



Member Since 1993

To Assist Business Processing Outsourcing - **Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hikes by P350 million allocation for gov't training program for BPOs**

MANILA, Feb. 4 (*PinoyGlobal*) - With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the special guest, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will turn over tomorrow (Monday) P350 million to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) to finance the training of up to 47,000 Filipino workers for the business processing outsourcing (BPO) industry.

The allocation, which will come from the PGMA-Training for Work Scholarship Program (PGMA-TWSP), is seen as a major boost to the government's efforts to train and build a formidable talent pool for the BPO sector until 2010.

TESDA Director General Augusto Syjuco and BPAP Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Oscar Sañez will sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) binding the two agencies to co-manage the training project in a simple ceremony at the Bahia Room of the Manila Intercontinental Hotel, in Makati City, in the presence of President Arroyo.

During the launching of the "Offshoring and Outsourcing Philippines: Roadmap 2010" BPAP at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel on Nov. 5, 2007, BPAP requested the President for P350 million from the PGMA-TWSP to jumpstart the program to develop a talent pool until 2010 that would be ready to fill 600,000 new jobs from direct employment.

The roadmap identifies key initiatives and actions to meet the government's goal of attaining a 10 percent share of the global outsourcing market by 2010.

Syjuco said TESDA will turn over the P350 million training fund to BPAP for distribution to its members namely, Animation Council of the Philippines Inc. (ACPI), Contact

Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP), Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines, Inc. (MTIAPI) and the Philippine Software Industry Association (PSIA); and non-BPAP companies, training providers and BPOs engaged in training BPO workers.

Since its establishment in 2006, the PGMA-TWSP has provided training and employment opportunities to 26,166 call center agents, medical transcriptionists, animators and software developers.

This year, some 47,000 more Filipinos will benefit from the program following the grant of the P350 million training fund by the President, Syjuco said.

For his part, Sañez said the additional training fund would boost efforts by TESDA-BPAP to build a big talent pool for the offshoring and outsourcing industry in the country.

"We thank President Arroyo for providing the fund that will benefit the country in the long run in terms of developing a substantial pool of skilled manpower for the business process outsourcing industry," Syjuco and Sañez said in a statement.

From May 2006 to Sept. 2007, at least 44,331 call center agents had completed their training program at TESDA. Of the 2006-2007 graduates, 50.66 percent have been employed. Among them were 6,346 medical transcriptionists and 389 software developers.

One of the star performers of the economy, the BPO industry has consistently registered an annual growth rate of 45 percent over the past three years. As of end 2007, BPAP had placed total export revenues of the sector at \$4.8 billion, and jobs generated at 320,000.#

Office of the President- released 2/3/2008