

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA RELATING TO THE PHILIPPINES-  
AUSTRALIA PROJECT IN BASIC EDUCATION (PROBE)**

**1. GENERAL**

1.1 This MEMORANDUM expresses the understandings of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Australia concerning the responsibilities and contributions of the two Governments with regard to the implementation of the Philippines-Australia Project in Basic Education (PROBE).

1.2 The Project and its objectives and the responsibilities and contributions of the two Governments are described further in Annexes 1 to 4 of this Memorandum of Understanding.

1.3 The Project is concerned with improving basic education in English, Science and Mathematics in elementary and lower secondary schools. PROBE will focus on schools in Regions II, VII, IX and X and builds upon the work done under the Philippines-Australia Science and Mathematics Education Project (PASMEP) in these regions.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

In this Memorandum of Understanding:

(a) "Australian institutions, firms and organisations" means Australian institutions, firms and organisations engaged in the Project;

(b) "Australian personnel" means Australian nationals or permanent residents or other persons who are not nationals or permanent residents of the Philippines who are working in the Philippines on the Project and whose salaries and other costs are funded from the contribution of the Government of Australia to the Project;

(c) "dependent/dependant" means the spouse or unmarried minor children of a member of the Australian personnel or any other person recognized by the two Governments as dependent/dependant of a member of the Australian personnel;

(d) "professional and technical material" means equipment and other goods imported by members of the Australian personnel or Australian institutions, firms and organizations for their professional use in carrying out their assigned duties under the Project and paid for from funds provided by the Government of Australia;

(e) "project supplies" means equipment, materials and other goods supplied for the execution of the project, the cost of which is funded from the contribution of the Government of Australia to the Project;

(f) "motor vehicles" means motor vehicles supplied for the execution of the Project, the cost of which is funded from the contribution of the Government of Australia to the Project;

(g) "services" means services performed by individuals or by general professional partnerships registered in the Philippines as detailed in Annex 1;

(h) "personal and household effects" means equipment and other goods imported by Australian personnel or Australian institutions, firms and organizations for the personal use of Australian personnel and their dependents/dependants while engaged in the Project.

### **3. AUTHORITIES AND COORDINATION**

3.1. The executing Authorities for this Project will be:

For the Government of Australia (GOA), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GOP), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Educational Development Projects Implementing Task Force (EDPITAF), the agency charged with the implementation of foreign-assisted projects in education.

The Executing Authorities, however, may nominate suitably qualified agents to undertake any part of their functions on their behalf.

3.2 A management structure comprising a Project coordinating Committee (PCC), a Project Management Unit (PMU), a Project Advisory Group and Regional Units will be established to oversee and manage project activities and ensure timely and effective coordination and utilization of inputs.

3.3 Project implementation will be facilitated through the Project Coordinating Committee (PCC); This Committee will assess progress and provide policy and planning direction to the Project. A representative of AusAID will be a member of the PCC when the project is discussed. The PCC will meet and discuss the Project at least twice in a year. Additional meetings of the PCC may be requested by DECS or by AusAID.

3.4 The Project Management Unit (PMU), representing all major stakeholders, shall be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Project. A Project Advisory Group will also be established and shall include members from other participating agencies but not represented in either the PCC or the PMU. Regional Units will be responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of project activities at the local level.

### **4. CONTRIBUTIONS**

The contributions of the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, as described in Annexes 1 to 4, are estimated to value 28.715 million Australian dollars and 325.330 million Philippine pesos respectively.

The financial contribution of the Government of Australia will be subject to the normal annual parliamentary approval of appropriations. The financial contribution of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will be subject to its annual Congressional appropriations.

## **5. PERSONNEL**

5.1 Personnel provided by the Government of Australia to the Project will be responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the contribution of the Government of Australia to the Project and will have an advisory and consultative role. The Australian Team Leader will coordinate with the Executing Authority of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the GOP Project Director, concerning the definition of the Terms of Reference of the consultants. The GOP Executing Authority shall make known to the GOA Executing Authority any objection it has to the nomination of individual consultants.

5.2 The Australian Team Leader will have administrative control with respect to duties, discipline, leave and other administrative issues concerning personnel funded by the Government of Australia (including Philippine nationals employed as consultants) to achieve project objectives and subject to the laws and regulations of the Republic of the Philippines.

5.3 The outputs of said personnel of the GOA and other project consultants may be reviewed and commented upon by the GOP Project Director based on the agreed Terms of Reference. Any comments so made will be taken into account and mutually resolved by the Project Team.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

6.1 During the first three months of the Project's implementation, the Philippine and Australian project staff will examine plans for the management and implementation of the Project and will present a Project Implementation Document (PID) for the approval of the two Governments. The Implementation Document will be adopted in accordance with Article 16 of this Memorandum of Understanding and will supersede the Design Document as the primary reference for the Project thereafter.

6.2 An Annual Plan will be prepared by the Australian Project Team, in coordination with the Philippine Project Team, by 31 March each year and will be submitted to AusAID and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for consideration. The Plan will contain an assessment of progress to date, a detailed schedule of tasks as well as resource and budget proposals. The Plan will be initially drafted by the Australian Team Leader in coordination with the Philippine Project Manager. The Plan will cover the period July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

6.3 As provided for in the Project Design Document, a mid-term review of progress of the Project will be made. Other reviews will be undertaken as required, by a joint investigation team appointed by the two Governments with Australian team members independent of staff involved with the Project. Notice of intention to conduct reviews shall be communicated through normal diplomatic channels.

6.4 The Australian Team Leader will coordinate directly with the Philippine Project Director and Project Manager in matters concerning the execution of Project plans.