

**[ DOT, February 13, 2005 ]**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON THE PHILIPPINES  
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) TOUR PROGRAM**

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed by the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), on 27 September 2004, the following rules and regulations on the implementation of the Philippines English as a Second Language Tour Program are hereby promulgated.

**Rule I. Coverage**

These rules and regulations shall govern the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement executed by the DOT, DFA, BI and TESDA on the implementation of the Philippines ESL Tour Program

**Rule II. Basic Policy**

Cognizant of the Philippines' advantage being a country which uses English as a second language and the increasing influx of foreign tourists studying English in local universities and language centers, the Department of Tourism developed an aggressive promotional campaign dubbed as the Philippines ESL Tour Program to attract more tourists to learn English in the country.

**Rule III. Objectives**

The implementation of the Philippines ESL Tour Program shall be guided by the following objectives:

1. To make the Philippines a destination in Asia for learning English as a second language;
2. To develop tours combining English language courses with holiday/vacation activities;
3. To enrich student visitor's experience by providing opportunities for cultural immersion, thereby enhancing appreciation and understanding of Philippine culture;
4. To increase visitor arrivals by tapping the ESL market especially from China, Korea, Taiwan and Japan, thereby, contributing to the country's tourist receipts;
5. To offer English language courses in a relaxed atmosphere adopting interesting and dynamic methodologies for a more effective learning process; and
6. To encourage participation of the academe in fostering a highly competitive travel and learn English program in their respective language centers.

**Rule IV. Definition of Terms**

For purposes of these rules and unless expressly provided otherwise:

1. Tour Operator shall mean a Philippine registered and accredited entity which may either be a single proprietorship, partnership or corporation regularly engaged in the business of extending to individuals or groups such services pertaining to arrangements and bookings for transportation and/or accommodation, handling and/or conduct of inbound tours whether or not for a fee, commission or any other form of compensation.
2. Accreditation shall mean a recognition given by the DOT to a duly registered and accredited Philippine tour operator and that the holder thereof can handle ESL tours.
3. Registration shall mean a recognition given by TESDA to all Technical, Vocational, Educational and Training (TVET) programs that comply with minimum standards prescribed in Training Regulations and anchored in competency based-system of TESDA.
4. Language Training Center shall mean a Philippine corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that offers English courses registered with TESDA on a regular basis as well as ESL programs and authorized by BI to admit foreign students.
5. Special Study Permit (SSP) shall mean a Permit or Authority to study issued by the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to bonafide foreign tourists who wish to study in a non-degree course for less than one (1) year at BI-authorized school with TESDA-registered program.
6. Letter of Guarantee is a letter addressed to the Philippine Foreign Service Post executed by the President/General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of a tour operator handling ESL tours stating that said tour operator shall be held liable should any member of the group tour fail to leave the Philippines with the group and that the tour operator shall be held accountable for administrative fines and such other sanctions as may be imposed as well as expenses that may be incurred in the repatriation of the said tour group member.
7. Philippine Foreign Service Post shall mean the Philippine Embassy or Consulate which exercises jurisdiction over the country where the ESL participant is a national or is a legal resident therein as well as over the country where the foreign tour operator's main office is located.

**Rule V. Procedures for Tour Operators Intending to  
Participate in the Philippines ESL Tour Program**