



INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
CY 2012

#2 Chicago corner Ermin Garcia Streets,
Brgy. Pinagkaisahan, Cubao Quezon City
Contact Nos: 7264568/7264551/7219781
Email: adoption@icab.gov.ph
Website: www.icab.gov.ph



INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD
CY 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

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 serve 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 and on March 23, 2007.

The Board is a policy-making and adjudicative authority. The Board sets guidelines to determine the manner of selection and matching of prospective adoptive parents. The Board makes final decisions on adoption applications and matching proposals.

The Intercountry Placement Committees (ICPC) 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. A Resolution to clarify the two-year nurturance period requirement -
It clarified that the Prospective Adoptive Parents who have completed the two-year nurturance period requirement during the waiting period for child referral will retain their original date of approval upon ICAB's receipt of a re-assessment and updated home study from the adoption agency.

2. A Resolution on prioritizing Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) who are former Filipino citizens -
The date of approval determines the prioritization of families for matching. To strengthen the exercise of the "subsidiarity" principle and in view of the increasing number of former Filipino citizens wanting to adopt a Filipino child, the time advantage given to former Filipino citizens/those with Philippine heritage was increased from six (6) months to a one (1) year.

3. A Resolution instituting specific eligibility requirements for PAPs -
The ICAB has authority to prescribe rules and regulations reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of RA 8043. The Board resolved the compliance of partner adoption agencies to the following specific eligibility requirements of applicants to the Philippine intercountry adoption program:
 - a. Educational requirement for PAPs: requires at least a high school diploma.
 - b. Income requirement: PAPs should have a minimum annual income of US\$40,000.00
 - c. PAPS with history of divorce: a maximum of two divorce histories will be accepted.
 - d. Single applicants are resources for older children between 9-15 years old.

4. A resolution requiring submission of raw scores of psychological tests for PAPs -
Psychological evaluation is one of the supporting documents for submission by PAPs. A Special Committee composed of psychologist and medical doctors in the Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC) and the Board carefully reviewed the psychological requirements of ICAB and determined that the submission of raw scores of the psychological tests is necessary to evaluate the psychological profile of the PAPs. The submission of the raw scores will be required for all PAPS and Foreign Adoption Agencies will be notified of the requirements.

5. A Resolution Amending the psychological requirement for PAPs -
The ICAB has required the PAPs to submit the raw scores together with the psychological profile of the PAPs upon application. After due deliberation, it was determined that the Base Rate for MCMI and T Scores for MMP12RF instead of the detailed raw scores of the psychological tests must be submitted by first time applicants. The PAPs who have previously adopted from the Philippines are not required to undergo the above tests.

6. Approved SAMARITANS Inc. to operate as a Liaison Service Agency for the Philippine intercountry adoption program for two (2) years. After the 2 year period, SAMARITANS Inc. was visited and a thorough review of SAMARITANS Inc. programs and services, financial status and management and personnel complement, the ICAB assessed SAMARITANS Inc. as having fulfilled the minimum standards set forth by the Board qualifying the agency to participate in the liaison service program of ICAB. SAMARITANS Inc. was granted full accreditation to participate in the liaison service for three (3) years from March 2012 to February 2015. During the period, continuing consultation with the ICAB shall be maintained to enrich the program and enhance the cooperation of both for the best interests of the Filipino child.

7. A pilot Summer Hosting Program by the Hawaii International Child (HIC) of Honolulu, Hawaii USA was approved with four (4) children participants from 3 NGO Child Caring Agencies in NCR and Region III. The program began June 21, 2012 and ended on July 13, 2012.

8. Approved the conduct of Hosting Program by Children of All Nations, USA.

9. Resolved to limit the on-hold period given to Lutheran Social Services to recruit adoptive applicants from one year to six months for children participants to the Adoption Ambassador program. Children participants who have not been successfully placed during the period will be included in the hosting program of the other USA-based FAAs.

10. Approved the working agreement on intercountry adoption between the ICAB and the Greek Central Authority.

11. Undertook re-authorization visits to foreign adoption agencies. The re-authorization visits established and validated the FAAs compliance with 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 management of disruption placements. The re-accreditation of the following adoption agencies and meeting with children adopted through the said adoption agencies were undertaken:

March-June:

- 11.1. Chrysalis House of Fresno, California
- 11.2. Holston United Methodist Church for Children of Tennessee, USA
- 11.3. Christian Adoption Services of North Carolina, USA
- 11.4. Lifelink International Adoption/Bensenville of Illinois, USA
- 11.5. Hand in Hand International Adoption Indiana, USA
- 11.6. Gladney Center for Adoption New York, USA
- 11.7. All God's Children International Oregon, USA
- 11.8. Cornerstone House of Toronto Ontario, Canada
- 11.9. Societe Formons Une Famille of Quebec, Canada
- 11.10. DanAdopt Denmark
- 11.11. Adopsjonsforum Norway
- 11.12. Adoption Centrum Sweden
- 11.13. Save the Children Finland

August –September:

- 11.14. Azione per Un Mondo Unito (AMU) Onlus Rome Italy
- 11.15. Centro Internazionale Per L' Infanzia E La Famiglia (CIFA) Turin Italy
- 11.16. Associazione Amici di Don Bosco Turin Italy
- 11.17. I Cinque Pani Prato Italy
- 11.18. Bureau Genevois d'Adoption Switزرland
- 11.19. Family International Frankfurt Germany
- 11.20. Flanders Intercountry Adoption Care (FIAC) Belgium
- 11.21. Wereldkinderen The Netherlands

12. Required the submission by the PAPs in relative adoption cases of an undertaking ensuring and certifying the completeness and accurateness of information on PAPs and Prospective Adoptive Child/ren.

13. Set a period limiting the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) may request to remain in suspended but active status in the Roster of Approved Applicants. PAPs who have requested to be put on hold for acceptable reasons shall be allowed to remain in active status for a maximum period of six (6) months from ICAB's receipt of the request. The foreign adoption agency must submit an update on the PAPs prior to the expiration of the six months period. Non-receipt of an update will be considered as lack of interest to pursue the application and result in automatic file closure.

14. Amendment of Board Resolution 00-002 series of 2000 dated February 2, 2000 which limits relative adoption to the 4th degree of consanguinity. The Board amended the resolution to conform with the

existing laws that the term “relative” means in all instances as “relatives within the 4th civil degree of consanguinity and affinity”.

15. Resolved setting the maximum age of a child for regular placement. The current maximum age for regular adoption is eight (8) years old or 96 months. ICAB lowered the maximum age of a child for regular placement to provide the opportunity for younger children to be matched and considered faster. The age for regular placement is seventy two (72) months and below. Children seventy-three (73) months old and above is to be considered as special needs children.
16. The Board lifted the December 17, 2010 moratorium and put in place a conditional moratorium based on the performance.
17. Norfil Foundation requested for financial assistance to support the educational and therapy expenses of a child who was repatriated from Singapore in 2009 and has since been in the foster care of Norfil Foundation awaiting permanent placement. The Board granted the financial assistance for the therapy expenses not exceeding P10,000 per year subject to availability of funds and presentation of corresponding official receipts.
18. In February 2012 the ICAB established new eligibility requirements for Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs). After due deliberation, the Board resolved that the eligibility requirements concerning PAPs medical, education and income may be waived for those who have previously adopted from the Philippines and have proven their capacity as adoptive parents.

B. Regulatory: Standard Setting, Licensing and Accreditation

- + The ICAB works with 107 international partners consisting of: fifty two (52) central authorities, and fifty five (55) Non-governmental Foreign Adoption Agencies. The non-governmental partners are broken down as follows: Europe: 22; USA: 28; Canada: 3 and Asia-Pacific 2.
- + The ICAB monitored 55 international/foreign partners (FAAs) which complied with existing rules and regulations, policies and procedures of the Philippine Inter-country Adoption program.
 - o The monitoring of adoption agencies are done by assessing the quality of endorsed dossiers, adhered to established time frames for accepting child referral, fetching of child and finalizing adoption.
- + The ICA Board Members and an ICPC Consultant met and conferred with the officials of Central Authorities and adoption coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies from Canada, Europe and the USA regarding policies and procedures, preparation of adoption applicants, handling of aborted/disruption placement, moratorium on endorsement of adoption applications, medical and psychological requirements.
- + Monitored six (6) Liaison Service Agencies representing 16 FAAs and ensured compliance to the standards set for the delivery of liaison service.

- ✦ 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 CCAs manner of preparing their children for inter-country adoption and case management/permanency planning of children under their care.

C. Placement Services

- ✦ A total of 1,044 inquiries were received and responded to during the period under review which clarified the policies and procedures of the ICAB, immigration requirements of the receiving country, adoption documentary requirements and post adoption services.
- ✦ Two hundred fifty one (251) new adoption applications were received during the year of which 150 or 59.76% were regular adoption applications, 37 or 14.74% belonged to the relative adoption category, 42 or 16.73% were for Special Home Finding applications, and 12 or 4.78% were independent adoption placement applications. The remaining 10 or 3.98% 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 the 251 adoption applications, 124 or 49.40% were applications from the USA, 88 or 35.06% were endorsed by European based adoption agencies, 25 or 9.96% were from Canada based adoption agencies and 14 or 5.58% were from the Asia Pacific adoption agencies. There was a 43.08% decrease in the number of applications received in CY 2012 due to the moratorium imposed by the Board.
- ✦ Two hundred fifty four (254) adoption applications were approved by the Board of which 113 were applications received in the last quarter of 2011 and 141 were adoption applications received in 2012. Of the 254 approved applications, 118 or 47% were American adoptive applicants, 102 or 40% were applicants from Europe, 26 or 10% were applicants from Canada and 8 or 3% was from the Asia Pacific region. Among the 254 approved applicants, 147 or 58% were under the regular adoption category, 58 or 23% were intent on adopting children under the Special Needs/Special Home Finding category, 23 or 9% were relative adoption applicants, 20 or 8% were independent placement and 6 or 2% were adoption applicants with finalized local adoptions which have to be ratified by the ICAB to ensure the issuance of the entry visa of the adoptive child.
- ✦ There were 342 approved Prospective Adoptive Parents who received their child referral during the period of CY 2012. Among those who received their child referral, 252 or 74% were approved in 2011 but were only matched with a child in 2012 and 90 or 26% were approved applicants of 2012.
- ✦ Two hundred thirty seven (237) of the 342 Prospective Adoptive Parents who received their child referral during CY 2012 accepted the child proposed to them.
- ✦ Among those who accepted their child referral, 308 PAPs (including those who accepted their child referral in the last quarter of 2011) came to the Philippines for the official entrustment and familiarized themselves with the Child Caring Agency where the child came from.

- ✚ For the period under review, there were 488 children cleared for inter-country adoption with 311 or 64% belonging to the Regular Adoption category, 77 or 16% were under the Special Home Finding category, 73 or 15% were Relative Adoption cases, and 27 or 6% were Independent Placement cases.
- ✚ Among the 488 children cleared for intercountry adoption,
 - 303 or 62% were voluntarily surrendered by their birthparent/s or guardians
 - 185 or 38% were either judicially Declared Abandoned in court or administratively through the DSWD issuance of the Certificate of Child Legally Available for Adoption.
 - 297 or 61% cleared for ICA were boy children
 - 191 or 39% were girl children.
 - 284 or 58 % were under the care and custody of non-governmental Child Caring Agencies of which 127 or 45% are from NCR based NGO CCAs.
 - 204 or 42% were cared for by government institutions or centers
 - 105 or 52% were under the custody of the DSWD Reception and Study Center for Children
 - 99 or 48% were endorsed by the DSWD Field Offices
 - 47 sibling groups of which 36 or 77% were sibling groups of 2.
- ✚ There were 400 children matched and approved during the period in review of which 182 or 46% were referred to Europe based PAPs, 151 or 38% were matched to USA-based Prospective Adoptive Parents, 44 or 11% to Canada based PAPs and 23 or 6% were matched to Asia-Pacific based PAPs. Among the 309 children matched and approved, 267 were voluntarily surrendered by their birthparent/s while 133 children were declared abandoned through the courts or by the DSWD per RA 9523. Two hundred forty-three (243) were boy children and 157 were girl children. Two hundred fifty-five (255) were under the care and custody of NGO Child Caring/Child Placing Agencies while 145 were from the DSWD Field Offices or from the Reception and Study Center for Children.
- ✚ Summer Hosting Program in the USA in cooperation with 4 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies was participated in by four (4) children participants sponsored by Christian Adoption Services of North Carolina USA, 4 through the sponsorship of Hawaii International Child, another 7 children went to Maryland and Idaho through the sponsorship of Associated Catholic Charities USA and three (3) children participants sponsored by International Christian Adoption, California USA. The 19 children participants and their escorts attended the orientation on the hosting program to prepare them for their scheduled visa interview, travel to the USA and their three weeks stay with the host families. Thirty-three (33) children participants to the previous year's Hosting Program were eventually entrusted/adopted by their host family.
- ✚ Another strategy for permanent placement of older children or hard to place children was the Adoption Ambassador Program where advocate or prospective adoptive parents (PAPs) come to Manila, and spend one week with the children. Adoption Ambassador program is purposely for familiarization and interaction between and among the advocates/PAPs and the children participants with the end goal of recruiting probable PAPs or the PAPs who came pursue the adoption. For CY 2012, 29 children participants were from 1 governmental organization and 12 NGO CCAs.
- ✚ Two hundred eighty two (282) children were accepted by their Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) during the period under review of which 16 or 6% were matched and approved in 2011 but were only accepted in the first semester of CY 2012 while 266 or 94% were matched and accepted during the year by their PAPs.

- 187 or 66% were voluntarily surrendered by their biological mother/parents or guardians and 95 or 34% were administratively declared legally available for adoption.
 - One hundred fifty-eight (158) or 56% were boy children while 124 or 44% were girl children.
 - 168 or 60% of the 282 children accepted were under the care and custody of non-government Child Caring Agencies (CCAs) while 114 or 40% of the accepted children were endorsed by the DSWD Field Offices or by the Reception and Study Center for Children (RSCC).
 - Of the 168 children accepted, 67 or 40% were from NCR based CCAs, 36 or 21% each for Regions VII and IV-A.
 - Of the 114 children from GOs, 63 or 55% were endorsed by the different DSWD Field Offices while 51 or 45% of the children were cared for by RSCCs.
 - Of the 282 children accepted, 123 or 44% were accepted by PAPs from the USA; 115 or 41% by Europe-based PAPs; 36 or 13% were accepted by Canadian PAPs and 8 or 2% were accepted by PAPs from the Asia-Pacific.
- ✚ There were 364 children entrusted to their PAPs during the period in review of which 149 or 41% were children accepted by their PAPs in 2009 (3), 2010 (3) and 2011 (143) but whose travel document/entry visa was released only in 2012 while 215 were accepted and fetched in 2012. Of these children, 178 or 49% were entrusted to Europe-based PAPs, 122 or 34% to USA-based PAPs, 48 or 13% were entrusted to PAPs from Canada and 16 or 4% were from the Asia Pacific.
- ✚ The DSWD Secretary or the Undersecretary for Policy and Programs issues the Affidavit of Consent to Adoption (ACA). The three (3) post placement reports submitted every two months during the 6 months trial custody period are the bases for the issuance of the Consent to Adoption. A total of 789 children were under post placement supervision during the period in review. 464 ACAs were endorsed to the CAs/FAAs during the period. The required supervisory trial custody period was satisfied and legalization/finalization of the adoption of the child/ren was approved.
- ✚ Four hundred nine (409) Adoption Decrees were received during the period in review. The Adoption Decrees received during the year were for the children whose placement occurred from 2010-2012.
- ✚ 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 background) to find their birth family/relatives. For the period in review, there were 41 adopted children who came home and returned to the institutions/orphanages where they spent the early years of their life. The adoptive children and adoptive parents came from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the USA. ICAB received 35 requests for search for roots of biological parents. 6 adult adoptees were successfully reunited with their biological mother/parents.

- ✚ Disruption in the adoption placements were reported during the year:
 - a. A child under the Special Home Finding category was not physically transferred because the Prospective Adoptive Parents did not proceed with the adoption placement believing that the child could have some neurological problems (observed to have autistic like behaviour).
 - b. A disruption under the relative adoption placement occurred during the period in review after the 2 younger children disclosed physical abuse from their adoptive mother (who is the children's aunt). No repatriation was considered as the eldest is over 19 years old and the Central Authority of British Columbia Canada has no authority to make decisions with regards to her repatriation. The two younger siblings were placed with a Canadian foster family while the Central Authority is looking for an adoptive home within the British Columbia Filipino community.
 - c. Another relative adoption disruption occurred among a sibling group of three (3). The second child of the 3 children was legally adopted but the 2 boys could not adjust and decided that they do not want to stay in the USA. They were repatriated and returned to their relatives in the Philippines.
 - d. Another child under the relative adoption category also disrupted because the adoptive mother has been struggling with some serious medical and mental issues while the adoptive father was laid off from his job. The family is relying only from their Employment Income Benefits. The child is currently under the care of the adoption agency in British Columbia, Canada and repatriation may be considered if there is no suitable replacement family available.
 - e. A disruption during the placement supervision of an older child in Spain was reported as the prospective adoptive parents felt incapable to manage the emotional needs and behaviour of the child despite efforts and intervention from a psychologist. The child is currently temporarily cared in a shelter in Spain until a replacement family is identified.

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.
- ✚ Consultative sessions with different Central Authorities (CAs) and Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) Coordinators and Executive Directors from the Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Finland, Korea, Nepal, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Norway, United Kingdom and USA. The sessions clarified issues on the Summer Hosting Program, placement proposals, psychological evaluation requirements, moratorium on adoption applications, and 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 13th National Adoption Consciousness Day. This year's observance focuses on the theme "Isulong Legal na Pag-aampon" which aims to highlight the various issues on adoption and generate public awareness and support for legal adoption. It also aimed to intensify the information and education efforts on adoption. 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 on February 10, 2012. Adoption Help Desks were set-up on February 5, 2012 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 ICAB Secretariat Social Workers attended and participated in the continuing education to hone knowledge and skills on case management in relation to the recent guidelines of the DSWD on the declaration of children to be legally available for adoption, resolve current issues and concerns affecting alternative home placement of children, deepen skills of social workers in handling children with special needs and clarify issues and hindering factors in preparing a comprehensive and substantive Child Study Report.
- ✚ Two (2) Secretariat social workers attended and participated in the CSC sponsored seminar workshop on supervisory development course to further develop the supervisors knowledge and skills.
- ✚ The Administrative and Finance Officers attended and participated in the seminar workshop on administrative justice sponsored by the Civil Service Commission to ensure familiarity and compliance to the different CSC rules and regulations.
- ✚ Two (2) senior social workers of the ICAB Secretariat attended and participated in the training workshop on enhancing supervisors educational function which recognizes the critical role of the supervisor in the effective and efficient functioning of his/her staff and enhance the capability of the supervisor to be pro-active and purposive in improving the performance of the his/her staff.
- ✚ 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 2011 as per each agency's commitment on the institutionalization of the Macro Monitoring System.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director participated in the Part II of the Special Commission on Practical Operation of the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention and the 1996 Hague Child Protection Convention held last January 23-February 2, 2012 at the Hague, The Netherlands. This was aimed at reviewing the preliminary report on the services and strategies provided by the Hague Conference on Private International Law. The participation of ICAB as the Philippine representative was significant in its endeavour to ratify the convention.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director and the Secretariat Unit Heads attended the ICAB Strategic Planning last January 18-19, 2012 to review the 2012 Work and Financial Plan, discuss the agency thrusts for CY 2012 and plan programs and activities for FY 2012.
- ✚ The ICAB Secretariat Unit Heads attended the orientation on knowledge management conducted by DSWD SWIDB last March 15, 2012. It emphasized the need to harmonize and systematize the way knowledge is created, stored, and shared in the organization. It would like to establish a resilient organizational memory of important knowledge that is not vulnerable to loss when employees move to other jobs or leave. It wants

the knowledge that is in the heads of people to be documented so that it can be made accessible to anyone who needs it.

- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director provided an orientation on the ICAB organizational structure, programs and services, process and procedures to the UNICEF Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodian adoption representatives and government officials who were interested in knowing the Philippine intercountry adoption program and its best practices.
- ✚ Five (5) Intercountry Placement Committee (ICPC) consultants and the ICAB Child Welfare Unit staff went to Cebu City for the on-site matching conference last April 15-17, 2012. This was also the opportunity for the ICPC members to familiarize themselves with the Cebu-based Child Caring Agencies.
- ✚ An ICAB Secretariat social worker attended and participated in the annual summer gathering of adoptive families and Filipino adoptive children in Trysil, Norway where she met 39 adoptive families. The adoptive families with Filipino adoptive children shared their positive experiences of adopting from the Philippines. The gathering was an opportunity for the Filipino adoptive children to be acquainted with each other. The visit to Norway also provided the ICAB social worker the chance to learn and be familiar with the Norwegian adoption system through meetings with the different agencies involved in adoption.
- ✚ The ICAB Executive Director participated in the Meeting of the Expert Group on the Financial Aspects of Intercountry Adoption in The Netherlands last October 6-11, 2012. The Expert Group discussed and deliberated on terminology and tools to gather on financial aspects of intercountry adoption, propose an overview of issues and existing good practices, examine the opportunity and feasibility of developing practical tools to improve standards and practices.
- ✚ The Intercountry Adoption Board (ICAB), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and McCann Erickson Philippines (an advertising agency) partnered together to launch an adoption advocacy material. The Phase 1 and 2 launching of the advocacy campaign was held last November and December 2012. The advocacy campaign seeks to soften the stigma of adoption and encourage adoptive families to openly declare and share their stories so more families will be inspired to adopt legally. Political person like Senator Pia Cayetano and famous singer/songwriter, Ogie Alcasid are strong advocates of adoption showed their support to the adoption advocacy campaign. Ogie Alcasid involved himself in the advocacy campaign and believed that music can be used to spread the positive meaning of adoption. It is envisioned that a collaborative work among seasoned and new artists and musicians of various genre will raise the advocacy campaign to a higher level. Through music, the advocacy hopes to change the mindset of many Filipinos about adoption and encourage families to open their homes to adoptive children. The advocacy campaign not only utilized the traditional ways to reach out to consumers but also maximized the social media network and online networks.
- ✚ The Hague Permanent Bureau has commissioned ICAB through its *Intercountry Adoption Technical Assistance Programme (ICATAP)* to provide a month-long training and technical assistance to the Cambodian Central Authority. The ICAB undertook a one month training of the Cambodian Central Authority from November 7 to December 9, 2012. The Cambodian government acknowledged the contribution of ICAB. The Hague Permanent Bureau has issued a Circular to Hague 1993 Convention signatories regarding the training provided by the Philippine Central Authority to Cambodia. Cambodia is expected to reactivate its intercountry adoption program by 2013 in accordance with the *Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption*.

- ✦ ICAB conducted the training workshop cum consultation dialogues in Davao City, and Manila where 143 participants from Regions IV-B, V, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA and NCR composed of social workers from DSWD, LGUs, RTCs/FCs and NGOs 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.
- ✦ Basic Training for Caseworkers, Foster Parents and Caregivers on Preparing Children for Adoption was conducted by ICAB for the DSWD Field Offices, RSCCs and NGOs in Regions IX, X, XI, XII and CARAGA. 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.
- ✦ The Admin Officer and Project Development Unit staff met with the DSWD Information Technology and Communication Management Service Bureau (ITCMS). The meeting was to discuss the revision, improvement and migration of ICAB website into a more interactive and client friendly webpage. A template was crafted and migration of ICAB web content is on going.
- ✦ 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 Phils. (ACCAP)
 4. FY 2013 Budget Forum
 5. ICAB Strategic Planning for CY 2012
 6. ICAB Annual Staff Development and Team Building
 7. DSWD MANCOM Meetings
 8. Consultative Meeting with the COA
 9. CWC Technical Working Group on Macro-Monitoring System for Children
 10. Lecture Orientation on Managing Behavior of Children in Institutions
 11. Values Orientation Workshop
 12. PhilGeps Training Phase I
 13. CSC Basic Customer Social Skills
 14. Philippine Financial Management Seminar at DBM
 15. DSWD Mid-Year National Management Development Conference
 16. Policy Appreciation Course for Managers
 17. Seminar Workshop on Administrative Justice
 18. Supervisory Development Course
 19. Workshop on the Cascading of Agency Performance Targets
 20. Orientation on the Performance Based Bonus (EO 80 – PBB)

21. CSC Values Orientation Workshop
22. Enhancing Mentoring, the Supervisor's Educational Function
23. 1st PMHA Conference "Depression: A Global Crisis"
24. PASWI National Convention
25. Technical Writing Course for Social Workers
26. Lecture on Civil Service Rules and Regulations
27. Personality Development
28. Time and Stress Management
29. DSWD Program Review Workshop
30. CSC Training Seminar on Public Service Ethics and Accountability

E. ICAB Budget & Expenses

A summary of allotment/obligations and balance, as of December 30, 2012 is stated below (In Thousand Pesos):

Allotment/ Object Class of Expenditures	Allotment (RA 10155)	Use of Income	Add'l SARO	Total Allotment Received	Obligations Incurred	Unobligated Balance of Allotment	% of Fund Utilization
PS	P6,675		P5,144	P11,819	P12,216	(P397)	(103%)
MOOE		P18,545		18,545	17,839	706	96%
CO		740		740	491	249	66%
Grand Total	P6,675	P19,285	P5,144	P31,104	P30,546	P558	98%

Table 1. ICAB's Statement of Allotment, Obligations and Balances (SAOB) as of December 30, 2012

From January to December of FY 2012, the ICAB received a total of Php 31,104 Million allotment from the DBM of which Php 6,675 Million was derived from the Regular Allotment (GAA RA 10155) and Php 19,285 Million was from the agency's income collected from fees/charges and assessments. Of the total allotment received of Php 31,104 Million, 38% or Php11,819 Million was allotted for Personnel Service, 60% or Php18,545 Million was for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses while 2% or Php740 Thousand was allocated for Capital Outlay. For the period under review, the ICAB had 98% of fund utilization.

Income Generated from January to December of CY 2012

The ICAB earned a total of Php 36,602,988.45 Million during the period in review which is 90.52% of the target income for FY 2012 (Php 40,437,200.00). 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.

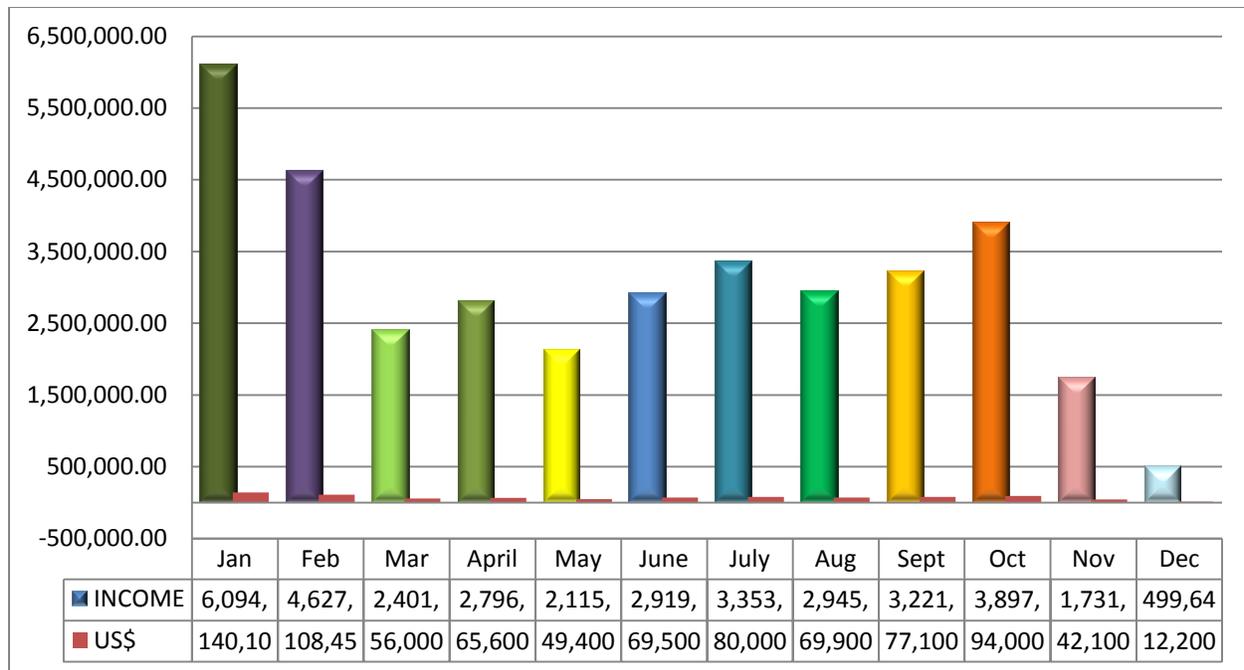


Table 2. Monthly Income Generated by the ICAB from January to December 2012

The total income of ICAB for the period under review of FY 2012 amounted to US\$864,350.00 or Php 36,602,988.45 Million or of which 16.65% was generated in the month of January, 12.64% for February and 10.65% for October. There is a 10.27% increase in the income earned by the agency for period under review of FY 2012 compared to the income of the same period of FY 2011 (Php36,565,426.65) despite the temporary moratorium in accepting endorsement of adoption applications because of the appreciation of the Philippine peso *vis-a-vis* the US dollar.

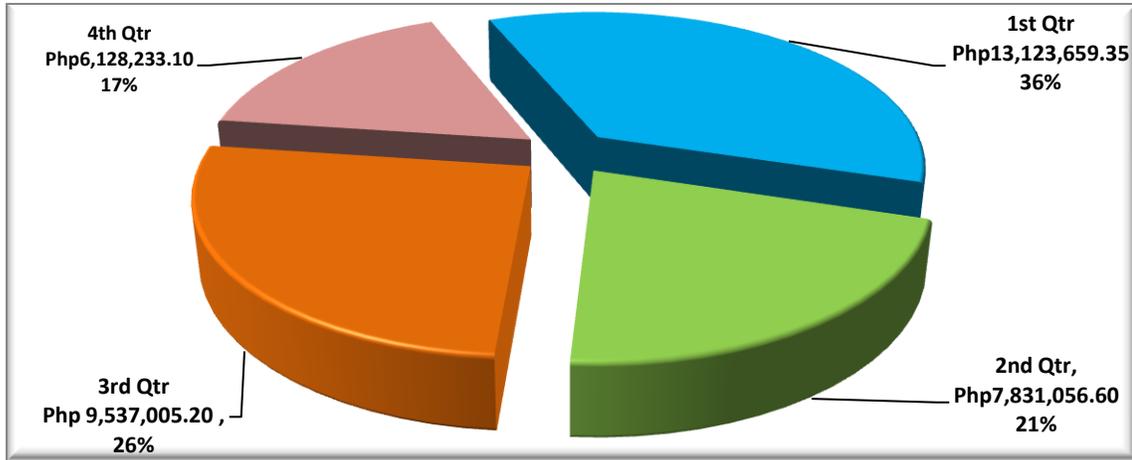


Table 3. Quarterly Income Generated by the ICAB for FY 2012

The first quarter income generated by the ICAB of Php 13,123,659.35 is 36% of the total collections earned from January to December 2012 or 32.45% of the target income for FY 2012 (Php40,437,200.00) while Php 7,831,056.60 or 21% was the income earned for the 2nd quarter of FY 2012 or 19.37% of the target income and Php9,520,039.40 or 26% was collected for the 3rd quarter or 23.54% of the target income for FY 2012 while Php6,128,233.10 or 17% was earned for the 4th quarter or 15.15% of the target income for the year.

F. ICAB THRUSTS FOR CY 2012

I. POLICY FORMULATION AND RESEARCH

- a. 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.
- b. Concretize post legal adoption services.

II. STANDARD SETTING AND ACCREDITATION

- a. Intensify monitoring of compliance to standards and provisions of 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 Hague Country FAAs and accreditation of Non-Hague Country FAAs.

III. NETWORKING and ADVOCACY

- a. Advocacy with key legislative representatives to help sponsor amendment of ICA Law (RA 8043) and increase plantilla positions in the agency.
- b. Continuing dialogues for local implementers on the Philippine Inter-Country Adoption program.
- c. Development/ production of infomercial on adoption.

IV. CAPABILITY BUILDING

4.1. Internal Staff

Enhancement of staff capability in conducting legal adoption services

4.2. External Stakeholders

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

V. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

5.1. Data Management

- a. Digitalization of adoption files/records for post legal adoption service
- b. Improvement of ICT Infrastructure/Network, Database System-Philippine Information System for Inter-Country Adoption (PISICA) and Website Content Management

5.2. Office Improvement

- a. Improvement of office facilities for the conducive working environment and efficient delivery of services.

Prepared & Submitted by:



MARIVIR T. TUNGOL
PDO III

Noted by:



GINA C. ESCALANTE
SWO V

Approved by:



BERNADETTE B. ABEJO
Executive Director