



# **INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD**

## **ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT CY 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

#2 CHICAGO COR. ERMIN GARCIA STREETS,  
BRGY PINAGKAISAHAN, CUBAO QUEZON CITY  
NCR 1111  
CONTACT NOS: 02-7264568/7219781  
EMAIL: [adoption@icab.gov.ph](mailto:adoption@icab.gov.ph)



## **INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD**

### **CY 2011 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

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

Having signed and ratified the Hague Convention of 1993, on June 7, 1995, the Philippine Congress passed the Inter-country Adoption Act of 1995 or Republic Act 8043. The law established the Inter-country Adoption Board (ICAB) which serves as the Central Authority to ensure compliance with the Hague Convention of 1993. In compliance with RA 8043, ICAB passed the "Implementing Rules and Regulations" of Republic Act 8043 (Implementing Rules) on December 26, 1995. The IRR has undergone two amendments – on March 22, 2004 whereby the highlights included: (1) authorization and accreditation of foreign adoption agencies among the Non-Hague States; (2) provisions on failure of the physical transfer to occur, emergency intervention and reporting; and (3) disruption and termination of placements. The Board deliberated on the re-amendment of the 2004 Amended IRR and a public forum was held on May 18, 2006. It focused on inclusion of the Board' s powers and functions; authorization by the Board of a foreign adoption agency coming from a Contracting State; accreditation by the Board of a foreign adoption agency coming from a Non-Contracting State; authorized representatives of the Board to undertake authorization or accreditation; authorization or accreditation costs; and procedures for the suspension or revocation of authorization/accreditation. On March 23, 2007 the approved 2007 Amendment of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Inter-country Adoption Law of 1995

(RA 8043) was published in two leading newspapers. The 2007 Amended IRR took effect on April 16, 2007 which better articulated the requirements and procedures of the inter-country adoption program and gave authority to the Board to charge accreditation/authorization fees.

The Board is the policy-making authority. The Board sets guidelines for the manner of selection and matching of prospective adoptive parents and verifies that a child is qualified for adoption. The Board makes the final decisions on adoption applications and matching proposals.

Two (2) teams of Placement Committees exist and are scheduled to attend the Matching Conference alternately once a week. The ICPC carries out the following functions: (1) Matching of adoption applicants and children; (2) Recommend to the Board approval of application and matching proposals; (3) Assist in the Board in its accreditation function; and (4) Act as consultants to the Secretariat in their field of experience.

## **II. MAJOR FINAL OUTPUTS**

### **A. Policy Formulation and Research**

Policy formulation continues to serve as a fundamental tool in translating the agency's vision, mission and goals into operational context. The following policy resolutions and guidelines were formulated and issued:

1. Drafted three (3) guidelines and furnished the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP) for their review and comments:
  - a. Guideline on Post Legal Adoption Services for Intercountry Adoption
  - b. Guidelines on transporting ICA Cleared Children during the processing of pre-travel documents
  - c. Guidelines on the physical entrustment of ICA Cleared Children to adoptive parents
2. Approved the Guidelines on Adoption Ambassador Program which is another strategy for older, hard-to-place children where adoption ambassadors/advocate families come to the Philippines and stay for several days to meet the children and advocate/find families for them. Two (2) USA-based foreign adoption agencies, Lutheran Social Services and Holt International Children's Services have pilot tested the Adoption

Ambassador Program. The program intends to assist and find families for up to 12 older children whose age ranges from 7-14 years old.

3. Approved the 2 USA based foreign adoption agencies – Lutheran Social Services and Holt International Children's Services which pilot tested Adoption Ambassador to continue conducting the program for older children and sibling groups cleared for ICA.
4. Approved My Father's House (MFH) - Benny Hinn Ministries Asia Inc. to operate as a Liaison Service Agency for the Philippine intercountry adoption program. Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) who do not have any experience in the conduct of liaison service are provided a provisional accreditation to operate as a Liaison Service Agency for two (2) years. The period will ensure that the Liaison Service Agency and Foreign Adoption Agency (FAA) it is representing may have the opportunity to have flexibility during the contract period. After the 2 years period, My Father's House will be visited and assessed for full accreditation as a Liaison Service Agency.
5. Resolution granting My Father's House – Benny Hinn Ministries Asia, Inc. provisional accreditation to operate and to participate in the liaison service program of the ICAB for two (2) years. The Board issues a Provisional Accreditation to Operate as a Liaison Service Agency to a CCA with no experience in liaison work.
6. Resolution recognizing the liaisoning relationship between the My Father's House – Benny Hinn Ministries Asia, Inc and the USA-based Foreign Adoption Agency, Great Wall of China- Children for All Nations (CAN) for 2 years from February 17, 2011 to February 16, 2013.
7. Resolved to undertake re-accreditation/validation visits (June-August) to all foreign adoption agencies which are due for re-accreditation. The visits will be an opportunity to establish and validate the FAAs compliance to the requirements of the Philippine intercountry adoption program specifically in preparing adoptive parents handle demands of parenting trans-racial, trans-cultural children as well as children who experienced prolonged institutional care and manage disruption placements.

8. Resolution to adopt the Accreditation Instrument for re-accreditation standards for foreign adoption agencies.
9. Approved the attendance and participation of one Technical Staff (Secretariat Social Worker) to the WERELDKINDEREN 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in The Netherlands from May 24-31.
10. Resolved to undertake Hosting Program in Maryland, Montana, Indiana, Illinois and California, USA. 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 4 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies and an NGO partner.
11. Resolved to create internal rules for social workers in reviewing/assessing adoption applicants with medical issues e.g. elevated Body Mass Index (BMI), etc.
12. Resolution and approval of the criteria in selecting the social work representative in the Board.
13. Resolution to the re-appointment of five (5) Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC) members whose term of office ended February 2011.
14. Resolution to formalize a policy advocating for and upholding the rights of children.
15. Resolution in clarifying medical requirement for Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) with high risk medical issues.
16. Resolution waiving the psychological tests for PAPs who have previously adopted from the Philippines.
17. Resolution in determining on a case to case basis of the placement of sibling groups to PAPs with several children taking into consideration the quality of care being provided to each child in the family, age of the children at home vis-à-vis age of the children to be adopted, profession of the PAPs, home environment and financial condition of the family.
18. Resolution in providing the maximum period in finalizing a child's adoption to ensure that the Adoption Decree in the Receiving Country is duly issued and finalized within a period of two (2) years.

## B. Regulatory: Standard Setting, Licensing and Accreditation

- ✚ The ICAB works with 105 international partners consisting of: fifty two (52) central authorities, fifty four (54) Non-governmental Foreign Adoption Agencies. The non-governmental partners are broken down as follows: Europe: 24; USA: 25; Canada: 3 and Asia-Pacific 2.
- ✚ The ICAB monitored 54 international/foreign partners (FAAs). These agencies complied with existing rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Philippine Inter-country Adoption program.
  - The monitoring of these adoption agencies were done by assessing the quality of endorsed dossiers, their adhering to established time frame of accepting child referral, child entrustment to them, submission of post placement reports and finalizing adoption.
- ✚ The ICA Board Members and an ICPC Consultant met with the officials of Central Authority on Inter-country Adoption to strengthen working relationships:
  - Department of Children, Schools and Families, United Kingdom
  - An Bord Uchtala, Northern Ireland

They also conferred with the Adoption Coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies from Europe and the USA on the different inter-country adoption policies and procedures, preparation of adoption applicants, handling of aborted/disruption placement, post legal adoption services and moratorium on endorsement of adoption applications, medical and psychological requirements. They conducted and completed its accreditation/re-accreditation visits to the following foreign adoption agencies:

- EUROPE
  - Re-accreditation
    - Association para el Ciudad dela Infancia (ACI), Spain
    - Association National de Agogida Ingant (ANIDA), Canary Island Spain
    - Creixer Junts, Mallorca Spain
  - Accreditation
    - Intercountry Adoption Center United Kingdom

- USA
  - Re-accreditation
    - Hawaii International Child and Family Services, Hawaii
    - Resources for Life, Hawaii
    - Associated Catholic Charities, Baltimore, Maryland
    - Hope Adoption and Family Services International, Inc., Minnesota
    - Crossroads Adoption Services, Minnesota
    - Lutheran Social Services, Wisconsin
    - Wide Horizon for Children, Massachusetts

The Board also had a meeting with the Sacred Portion Children's Outreach coordinator to thresh out issues and concerns on Hosting Program and observe the hosting activities of the Filipino children and host families.

- ✚ A Child Caring Agencies (MFH) was granted provisional accreditation as Liaison Service Agencies for the Philippine intercountry adoption program after submission of all documentary requirements and meeting the minimum standard requirements based on the new Guidelines on Liaison Service Program.
- ✚ One (1) Child Caring Agency with no prior experience in undertaking liaison services on intercountry adoption program was granted provisional accreditation to operate as a Liaison Service Agency for 2 years after an accreditation visit was undertaken and the CCA met the minimum standard requirements for a Liaison Service Agency. This CCA was provided with technical assistance in the processes and procedures as well as their roles and responsibilities as Liaison Service Agency.
- ✚ Monitored six (6) Liaison Service Agencies representing 16 FAAs and ensured compliance to the standards set for the delivery of liaison service.
  - Chosen Children Inc.
  - Kaisahang Buhay Foundation
  - Norfil Foundation Inc.
  - Parenting Foundation Inc.
  - Samaritans Place
  - My Father's House

- ✚ The ICAB worked closely with 99 Child Caring Agencies (CCAs): DSWD Field Offices -16; Reception & Study Center for Children- 12 and 71 NGOs (NCR: 25 and 46 Non-NCR).
  - Actively participated in the inter-country adoption placement of children under their care and custody.
  - Monitored and evaluated based on the preparation of Child Study Reports and supporting documents.
  - Focused on the agencies' manner of preparing their children for inter-country adoption and case management/permanency planning of children under their care.
  - Called the attention of selected Child Caring Agencies on photo listings of their children and uploading of advertisements in the internet for purposes of obtaining donations.

### C. Intercountry Adoption Placement Services

- ✚ A total of 2,348 inquiries were received and responded to which clarified the policies and procedures of the ICAB, immigration requirements of the receiving country and adoption documentary requirements.
- ✚ Four hundred forty one (441) adoption applications were assessed of which 315 or 71.43% were regular adoption applications, 69 or 15.65% belonged to the relative adoption category, 39 or 8.84% were for Special Home Finding applications, and 15 or 3.40% were independent adoption placement applications. The remaining 3 or .68% were adoption applications of finalized local adoptions which have to be ratified by the ICAB to ensure the issuance of the entry visa of the adoptive child.
- ✚ Among those assessed during the year in review, 487 were approved by the Board. Two hundred seventeen (217) or 44.56% were received in 2010 while 270 or 55.44% were new applications received during the year. Among the approved adoption applications 287 or 58.93% were endorsed by Europe based adoption agencies, 116 or 23.82% from USA, 64 or 13.14% from Canada and 20 or 4.11% from Asia Pacific.
  - Of the total 287 approved applications, Asociacion para el Ciudad dela Infancia Spain had 120 adoption applications approved during the year among the Europe based adoption agencies



- Among the 116 approved applications from USA based agencies, Associated Catholic Charities had 15 approved.
  - Of the 64 approved applications from Canada, Societe Formons Une Famille Inc (SFUFI) Canada had 25 adoption applications approved.
  - For the 20 approved Asia Pacific adoption applications, the Department of Human Services Victoria Australia had 7 approved PAPs.
- ✚ There were 378 PAPs which received their child referral during the year under review of which 277 or 73% were carry-over cases while 101 or 27% were PAPs approved during the year. Majority of the approved PAPs, 255 or 67.46% given their child referral during the year were under the regular adoption category while 56 or 14.81% were those who accepted children under the Special Home Finding category.
- ✚ Three hundred fifty nine (359) Prospective Adoptive Parents accepted the child proposed to them.
- ✚ The Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) with the assistance of their Central Authority (CA) on ICA or Foreign Adoption Agency (FAA) make the necessary arrangements with their respective country's immigration offices for the issuance of the entry visa of the child upon the ICAB's issuance of the Placement Authority to the accredited CA/FAA. The PAPs are required to personally secure their Prospective Adoptive Child/ren not later than twenty (20) working days after the notice of issuance of the visa of the child for travel to the country where the applicant resides. The number of children entrusted was those whose visa/travel papers were finally processed in a given year but were accepted by their PAPs in the previous year. Among those who accepted their child referral, 325 PAPs (including those who accepted their child referral in the last quarter of 2010) came to the Philippines for the official entrustment and familiarize themselves with the Child Caring Agency where the child came from. The months with the highest number of PAPs coming to the Philippines for the entrustment of their Prospective Adoptive Child/ren (PAC/n) were April (35), December (34), May (30), November (30) and October (29).
- ✚ For CY 2011, there were 480 children cleared for inter-country adoption with 283 or 58.96% belonging to the Regular Adoption category, 89 or 18.54% were under the Special Home Finding category, 79 or 16.46% were Relative Adoption cases, 20 or

4.17% were Independent Placement cases and 9 or 1.88% were children locally adopted but needed the ratification of ICAB. There is a 10% decrease in the number of children cleared for intercountry adoption for CY 2011 compared to CY 2010 which could be attributed to the stringent requirement and compliance to the administrative procedure under RA 9523 where the DSWD issues the Certificate of Child's Availability for Adoption.

- ✚ Among the 480 children cleared for intercountry adoption,
  - ❖ 320 or 66.67% were voluntarily surrendered by their birthparent/s or guardians
  - ❖ 160 or 33.33% were either judicially Declared Abandoned in court or administratively through the DSWD issuance of the Certificate of Child Legally Available for Adoption (CCLAA).
  - ❖ 264 or 55% cleared for ICA were boy children
  - ❖ 216 or 45% were girl children.
  - ❖ 288 or 60% were under the care and custody of non-governmental Child Caring Agencies of which 138 or 47.92% are from NCR based NGO CCAs.
  - ❖ 192 or 40% were cared for by government institutions or centers
    - ❖ 112 or 58.33% were endorsed by the DSWD Field Offices
    - ❖ 80 or 41.67% were under the custody of the DSWD Reception and Study Center for Children
  - ❖ 166 or 34.58% were children age 0-2 years old, 113 or 23.54% were 2-4 years old and 77 or 16.14% were children 10 years old and above.
  
- ✚ There were 433 children matched and approved during the year in review of which 150 or 34.64% were children cleared in previous years while 283 or 65.36% were children cleared during the year.
  - ❖ 260 or 60.05% belonged to the regular adoption category.
  - ❖ 305 or 70.44% were voluntarily committed by their birthmother/parents or guardians while 128 or 29.56% were either judicially declared abandoned or administratively processed by the DSWD through the issuance of the Certificate of Child Legally Available for Adoption.
  - ❖ 246 or 56.81% were boy children and 187 or 43.19% were girl children.
  - ❖ 271 or 56.81% were children from non-governmental organizations while 162 or 43.19% were under the care and custody of government agencies.

- ✚ There were 38 sibling groups of 2, 3, 4 and 6 children matched and approved during the year composed of 93 children.
  
- ✚ One hundred eighty-eight (188) or 43.42% were referred to Europe based PAPs, 148 or 34.18% were matched to USA-based Prospective Adoptive Parents, 71 or 16.40% to Canada based PAPs and 26 or 6% were matched to Asia-Pacific based PAPs. Among the 433 children matched and approved the following had the highest number of referral:
  - ❖ Central Authorities
    - ❖ Agence Francaise de l'Adoption (AFA) France – 15 or 8% of 188
    - ❖ Ministry of Children and Family Development Canada – 9 or 12.68% of 71
    - ❖ Department of Child Safety Queensland Australia – 7 or 26.92% of 26
  - ❖ NGO Foreign Adoption Agency
    - ❖ Asociacion para el Ciudadado dela Infancia (ACI) Spain – 60 or 31.92% of 188
    - ❖ Societe Formons Une Familie Inc. (SFUFI) Canada – 29 or 40.85% of 71
    - ❖ Hand in Hand Indiana USA – 24 or 16.22% of 148
    - ❖ Associated Catholic Charities Maryland USA – 21 or 14.19% of 148
    - ❖ Save the Children Finland – 15 or 8% of 188
    - ❖ International Christian Adoption California USA – 15 or 10.14% of 148
    - ❖ Cornerstone Adoption Agency Canada – 15 or 21.13% of 71
  
- ✚ Summer 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 3 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies and an NGO partner. Eighteen (18) children participated in the Hosting Program held in Idaho, Montana, Indiana, Illinois, in July, August, September and October 2011 and 11 children participants to the Holt Adoption Ambassador program. These children and their escorts have attended the orientation on the hosting program to prepare them for their scheduled visa interview, travel to the USA and their one month stay with the host families. \_\_\_\_\_ children participants to the previous year's Hosting Program were eventually entrusted/adopted by their host family.
  
- ✚ Four hundred fifteen (415) children matched and approved were accepted by the Prospective Adoptive Parents during the year. Among the children accepted:

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were girl children and \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were boy children
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were voluntarily committed by their birthmother/parent or guardian while \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were either judicially declared abandoned or administratively processed by the DSWD with the issuance of the CCLAA.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% belonged to the regular adoption category while \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% are relative adoption, \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% belonged to the Special Home Finding category, \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% independent placement and \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were locally adopted but required ratification by the ICAB.
- ❖ \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% were accepted by European based families, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% by USA based PAPs, \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% from Canada based adoptive parents and \_\_\_ or \_\_\_% from Asia Pacific.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_% belonged to the 0-2 years old age range, (include other age range with high score)

✚ Four hundred six (406) children were entrusted to their Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) during the year under review of which 188 or 46.30% were accepted by their PAPs in 2010 but whose travel document/entry visa was released only in 2011 while 218 or 53.70% were matched, approved, and accepted during the year 2011. Of these children, 229 or 56.40% were boy children and 177 or 43.60% were girl children. These children were entrusted to USA-based PAPs 190 or %46.80, to Europe-based PAPs 142 or 34.98%, while 46 or 11.33% were entrusted to PAPs from Canada and 28 or 6.90% were to PAPs from the Asia Pacific.

✚ 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 563 children were under post placement supervision during the year. Of which, 413 ACAs were endorsed to the CAs/FAAs. 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.

- ✦ Five hundred eleven (511) Adoption Decrees were received in CY 2011 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 2009-2011.
- ✦ 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 2011, there were 23 adoptive children who came home to touch base with their Motherland and returned to the institutions/orphanages where they spent the early years of their life. These adoptive children and adoptive parents came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, Sweden and the USA.
- ✦ Fifty-three (53) adoptees requested for search of their birth family/relatives to complete their life history of which 5 had an eventful reunion meeting with their birthmother/relatives while birthmother/parent/siblings/relatives of 10 adoptees were successfully located.
- ✦ Four (4) had disruption in their adoption placement of which two were Special Home Finding adoption cases, 1 each were under the regular and relative adoption category. The Prospective Adoptive child under the Regular adoption category was not entrusted to the Prospective Adoptive Parents because the latter decided not to proceed with the adoption placement believing that the child could have some neurological problems which they cannot handle. The two children under the Special Home Finding adoption category disrupted because the children manifested behavioural problems which is beyond the family's ability to handle and cope with. One child underwent therapy for one year but to no avail while the other was diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder. The child under the relative adoption was repatriated because the Prospective Adoptive Parents were having marital problems which may have detrimental to the long term placement of the child with them.

#### D. CAPABILITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

- Dialogues and consultative sessions with ACCAP, DSWD Bureau and Field Office Directors, RSCC Head Social Workers, DFA Consular Services/Legal Affairs, Council for the Welfare of Children, Department of Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Embassy personnel and Immigration officials. These dialogues threshed out issues and concerns on case management of children cleared for inter-country adoption to facilitate case movement of children in CCAs/CPAs; child trafficking; and to update on immigration and adoption laws of receiving countries.
- The Global National Organizing Committee held several meetings to plan out activities for the 11<sup>th</sup> Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services and Post Legal Adoption. ICAB hosted and conducted the 11<sup>th</sup> Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services last August 17-19, 2011 in Makati City. This was attended and participated in by 262 delegates:

Foreign Delegates: 65

Andorra	Denmark	Japan	Spain
Australia	Finland	Nepal	Sweden
Belgium	France	Netherlands	Switzerland
Cambodia	Hawaii	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Canada	Italy	Norway	USA

NGOs - 80          DSWD- 80          RTCs- 3          ICAB - 34

The conference has provided a venue for reciprocally meaningful discussions where local and international adoption specialists meet, learn and be enlightened on issues and concerns affecting the Filipino children. Participants of the conference are officials of the Sending and Receiving Central Authorities, Executive Directors and Social Workers of Foreign Adoption Agencies and Child Caring Agencies in the Philippines, Embassy Officials and other government officials. The three-day activity raised the awareness and cooperation among countries to prevent child trafficking as well as to come up with a solution to trafficking of Filipino children. It also provided the participants the opportunity to learn from the experiences of adult Filipino adoptees on their right and search for identity and adoptive parent' s journey with their adoptive children.

- Consultative sessions with different Central Authorities (CAs) and Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) Coordinators and Executive Directors from the Republic of San Marino,

Canada, Spain, and USA. The sessions clarified issues on the Hosting Program, placement proposals, moratorium on adoption applications, ICA process and procedures.

- ✦ Bilateral orientation provided to and by embassy/immigration staff or officials of foreign adoption agencies on inter-country adoption law and other issues and concerns on adoption.
- ✦ The ICAB participated in the 12th National Adoption Consciousness Day. This year's observance focuses on the theme "Bata ay Huwag Abondonahin! Legal na Pagpapampon ang Gawin" which aims to encourage families to adopt a child through the legal process. Public forum, publicity activities, and radio/television guestings and adoption help-desks were undertaken and participated in by DSWD, Council for the Welfare of Children, ICAB, Adoptive Families Foundation, LGUs and ACCAP. Adoption Forums were held in all DSWD Regional Offices and on February 5, 2011, Adoption Help Desks were set-up in strategic places in SM Fairview and SM Mall of Asia where queries on the procedures and requirements for Domestic Adoption and Inter-country Adoption were responded to.
- ✦ The Alternate Chairperson and a technical staff/social worker of the Secretariat attended and participated in the Holt International Children's Services 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Washington D.C. on April 13-17, 2011. The International Forum brought together individuals from several countries and organizations to collaborate on issues of children placed for international adoption. It also highlighted the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Holt International Children's Services. The forum focused on the practice of intercountry adoption from the perspective of adult adoptees specifically from Korea several years ago as Holt originally brought these Korean children to be adopted by families in the USA. These adult adoptees are now themselves advocates for improved, responsive and humane intercountry adoption practices.
- ✦ The Alternate Chairperson also met with the US State Department Children's Issues Office. The meeting was one among the activities of the Department of State with Sending Countries attending the Holt International Forum. The Department of State indicated their appreciation of the Philippine government's initiative and efforts in influencing Asian neighbours to be Hague Convention compliant. The profiles of Filipino children for intercountry adoption, clarification on the definition of special needs children, fast tracking of case movement of children for adoption (Domestic and/or Intercountry Adoption) with

the implementation of RA 9523, turn-around of regular and relative adoption cases were discussed.

- ✚ The Alternate Chairperson, Kaisahang Buhay Foundation Executive Director and the Secretariat Social Worker on Post Adoption Services met with the founding Director of the Filipinos Adoption Network (FAN) which brainstormed for the proposed Motherland Tour and different aspects were tackled and areas of concerns were raised. The participation of 30 adult adoptees for The Motherland Tour 2012 will be the biggest in the history of ICAB. It is with positive anticipation that the Motherland Tour 2012 will be the start of more Motherland Tours/Heritage Visits of adult adoptees world-wide.
- ✚ One of the lawyer-Board Members also attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference: The Work of the Hague Conference on Private International Adoption at Mandarin Hotel Makati City. She talked about intercountry adoption and how trafficking in children happens and what can be done to prevent it.
- ✚ The Executive Director was invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference : The Work of the Hague Conference on Private International Adoption at Mandarin Hotel Makati City where she discussed how the Philippines managed the 3 main operational challenges for the Convention: (1) managing the Country of origin's relationship with foreign accredited bodies; (2) the importance of professional matching of a child with the adoptive family; and (3) the prevention of improper financial gain in intercountry adoption.
- ✚ The Executive Director and a Secretariat social worker attended the lecture on "Adoption Telling" at Norfil Foundation last May 30, 2011. The lecture/workshop focused on how to disclose adoption to the child, handling questions and giving appropriate responses on the adoption placement in the context of the developmental milestone of the child and implications of non-disclosure of adoption.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director participated in the workshop on the formulation of policy and guidelines in recommending match of children and prospective adoptive parents in Tagaytay. The workshop will be the basis for the formulation of improved policies and guidelines in matching of children.



- ✦ The medical doctor representatives of the Intercountry Placement Committee discussed and recommended to the Board a uniform guideline for the Secretariat Social Workers in assessing the Prospective Adoptive Parents and the children with medical issues.
- ✦ The Administrative Officer and con-current Human Resource Development Officer attended the Competency based Training on HRM in the Public Sector which aimed to equip the Human Resource Management practitioners with knowledge and principles on human resource management, skills on the 4Rs of HRM i.e. recruitment, retention, rewards and recognition and also empowered the participants to become prime movers towards employee's productivity and organizational effectiveness.
- ✦ The ICAB Secretariat Social Workers attended and participated in the continuing education to hone knowledge and skills on case management particularly for intercountry adoption placement. Experiential visits to seven (7) Child Caring Agencies by the Secretariat social workers enabled them to be familiar with the setting, facilities, programs and services of the CCAs.
- ✦ Three (3) Secretariat social workers attended and participated in the Forum on Child Trafficking as part of the advocacy campaign in upholding the rights of the child and legal procedures on adoption.
- ✦ Two (2) senior social workers of the ICAB Secretariat were invited for a consultation dialogue with the social workers from the DSWD Field Office III, RSCC, NGO CCAs and court social workers on the Philippine intercountry adoption program, its policies, processes and procedures and immigration requirements of the Receiving Countries. It highlighted the required content for the Child Study Report and the review of documentary requirements as well as handling relative adoption cases for intercountry adoption.
- ✦ The ICAB SWO V and the social worker for Special Home Finding visited and conferred with the DSWD Field Office VII and Children Shelter of Cebu on the child placement of a sibling group under the care and custody of Children Shelter of Cebu. They also maximized their stay in Cebu by visiting another Child Caring Agency (Albert Schweitzer Familienwerk Foundation Philippines) in Cordova, Lapu-Lapu to look into the programs and services as well as the situation of the children in the center.

- ✚ A Secretariat social worker attended and participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Manila Conference on The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect which focused on creating safe and caring environment for children. It emphasized that adoption and parenting are among the very important solutions to the pervasive issue.
- ✚ Two (2) Secretariat social workers attended and participated in a Lecture Forum on common interventions for children and adolescents with behaviour and learning problems at the Philippine Mental Health Association.
- ✚ A Secretariat social worker attended and participated in the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wereldkinderen in The Netherlands which is also bi-annual festive meeting of adoptees, adoptive parents and foreign guests. It was an opportunity for her to personally meet the adoptees and adoptive parents who testified on the gratifying outcome of the placement of these minors in adoptive homes. This social worker confirmed that the Filipino children were indeed doing fine as reported by the agency in the post placement reports.
- ✚ The focal person on Post Adoption Services had a meeting with Abiertas House of Friendship, San Juan and with the DSWD Field Office I ARRU social workers on how to go about the search and reunion requests of adult adoptees. Discussion on strategies to handle search of birthmother/family and disclosure of the search of adoptee were undertaken.
- ✚ The Focal person of the Special Projects Unit conducted orientation and briefing session with the 7 social workers/escorts and 29 children participants to the Hosting Program to prepare them for the visa interview, travel to the United States and spending their summer living with identified host families for three (3) to four (4) weeks. Likewise on the activities to be undertaken with the Adoption Ambassador program.
- ✚ The Planning Development Officer attended the Strategic Work Planning on Emerging Challenges, Development Priorities and Implications on Child Rights Monitoring and Reporting in Lubao Pampanga. The activity focused on identifying and analyzing more recent major global policy and national developments and official actions which impact on children for strengthening social protection and reducing persistent gender gaps. The

workshop was expected to produce rich inputs for the refinements of the monitoring and reporting system on children.

- ✚ The ICAB Planning Unit staff attended the Council for the Welfare of Children's Inter-Agency Conference on Subbaybay Bata Macro Monitoring System (SBMMS). This was undertaken to disseminate among the members of the SBMMS Technical Working Group the format and content of the Narrative Report on Children for CY 2010 as per each agency's commitment on the institutionalization of the Macro Monitoring System.
- ✚ The Planning and Development Officer attended the National Training on Knowledge management Implementation in Cagayan de Oro. The training workshop aimed to make the participants understand and appreciate the use and function of the Knowledge Portal and the Library On-line Access Catalogue through hands on application.
- ✚ Two (2) Planning and Development Officers attended the Orientation on the Implementing Guidelines on Republic Act 9523 at the Kaban ng Hiyas Mandaluyong City which clarified the required contents of the Child Study Report intended for the issuance by the DSWD of the Certificate of Child Legally Available for Adoption (CCLAA), supporting documents, timeline in the processing of cases and roles and responsibilities of the DSWD, LGU and NGOs.
- ✚ Advocacy visits were made to the different Child Caring Agencies in Bataan, Bulacan, Cebu, Laoag Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, NCR, Palawan, Pampanga, Tagaytay and Tanay. These visits were aimed primarily to determine the number of children cared for in each Child Caring Agencies, provide technical assistance for the case movement of children, to assess Special Needs/Special Home Finding children cleared for ICA and familiarize the agency in preparing children participants to the ICAB's Hosting Program.
- ✚ The ICAB conducted the following trainings cum consultation dialogues:
  - a. Basic Training for Caseworkers, Foster Parents and Caregivers on Preparing Children for Adoption – there were 38 participants from the DSWD-NCR and ACCAP. The training was aimed at strengthening the capability of social workers, foster parents and caregivers, making them understand how attachment and bonding develops between children and family; recognize and understand that

loss and grief issues in adoption affects the child; influences of adoption on child's development; and preparing for transition and minimizing the trauma of moving to the adoptive home/family. The participants were also provided with tools, techniques and resources to prepare the child for adoption.

- b. Training Orientation and Consultation Dialogue on ICA Program – thirty-nine (39) participants from DSWD IV-A, V and NCR participated in this activity which aimed to make the participants (1) well-informed on the different policies, processes and procedures of the ICAB; (2) update the participants on the new law in declaring a child legally free for adoption, (3) apprise the participants on the different immigration and adoption requirements of the Receiving Countries; (4) educate the participants on the normal and “red-flags” in the psycho-social and medical condition of children under their care; and (5) help the social workers systematize the conceptualization of important/integral facts, features, information and circumstances that are basic inputs in the CSR in accordance to adoption category.

- ✚ The **Board, ICPC** and the **Secretariat** participated in and attended activities aimed at developing and improving their knowledge, skills and attitude relative to their workload.

They actively participated in the following activities:

1. Adoption Consciousness Technical Working Group Meeting
2. Board/ICPC/Secretariat Consultative Dialogue
3. Consultative Dialogue with the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP)
4. FY 2012 Budget Forum
5. ICAB Strategic Planning for CY 2011
6. ICAB Annual Staff Development and Team Building
7. FY 2011 Budget Forum
8. FY 2011 Budget Call
9. DSWD MANCOM Meetings
10. Consultative Meeting with the COA
11. CWC Technical Working group on Macro-Monitoring System for Children

12. National Management Development Conference
13. Gender and Development Planning Workshop
14. CWC Thematic Trends
15. ICAB Anniversary Celebration
16. Family Month celebration
17. Year End Convocation

#### E. ICAB BUDGET AND EXPENSES

A summary of allotment/obligations and balance, as of June 30, 2011 is stated below (In Thousand Pesos):

Allotment/ Object Class of Expenditures	Allotment (RA 10147)	Use of Income	Add' l SARO	Total Allotment Received	Obligations Incurred	Unobligated Balance of Allotment	% of Fund Utilization
PS							
MOOE							
CO							
Grand Total							

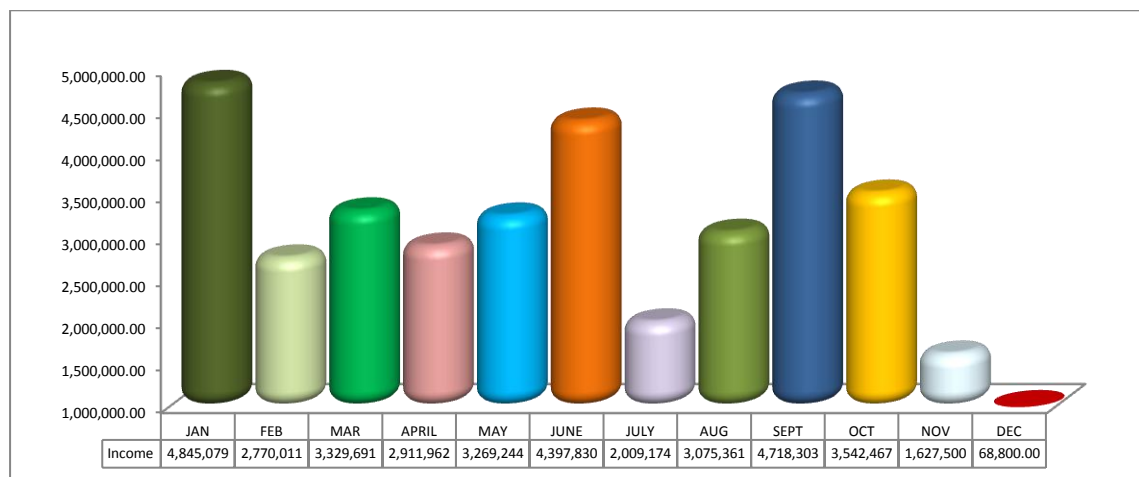
*Table 1. ICAB's Statement of Allotment, Obligations and Balances (SAOB)*

For CY 2011, the ICAB received a total of Php \_\_\_\_\_ allotment from the DBM of which Php \_\_\_\_\_ was derived from the Regular Allotment (GAA RA 10147) and Php \_\_\_\_\_ Million was from the agency's income collected from fees/charges and assessments. Of the total allotment received of P \_\_\_\_\_ Million, \_\_\_\_% or P \_\_\_\_\_ Million was allotted for Personnel Service, \_\_\_\_% or P \_\_\_\_\_ Million was for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses while \_\_\_\_% or P \_\_\_\_\_ Million was allocated for Capital Outlay. For the year under review, the ICAB had \_\_\_\_% of fund utilization.

#### Income Generated in FY 2011

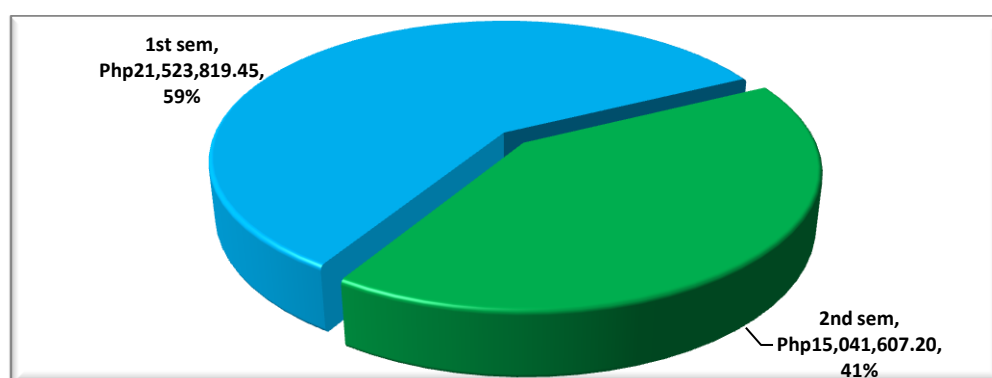
The ICAB earned a total of Php 36,565,426.65 Million in FY 2011 which is 88.97% of the target income for FY 2011 (Php41, 094,000M). The earnings of the ICAB formed part of the agency's Unprogrammed Fund which is earmarked to augment the Regular Fund Allotment

for the Administrative and Operations expenses, fund to support the Board activities, programs and services of the agency.



*Table 2. Monthly Income Generated by the ICAB for the First Semester of FY 2011*

The total income of ICAB for FY 2011 amounted to Php 36,565,426.65 Million of which 13.25% was generated in the month of January. It was in the months of September, June and October where increase in income was also noted with 12.90%, 12.03% and 9.69% respectively. There is a 12.9% decrease in the income earned by the agency for FY 2011 compared to the income of FY 2010 (Php41,989,564.18Million) because of the increase value/appreciation of the Philippine peso *vis-a-vis* the US dollar, decrease number of adoption application received during the year due to the ICAB policy on moratorium of adoption applications.



*Table 3. Semestral Income Generated by the ICAB for FY 2011*

The first semester income generated by the ICAB of Php 21,523,819.45 is 59% of the income for FY 2011 (Php36, 565,426.65) while the income earned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is Php15,041,607.20 or 41% of the total income earned.

## **ICAB THRUSTS FOR CY 2012**

### **1. POLICY FORMULATION AND RESEARCH**

- a. Strengthen advocacy for the passage of law amending RA 8043
- b. Formulation of new and more responsive rules and regulations, policies and guidelines on inter-country adoption particularly on adoption applications and post legal adoption services

### **2. STANDARD SETTING AND ACCREDITATION**

- a. Intensify monitoring of compliance to standards and provisions of the RA 8043 and conformity to the statutes of The Hague Convention of the Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs), Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) and Liaison Service Agencies (LSAs).
- b. Periodic authorization by the Board of the Hague Country Foreign Adoption Agencies and accreditation of Non- Hague Country FAAs.

### **3. NETWORKING, ADVOCACY AND CAPABILITY BUILDING**

- a. Advocacy with key legislative representatives to help sponsor amendment of ICA Law and increase plantilla positions in the agency.
- b. Continuing capacity building through trainings/dialogues for local implementers on the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption program.
- c. Hosting of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Filipino Adoptees and Adoptive Parents
- d. Creation/production of infomercial on adoption

### **4. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

- a. Concretize post legal adoption services and enhance staff capability in conducting post legal adoption services

- b. Strengthen provision of comprehensive technical assistance on case management of children cleared for inter-country adoption to local sectoral stakeholders.

**5. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND AGENCY STRENGTHENING**

- a. Further capacitate and empower ICAB staff for improved and efficient performance in the accomplishment of mandate and goals through human resource development.
- b. Improvement of office facilities for a conducive working environment and efficient delivery of services.
- c. Digitalization of adoption files/records for post legal adoption services

Prepared & Submitted by:

**MARIVIR T. TUNGOL**

PDO III

Approved by:

**BERNADETTE B. ABEJO**

Executive Director