neglected, dependent or abandoned child/ren benefit from a permanent family. Intercountry adoption is one of the possible solutions for selected children unable to live with their birth families or whose appropriate care cannot be ensured in the country of origin. Intercountry adoption is always carried in strict conformity with the child's rights, welfare and interests.

- 2.1. A total of 1,276 inquiries were received and responded to during the year under review which clarified the policies and procedures of the ICAB, immigration requirements of the receiving country, adoption documentary requirements and post adoption services.
- 2.2. A total of 490 adoption applications were assessed during the year of which 376 were new adoption applications and 114 were applications received in 2013 but only processed during the year in review.



- 2.2.1 Among the 490 assessed applications, 343 or 70% were approved as eligible and suitable prospective adoptive parents for Filipino children.
- 2.3. A total of 1,410 approved applicants (1,067 carry-over from CYs 2008-2013 and 343 newly approved applications) were waiting for a child referral during the year in review. However, 74 approved applicants withdrew during the year due to the following reasons:
 - The applicants divorced;
 - The female adoptive parent either is pregnant or gave birth;

- Couple would not comply with the requirement for HSR update;
- Applicants differ in the age preference;
- Accepted local adoption;
- Long waiting period for child referral.

2.4. Among these approved applicants, 416 or 43% of the total approved applicants were matched and given a child referral. 265 were approved in 2009-2013 and 151 were newly approved applicants.

2.5. Three hundred thirty-eight (338) PAPs accepted the child referral in CY 2014 of which 13 were matched in the last quarter of 2013 but only officially accepted the child referral in January, March and June 2014 while 325 PAPs matched and accepted the child referral within the year.

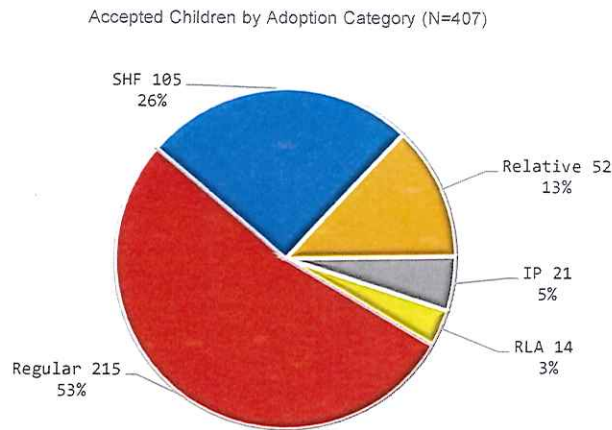
2.6. Three hundred fifty-five (355) PAPs came to the Philippines for the entrustment of their prospective adoptive child/ren in CY 2014. Of the total 355 PAPs who came for the entrustment, 145 accepted the child referral in previous year (2008 - 1; 2011 - 1; 2013 – 143) while 210 accepted their prospective adoptive child during year under review, A medical mission/host family applied and approved for adoption in 2008 and brought back the medical mission child last April 12, 2014 for the required US Immigration policy to change his entry visa.

2.7. For CY 2014, there were 502 new children cleared for inter-country adoption with 289 or 57.57% belonging to the Regular Adoption category; 284 or 56.57% were voluntarily committed; 267 or 53.19% were boy children and 236 or 46.81% were girl children; 125 or 24.90% in the age range of 0-2 years old while 147 or 23.31% were children in the age range of 2-4 years old. Among the 502 new cases, 318 or 63.35% were cared for by Non-governmental Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) and 184 or 36.65% were from Governmental Agencies. One hundred seventeen (117) or 36.79% of the total 318 children in NGO CCAs were under the care of NCR based Child Caring Agencies. Among the governmental agencies, DSWD Field Office NCR and Reception and Study Center IX had the most number of children cleared for ICA with 27 and 15 each respectively. Four (4) children cleared for ICA were under the care of Local Social Welfare and Development Offices/Center (LSWDOs) of Batanes, Isabela and Cotobato.

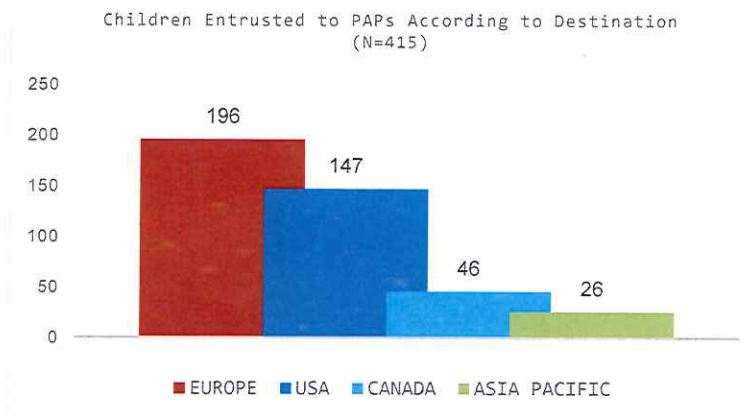
2.8. There were 488 cases of children matched during the year in review. Among these children, 156 or 31.96% were cleared in previous year but matched only in CY 2014 while 332 or 68.03% were new cases for ICA. These children were matched to Europe based approved PAPs: 230 or 47.13%; USA based PAPs: 158 or 32.38%; Canada based PAPs: 79 or 14.34% and 30 or 6.15% for Asia Pacific based PAPs.

2.9. Among the 488 matched children, 407 or 83.40% were accepted indicating that these children are to have their permanent families. The chart below indicated that among the children accepted 53% belonged to the regular/non-

relative category; 26% were accepted by PAPs who were willing to parent special needs children; 13% were accepted by relatives while 5% were independent placement and the remaining 3% were ratified local adoption.



2.10. Four hundred fifteen (415) children were entrusted to the Prospective Adoptive Parents who personally came to the Philippines and stayed for at least 5 days to allow bonding to occur between and among them. These children left the country with their Prospective Adoptive Parents and the trial custody period begins.



2.11. The DSWD Secretary or the Undersecretary for Policy and Programs issues the Affidavit of Consent to Adoption (ACA) if the existence of a reciprocal child-adoptive family bonding is proven. The outcomes of the three (3) post placement reports done every two months during the 6 months trial custody period are the bases for the issuance of this legal document. A total of 643 children were under post placement supervision in CY 2014. Four hundred thirty-four (434) Affidavit of Consent to Adoption (ACAs) were endorsed to the CAs/FAAs during CY 2014. This means that the placements completed the required supervisory trial custody period to a satisfactory degree and therefore

the legalization/finalization of the adoption of the child/ren by the prospective adoptive parents must now be pursued.

2.12. Three hundred eighty-six (386) Adoption Decrees were received during the year in review which indicated that the erstwhile Filipino child finally became an integral and legal part of the family. The Adoption Decrees received during the year were for the children whose placement occurred from 2011-2013.

2.13. Hosting Program in the USA has been found to be an effective strategy for finding adoptive parents for older children or sibling groups. This program is in cooperation with 8 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies. Thirty-nine (39) children participated in the hosting program in USA. Twenty-five (25) hosting participants were matched to their host family during CY 2014 who pursued adoption.

2.14. The ICAB has established a program for post legal adoption services in cooperation with the local Child Caring Agencies, Central Authorities and the FAAs. The ICAB assists the adoptive child/ren and their adoptive family (and even birth family/relatives who desire to know their child's situation) in tracing their birth family/relatives in the hope of completing the missing link in their life. For the year in review, there were 37 children from USA, Norway, Australia, Netherlands and Italy who came home to touch base with their Motherland and returned to the institutions/orphanages where they spent the early years of their life. Forty-three (43) adoptees have written the ICAB and requested for a search and reunion meeting with their birthmother/family. The search and reunion request were coordinated with the NGO Child Caring Agencies or the DSWD Field Offices concerned. Four (4) adult adoptees had a successful reunion with their birth family and relatives during the year. These reunion provided the adult adoptee an opportunity to know his roots/origin, meet his relatives, share experiences and clarified feelings and doubts. The adult adoptee and their birthmother have achieved some peace of mind, healing and closure.



Pictures of adult adoptees during their reunion with birthfamily and relatives.

2.15. Adoptive parents of twenty-one (21) adoptees requested for the amendment of their Philippine Birth Certificate which is required for their acquisition of passport of country of residence, for marriage purposes and for application for re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship.

3. NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

During the year under review the ICAB undertook activities for information dissemination, pursued promotion of programs, projects and services through consultations, dialogues, capacity building packages, media guestings, and website development to assist other concerned agencies (LGUs, Court, other NGAs, NGO Child Caring/Placing Agencies and DSWD Field Offices/RSCCs).

- 3.1. The ICAB participated in the 16th National Adoption Consciousness Day. This year's theme "Legal na Pagpapampon sa Lahat ng Pagkakataon" focused on educating the public on the legal process of adoption regardless of the circumstances of the child. The week-long celebration included among others the hanging of advocacy tarpaulins in key areas frequented by the public, setting up of Adoption Help Desks in selected SM and Ayala Malls, launching of the Adoption Dashboard and photo exhibit at SM Manila, internet/social media postings and television/radio guestings. An Adoption Forum was attended by 150 social workers from selected government/private hospitals, LGUs, CCAs and DSWD Field Offices.
- 3.2. The Inter-country Adoption Board held dialogues with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Bureau Directors, Field Office Directors and Social Workers; Reception and Study Center Heads and Social Workers; Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Consular Services, DFA Legal Affairs, National Statistics Office (NSO), Spanish/USA and Australian Embassy representatives and Foreign Immigration officials; local and international partner adoption agency coordinators/directors.
- 3.3. The Executive Director attended and participated on the International Contact Meeting "Possibilities of Intermediation of Adoption of Children from Abroad to the Czech Republic" last February 10-14, 2014 sponsored by the Central Authority of the Czech Republic—International Legal Protection of Children. The international meeting was a project of the Central Authority of the Czech Republic in developing partnerships in the area of international cooperation for the legal protection of children. It also aimed to exchange experiences in the field of international adoption, and to establish cooperation between the members of the Hague Convention.
- 3.4. The Executive Director and an ICAB Secretariat social worker meet with the British Embassy Manila Ambassador and the Political and Prosperity Attaché to discuss the changes in the UK policies on adoption of Filipino children by UK nationals. The UK policy change recognizes the adoption of Filipino children by their UK nationals which were finalized through the Philippine ICAB proposed to establish an agreement on procedures and documentation requirements for adoption cases finalized before the Philippine Courts which is in keeping with the provisions of the 1993 The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. It is necessary for ICAB and UK to jointly determine a process to prevent violation of The Hague Convention.

- 3.5. The Executive Director and two social workers of ICAB met with the Immigrant Visa Section representatives of the US Embassy Manila to discuss and exchange opinions on the policy memorandum on criteria for determining habitual residence in the United States for children from Hague Convention Countries. The policy memorandum clarifies the criteria to follow in determining whether or not The Hague Convention applies to the adoption in the United States of a child from a Hague Convention Country e.g. Philippines. US Homeland Security regulations provides that a child who is a citizen of a Hague Convention Country other than the USA who is present in the United States based on adoption should generally be deemed to be habitually resident in the child's country of citizenship even if the child is already in the United States. Thus, petitioners or adoptive parents generally must adopt the child by following The Hague Adoption Convention process in order for the child to acquire lawful permanent residence on the basis of adoption.
- 3.6. The Executive Director represented the Philippines and participated in The Hague Child Abduction Convention and the Asia Pacific in Beijing China last May 12-14, 2014. The gathering was aimed at developing partnerships and to exchange experiences in the field of international adoption.
- 3.7. Technical assistance and advocacy visits provided to DSWD/LGUs/NGOs to assist in the case movement and management of children for ICA:
1. Albert Schweitzer Familiewerk Foundation, Cebu
 2. Bethany House Sto Nino Orphanage Bulacan
 3. Casa de Bambini San Giuseppe Silang Cavite
 4. Children Shelter of Cebu, Cebu
 5. CGM-Home of Joy Dasmaringas Cavite
 6. Grace to Be Born, Pasig City
 7. House of Refuge, Inc. Quezon City
 8. Ma-ma's Hope Haven of Norway, General Trias Cavite
 9. My Father's House Paranaque
 9. New Faith Family Children's Home Foundation, Bukidnon
 10. Queen of Peace Children's Home, Naga City
 11. Recovered Treasures A Kalipay Home, Bacolod City
 12. Rehoboth Sampaloc Ministries, Tanay
 13. Ruel Foundation Healing our Children, Occidental Mindoro
 14. Samaritan's Place, Silang Cavite
 15. Tita de Guzman-Angels of Hope Foundation, Inc. Silang Cavite
 16. Virlanie Foundation, Inc. Makati

17. White Cross Children's Home San Juan
18. DSWD FO I (Tubao, La Union, Ilocos Sur)
19. DSWD FO II (RSCC Cagayan)
20. DSWD FO III (Nueva Ecija, RSCC Lubao, Bataan, Olongapo)
21. DSWD FO V (Sto Domingo Albay)
22. DSWD FO VI (Iloilo City, Aklan)
23. DSWD FO VIII (San Juan Leyte)
24. DSWD FO XI (Davao City, Compostela Valley)
25. DSWD FO X (Ozamiz City, Cagayan de Oro)
26. FO IV CALABARZON (Cavite, and Rizal)
27. DSWD Home for Girls, Butuan City
28. NCR (Paranaque)

- ❖ These visits were aimed primarily to determine the number of children cared for in each Child Caring Agencies; home visits and interview to gather additional information significant to the assessment of cases particularly relative adoption and independent placements prior to presentation to the Board; conduct case conference; provide technical assistance for the case movement of children; assess Special Needs Children cleared for ICA as possible participants to the CY 2014 Hosting Program in USA and undertake search of birth family.

3.8. The Executive Director attended and participated in the National Management Development Conference held at the DSWD Auditorium last January 13-15, 2014 which tackled the agency firm and broad stroke commitments to the DSWD Secretary's Directions and Priorities for 2014.

3.9. The PDO III and SWO II visited two (2) NGO Child Caring Agencies for the re-accreditation to operate as a liaison service agency and assist in the liaison service on intercountry adoption program of the ICAB. Parenting Foundation Inc. and Kaisahang Buhay Foundation Inc. were found meeting the standard requirements of a Child Caring/Child Placing Agency to operate as a Liaison Service Agency. These CCA/CPA were given a one year provisional permit to operate until the full submission of their DSWD Certificate of Accreditation.

3.10. The Executive Director and the SWO V attended the Operations and Programs Group (OPG) Cluster Meetings which discussed and presented the CY 2014 ICAB Thrusts and ICAB priority activities for CY 2014. The OPG meetings also were avenues to be updated on other activities and accomplishments of the other cluster members.

- 3.11. Nine (9) ICAB Social workers attended and participated in the in the 2014 Adoption Consciousness Photo Exhibit and Launching of the Adoption Dashboard at SM Manila. They also attended the Adoption Forum on Social Work Practice in the Field of Adoption last February 20,2014.
- 3.12. Two (2) social workers attended the Post Disaster Operations Review last March 28-31, 2014 at the Terrace Hotel Subic Freeport Zone which tackled the post evaluation of the disaster management system during Typhoon Yolanda and its aftermath.
- 3.13. The PDO III attended and participated in the Technical Working Group on Macro-Monitoring System for Children on March 5-6, 2014 at the DSWD Auditorium was sponsored by the Council for the Welfare of Children. The TWG workshop participants reviewed, refined and validated the Child's Rights Indicator Matrix based on the UNCRC, proposed new indicators based on new/current development issues, and defined the role of the TWG Macro MS within the framework of the National Plan of Action for Children. The workshop also discussed the methods on Electronic System data generation.
- 3.14. The Executive Director and the PDO III attended and participated in the TWG of the House of Representatives Social Services Committee which engaged NGAs and NGOs in the proposed amendment of the DFA Passport Law. ICAB recommended inclusion of some provision which will have impact in the processing of passports for the children placed for intercountry adoption.
- 3.15. The Executive Director was invited by *Agence Francaise de Adoption France* to participate as a resource speaker on intercountry adoption seminar in Paris, France to discuss the Philippine intercountry adoption program and how to maintain the link between the child and the child's culture.
- 3.16. The Executive Director met with the Chief of the US Embassy of Hanoi Vietnam where discussion tackled the Philippine ICA program, mechanisms and systems used to safeguard the placement of Filipino children abroad.
- 3.17. Four (4) ICAB Secretariat personnel attended and participated in the Series of Orientation Seminars of the DOST Information and Communication Technology Office (ICTO) pertaining to the migration of NGA/GOCCs website to the Government Web Hosting Service (GWHS) of the DOST in compliance to AO 39.
- 3.18. The Department of Adoption Ministry of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and delegation from South Korea and Nepal came to the ICAB to learn and exchange experiences in dealing with the emerging issues of children for intercountry adoption particularly children with special needs. These countries are currently reviewing their adoption practices as Sending Countries and as parties to The Hague Convention. The visit was also to understand the Philippine adoption system and foster cooperation.
- 3.19. Radio and television guesting of the Executive Director at SOLAR Live and Serbisyo All Access which tackled and explained the programs and services, process and procedures of the Philippine Intercountry Adoption program. These led to increased number of phone, written (letter and emails), SMS and walk-in inquiries on how to go about adopting relatives from the Philippines of USA/Canada based prospective adoptive applicants.

- 3.20. Foreign Adoption Coordinators/Executive Director of ANIDA, Spain, Children for All Nation, USA and Save the Children, Finland visited the ICAB. They discussed the ongoing conditional moratorium on adoption application, hosting program guideline, status/updates of their approved adoptive parents, post legal adoption services requests and how to institutionalize a better system of cooperation.
- 3.21. The Executive Director and the ICAB Secretariat Division Chief were resource persons for the Consultation Dialogue on Adoption with court judges, embassies and IBP lawyers to enhance the lawyers' knowledge base on social protection services and be more responsive to the growing needs of the children. The capacity building activity acquainted the lawyers in handling sensitive cases of abandoned, neglected and exploited children, the process flow involved and the networking mechanisms required. The Executive Director emphasized the operational system, procedures as well as recurring issues involved in the implementation of RA 8043.
- 3.22. Delegates from the Central Authority on ICA from Cambodia visited the ICAB and were oriented on the intercountry adoption program policies, procedures, rules and regulations and standard documentary requirements for children cleared for ICA and adoption applicants. The delegates also observed the matching conference where they were exposed to the multi-disciplinary matching system.
- 3.23. Two ICAB Secretariat staff attended the Joint Seminar Workshop on the DSWD Website Development and Management at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The activity aimed to present the new website design prescribed for all national government agencies based on Administrative Order no. 39 series of 2013 and to come up with recommendations on the substantial compliance to AO 39.
- 3.24. The Admin Officer III and PDO III attended and participated in the Civil Service Commission sponsored 2014 Symposium with the theme "Gearing Towards ASEAN Integration through Strategic Human Resource" in Cebu City. It highlighted the value of human resource in good governance and effective service delivery. It emphasized the need to institutionalize human resource management systems which will ensure the protection of civil servants and instill commitment to public service.
- 3.25. The PDO III attended and participated in the DSWD Office of Strategic Management Re-validation of 2030 vision and base camps which reviewed the current portfolio of the Department's Strategic Initiatives, revisit the base camps and assess, validate and concretize DSWD's roadmap and milestones until 2030.
- 3.26. The Executive Director and PDO III attended the Rethinking Session on Strategic Goal 3 at the DSWD Conference Room. The latest draft of the DSWD and Attached Agencies Organizational Outcomes and Performance Indicators were presented and emphasized the implications on Strategic Goals of the department which should be considered in the rethinking session of SG 3. The activity built a common understanding among different OBS and Attached Agencies on the DSWD's initiatives and directions toward meeting SG 3, familiarized the participants on the prioritization of targeted LGUs.

- 3.27. Two onsite matching conferences were conducted during the semester: (1) RSCC Tuguegarao and (2) Chosen Children's Village Silang Cavite. The activity aimed at (a) validating the information in the child's records; (b) exposing the RSCC/CCA social workers and houseparent's to the matching system of the multi-disciplinary group; (c) dialogue with the medical and psychological consultants regarding the issues on the children; (d) provide technical assistance to other CCAs in the region which have not been submitting children's documents for ICA and identify areas for intervention; and (e) familiarize the ICAB Intercountry Placement Committee consultants to the structure, programs and services and activities of CCAs.
- 3.28. Consultative sessions with different CA/FAA Adoption Coordinators and Executive Directors from the USA, Europe and Canada. The sessions clarified issues on the Hosting Program, conditional moratorium, psychological tests requirements, placement proposals, ICA process and procedures.
- 3.29. ICAB's SWO III Danilo Gatmaitan was invited as a resource person to the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP) Seminar to speak on the intercountry adoption program and the evolution of the Hosting Program.
- 3.30. The PDO III was tasked to participate in the CY 2014 Mid-Year NMDC in Subic Zambales and shared the updates on ICAB's commitment to the DSWD Secretary's Directives and achieve Strategic Goal # 3 of empowering and capacitating the LSWDOs.
- 3.31. A SWO II participated and attended the 1st DSWD Policy Study Session for CY 2014 which focused on establishing initiatives and guidelines in disaster reduction and risk management. It identified issues and gaps as well as developed recommendations for disaster risk reduction and management.
- 3.32. Six (6) ICAB Secretariat staff travelled to Albay at the height of Mt. Mayon's pending eruption to ascertain the condition of RSCC children and transport them to CCAs in NCR who agreed to accommodate the children until placement with their respective adoptive parents/family.
- 3.33. The ICAB Budget Officer and PDO III participated in the Technical Budget Hearing –TWG review of Organizational Outcomes where discussions zeroed in on the performance indicators to achieve the organizational outcomes as well as the sources of data.
- 3.34. A Board Member and the Social Welfare Officer IV (SWO IV) were invited as guests to the Both Ends Burning sponsored symposium "Achieving Child Permanency Through Innovation" at the Harvard University in Boston. The symposium brought together global leaders in child welfare for an open exchange of ideas, experiences and approaches in child welfare. It also provided the opportunities to learn from and interact with leading child welfare specialist, experts in child's rights, accomplished innovators and skilled facilitators knowledgeable in researches and practices.

- 3.35. The National Organizing Committee (NOC) of the 13th Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services started the consultative meetings with DSWD and ACCAP to prepare for the 13th Philippine Global theme, activities, program content, venue and resource persons.
- 3.36. Conducted six (6) capacity building training on intercountry adoption program and preparing children for adoption for Region III, IVA, IVB, V, VI and VII. The regional training is in fulfillment to the ICAB's commitment to capacitate LSWDOs and increase by 50% provision of complete capability building packages to stakeholders. A total of 292 social workers from the DSWD FO, RSCC, NGOs, Family Courts, hospitals and P/M/CSWDO attended the training.

“Many abandoned, neglected, and vulnerable children who are legally available for adoption are waiting to have families of their own,” DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman said. “We appeal to families who have the heart and the resources, to consider letting one of these children into your homes.”



ICAB REGIONAL TRAINING OF SOCIAL WORKERS ON ICA PROGRAM AND PREPARING CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION



ON-SITE MATCHING OF ICPC WITH DSWD FIELD OFFICE, RESCC AND NGO SOCIAL WORKERS.



Representatives from the Central Authority of Cambodia and Nepal visited the ICAB ICAB and were oriented on the intercountry adoption program policies, procedures, rules and regulations and standard documentary requirements for children cleared for ICA and adoption applicants. *The Cambodian delegates also observed the matching conference where they were exposed to the multi-disciplinary matching system.*



ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

- ✦ The ICAB complied with AO 39 Series of 2013 mandating all NGAs to migrate to the government webhosting services of the DOST-ICTO in close coordination and collaboration with the DSWD ICTMS. Administrative Order 39 mandated all national government agencies to migrate to the government web hosting service (GWHS) of the Department of Science and Technology - Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST - ICTO). DSWD ICTMS and technical staff of ICAB collaborated in the compliance and conformity to the general guidelines of the government website template and the migration of ICAB website to GWHS.
- ✦ The ICAB participated in various conferences, dialogues, workshops and meetings which equipped the ICAB Secretariat with new knowledge and skills in the efficient and effective delivery of intercountry adoption program and services, understood strategic goals of the Department, familiarized with the performance governance system and appreciated the significance of complete substantive database to ensure reliable statistical reporting.
- ✦ The ICAB complied with the requirements in form and substance of AO 25 to qualify for the Performance Based-Bonus 2013 through uploading of all the mandatory reports for the Transparency Compliance Seal validation in the ICAB website and submission of the requisite documentary reports (hard copies) to the DSWD HRDB, DSWD PDPB and DSWD Personnel Services.
- ✦ The Gender and Development Plans and Budget (GADPB) for CY 2015 and GAD Annual Report 2013 were submitted to the DSWD PDPB for endorsement to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). PCW required minor modifications and improvement to the ICAB GADPB. ICAB complied with the PCW requirements and ICAB GADPBS was officially endorsed to DBM for inclusion in the FY 2105 proposed agency budget.
- ✦ In coordination with the DSWD ICTMS, technical assistance was provided in the crafting of the ICAB's ISSP Year 1 (2015). ICAB was able to substantially comply with the DBM, DOST-ICTO and MITHI requirements.
- ✦ The ICAB celebrated it's 19th year last June 7, 2014 and was highlighted with the awarding of loyalty awards to ICAB personnel's who have been with the agency for 5, 10 and 15 years.
- ✦ The ICAB participated in various conferences, dialogues, workshops and meetings which equipped the ICAB Secretariat with new knowledge and skills in the efficient and effective delivery of intercountry adoption program and services, understood strategic goals of the Department, familiarized with the performance governance system and appreciated the significance of complete substantive database to ensure reliable statistical reporting. They actively participated in the following activities:
 1. General Staff Meeting with Alternate Chairperson/Usec Parisha Taradji
 2. Adoption Consciousness Celebration and Other Activities
 3. Technical Working Group on the DSWD and Attached Agencies 2013 Annual Report
 4. ICAB Strategic Planning for CY 2014-2015

5. FY 2015 Budget Forum
6. DBM MITHI Orientation
7. DBM MITHI Planning and Budgeting Workshop
8. Forum on Performance Informed Budget Structure
9. DBM PBB 2014 Orientation
10. Orientation on the Philippine Quality Award Program
11. CWC TWG Macro Monitoring System Meeting
12. National Consultation with Civil Society Organizations DSWD HRDB Orientation on LMCAT and
IPCR
13. DBM Organizational Outcomes Workshop
14. DOST-ICTO-MITHI Year 1 (2015) ISSP Orientation Workshop
15. ICAB Lakbay Aral to Lucban's Pahiyas
16. DSWD Listahanan Orientation with National Government Agencies
17. DSWD OSM Re-thinking Session on SG 3
18. DSWD Revalidation of Initiatives and Base Camps for 2030
19. CSC Symposium on Gearing Towards ASEAN Integration through Strategic Human Resource
20. ICTMS Workshop on Website Development and Management
21. CY 2014 Mid-Year NMDC
22. IBM Sponsored Training Workshop on SPSS
23. CY 2014 Program Evaluation Review and CY 2015 Strategic Planning
24. SG #3 Technical Working Group
25. DBM Workshop on PREXC
26. OSM Rethinking Session on Scorecard
27. Training Workshop of PBB-PMS Focal Persons
28. DFA Protocols in International Events: Basic Social Graces, Protocol and Etiquette
29. Both Ends Burning Symposium
30. Training on Government Procurement Reform Act
31. DSWD Visioning Workshop for the Formulation of the 2015-2019 DSWD corporate Plan and MTEP
32. 8th Biennial Convention of the Society of Adolescent Medicine of the Philippines (SAMPI): Pinoy
Teens SOS- Seeking Opportunities and Solutions to Urgent Health Concerns
33. PMHA Lecture Forum on "I Will Survive" Fostering Awareness and Understanding of
Interventions Amid threats of Disasters.
34. Philippine Public Financial Management (PPFM) United Account Codes structures (UACS)
Training

ICAB BUDGET AND INCOME

At the end of CY 2014, the ICAB operated on a total budget of Php 38,153 Million which was derived from the Regular Allotment (RA 10633) of Php 13,360 Million and P23,370 Million from use of income per Section 13 of RA 8043.

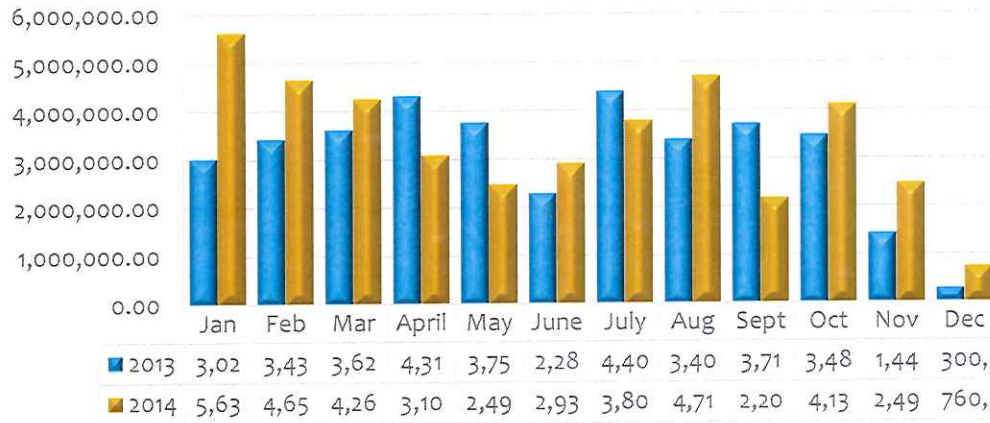
A summary of allotment/obligations and balance is stated below (In Thousand Pesos):

Particulars	Allotment RA 10633	Use of Income Sec 13 of RA 8043	Add'l Allotment Realignment	Total Allotment Received	Obligations Incurred	Unobligated Balance of Allotment	% of Fund Utilization
PS	P13,360	-	P1,423	P14,783	P16,065	(P1,282)	108.67%
MOOE	-	P23,120	-	23,120	21,264	1,856	91.972%
FE	-		-	2	2	(2)	-
CO	-	250	-	250	250	-	100%
TOTAL	P13,360	P23,370	P1,423	P38,153	37,581	P572	98.50%

Income Generated in CY 2014

- ✓ The ICAB earned a total of Php 41,191,851.98 Million in CY 2014 which is 108.35% of the total target income for CY 2014 which is P38,016,000.00 Million. ICAB's income for the year increased by 10.725% compared to FY 2013 which is P37,201,696.84 Million. This can be attributed to high peso – dollar exchange rate for the year (\$1=P44) and the number of adoption applications received (2014: 376 vs. 2013: 313) as well as to the number of children accepted during the year (2014: 407 vs. 2013: 348).
- ✓ Of the total income earned by the ICAB, only P38,153 Million or 92.62% was permitted by the DBM to be used to supplement the approved regular budget.
- ✓ The foregoing earnings of the ICAB formed part of the agency's Unprogrammed Fund which is earmarked to augment the Regular Fund Allotment for the Administrative and Operations expenses, fund to support the Board activities, programs and services of the agency.

COMPARATIVE MONTHLY INCOME OF ICAB 2013 VS 2014



- ✓ The comparative income of ICAB in CY 2013 and CY 2014 indicated that there is increase in income collection in CY 2014 for the months of January 86.423%, February 35.568%, June 28.508%, August 38.529%, October 18.678%, November 72.916% and 153.33% for December. There is however a marked decrease in income collection in the months of April (28.074%), May (33.6%), July (13.636%), and September (40.70%).
- ✓ There is a 10.725% increase in the income earned by the agency for the period under review of FY 2014 compared to the income of the same period of FY 2013 (P37,201,696.84M) despite the conditional moratorium in accepting endorsement of adoption applications because of the appreciation of the Philippine peso vis a vis the US dollar.

CONCLUSION

For the year under review it would be noted that the target vs accomplishment have been met with a 90% accomplishment rating.

The number of Sending Country delegates coming to the Philippines to observe, learn and understand the intercountry adoption program of the country implies that these Sending Country considers the implementation of the ICA program as exemplary. They consider the ICA program of the Philippines as a best practice and are desirous of adapting it. They noted the process and procedures to be in strict compliance to the international laws protecting the rights, welfare and interests of Filipino children.

The close and continuous collaboration between ICAB, DSWD, NGOs and LGUs will redound to the protection of Filipino children.

RECOMMENDATION

These are challenges for ICAB in the next period and in the coming years unless immediate action is pursued:

1. Limited number of children cleared for intercountry adoption as against a large number of adoptive families waiting for a match.
2. Pre-identification of unrelated child for adoption
3. Pursuing domestic adoption by couples with dual citizenship but are habitual residents abroad.

Addressing the challenges:

1. Continuous provision of capacity building packages on ICA zeroing on LGUs, hospitals/Lying-In Clinics, courts.
2. Strong coordination with SOO, Field Offices and NGOs on cases of children for intercountry adoption.

Prepared by:


MARIVIR T. TUNGOL
PDO III

Approved by:

BERNADETTE B. ABEJO
Executive Director - ICAB