

**PHILIPPINES**

**10<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD)  
Berlin, Germany  
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**ROUNDTABLE 3.1:  
“Raising the Global Talent Pool – Harnessing the Potential  
of the Private Sector for Global Skills Partnerships”**

**OPENING STATEMENT  
by**

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Dear colleagues, a pleasant afternoon to all of you.

At the outset, the Philippines would like to thank the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) for giving us the opportunity to co-chair this momentous roundtable discussion. We would also like to recognize the Federal Foreign Office of Berlin for successfully organizing this event. We likewise want to recognize the achievements of the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the economics, sociology, and governance of migration were thoroughly discussed.

The Philippines currently has 9,173,697 Filipinos spread out all over the world. Since the Philippines started in 1974, with the deployment of skilled manpower for employment abroad, the Philippine Government has carried out institutional measures for training and skills upgrading. Considering that overseas employment is still an option for Filipinos, *Global Skills Partnerships* would be a vital tool in linking skill creation with skill mobility. Through this arrangement, the demand of the overseas market could be reconciled with the skills that the country of origin could offer.

In the Philippines, we seek to institutionalize the *Philippine Qualifications Framework*, which is envisioned as a quality assured national system for the development, recognition, and award of qualifications based on the standards of knowledge, skills, and attitude acquired by learners and workers in the country. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the other hand, is pushing for an *ASEAN Qualifications Framework*, which will help in recognizing the qualifications and enhancement of learner and work mobility. There is also an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) recommendation for a voluntary regional qualifications framework which links the national qualifications frameworks of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The advantages that such links can bring are the greater potential for international recognition of national qualifications, the facilitation of the mobility of labor and students, the liberalization of trade in education and training, and the greater transparency of national qualification systems.

With respect to financing mechanisms to develop skills in countries of origin and destination, the Philippines has the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). TESDA offers accredited schools and training centers for skills that may be required abroad. Currently, TESDA, through its online program, uses the internet to enable people to gain access to training for free. To date, about 48 online courses can now be accessed online, which benefit more than 800,000 online users, including Overseas Filipinos. POEA, on the other hand, has a Workers Education Division that designs training modules for prospective migrant workers for free.

The private sector could be motivated to engage in Global Skills Partnerships by emphasizing to them how such partnership would result in the global convergence of standards in various fields, skills upgrading, and technology transfer – all of which will ensure the efficiency of human resource, and hence, the profitability of business. A good example is the ASEAN + 3 University Network (AUN) which aims to strengthen collaboration and solidarity among higher education institutions in ASEAN, China, Japan, and Korea. Another way of encouraging the private sector is by providing them

with tax incentives – income tax holidays, tax credits, duty-free importation of raw materials and equipment, and the like.

In terms of policies, laws, and bilateral agreements that facilitate Global Skills Partnership, the leading higher education institutions of the Philippines, such as the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University are members of the network in which students of these universities may enroll in other ASEAN member universities through the AUN credit transfer system. The Philippines, under the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements, has entered into arrangements for 8 professions: Engineering services, Nursing services, Medical practitioners, Dental Practitioners, Framework on Accountancy, Surveying Qualification, Architectural Services, and Tourism professionals.

To further institutionalize Global Skills Partnership, a unit or branch under the Ministry of Labor of the country of origin may also be set up to facilitate the public-private agreement to link skill formation with skill migration. This office would then be the central coordinating and monitoring agency for Global Skills Partnerships.

As economic migration is considered a global phenomenon that has been recurring throughout human history, it is inevitable to take into account human migration in the field of labor market needs. *Global Skills Partnerships* would indeed be a practical strategy to enhancing the success of labor deployment by allowing active collaboration among prospective employers, training institutions, and recruitment agencies.

Without further ado, dear colleagues, this round table session is now open, and I challenge everyone here to heed the call to action, as millions of migrants continue to brave new lands, full of hope.

Thank you.

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<sup>i</sup> Based on July to December 2016 Report to Congress of the Philippines.