

[DECS ORDER NO. 93, s. 1992, August 17, 1993]

**REVISED POLICIES ON VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION AND
DEREGULATION**

1. *Statement of Policy* — a. It is the policy of the Department to encourage and assist education institutions which desire to improve their educational standards over and above the minimum required for recognition.

b. In furtherance of this policy, the Department encourages the establishment of voluntary, non-governmental accreditation systems to assist the Department in the exercise of its regulatory functions. The Department will promote a policy environment which supports the non-governmental and voluntary character and protects the integrity of the accreditation process.

c. The Department recognizes and authorizes the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP) as the umbrella agency that would certify, pursuant to the Federation's own standards, the accredited status of programs and thus be entitled to the grant of progressive deregulated status and other benefits. FAAP standards shall be superior to the minimum standards of the Department.

d. The Department recognizes and commends the pioneering work of the accrediting agencies now federated under the FAAP, including the Association of Christian Schools and Colleges Accrediting Agency (ACSC-AAI), the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU), and the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA).

e. These revised policies on voluntary accreditation and progressive deregulation pertain to secondary and four-year tertiary level programs only.

(1) In the meantime that there is limited accreditation for the secondary level, the following equivalencies to secondary accreditation will be permitted:

(a) When at least three (3) of the basic programs of an educational institution at the tertiary level are accredited with Level II status, the benefits of accreditation will be similarly extended to the secondary level program of comparable level, for as long as the tertiary accreditation status is current.

(b) Where there is proven outstanding NCEE performance over a given period of time, the benefits of accreditation may likewise be enjoyed, for not more than five (5) years. For this purpose, the Department will make available the ranked list of NCEE performance of such high schools.

(2) For educational institutions with at least three tertiary-level programs with Level II accreditation, other tertiary undergraduate programs for

which no accreditation programs exist for the time being will be entitled to equivalent level accreditation benefits as well.

2. *Eligibility Requirements for the Grant of Benefits Incentives* — a. The recognition of individual accrediting agencies or groups of accrediting agencies extended by the Department is an eligibility requirement solely for the grant of deregulated status and other benefits from the government in order to avail of said benefits from the government. In order to avail of said benefits, accredited institutions and programs must be affiliated with duly recognized accrediting agencies under FAAP. Recognition shall not in any way diminish or run counter to the private and voluntary character of accrediting agencies.

b. The Department may, however, in connection with the grant of deregulated status and other benefits, formulate with the FAAP, additional guidelines to insure commonality in processes and standards among accrediting agencies and avoid the proliferation of accrediting agencies seeking Department recognition.

c. Any accrediting agencies seeking affiliation with FAAP and subsequently DECS recognition shall fulfill following conditions:

- (1) It must be a nongovernmental body duly incorporated under the classification of special corporation under Title III of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;
- (2) It must demonstrate independence for making judgments relative to accreditation status, policies, procedures and criteria, and possess the capability and competence to conduct accreditation activities;
- (3) Its policies, evaluative criteria, standards and procedures must conform with generally accepted accrediting principles as set forth by FAAP;
- (4) It must make public its accrediting scope, evaluative criteria and procedures, including the academic and professional qualifications of the individual members of its governing and technical bodies; and
- (5) It must submit its minimum academic standards for review, as endorsed by FAAP, to DECS to ascertain that these standards exceed the minimum requirements.

3. *Benefits* — a. The scheme for progressive deregulation of qualified educational institutions/programs established pursuant to Part III, Rule IV, Section 2b of the Implementing Rules of Batas Pambansa Blg. 232 and to Resolution No. 66 of the Regular Session of the Batasang Pambansa, otherwise known as the National Development Plan, 1983-1984 passed on January 19, 1982 shall be enhanced.

b. For purposes of progressive deregulation and the grant of other benefits, educational programs are classified into three (3) levels. The levels and the minimum requirements prescribed for each are:

- (1) **Level I — Applicant Status** — refers to institutions/programs which have at least undergone a preliminary survey visit and are certified by FAAP as being capable of acquiring accredited status within one or two years. No special benefits are provided for this Level.