

Important Announcement For Filipino Spouses/Partners Of Foreign Nationals

Beginning **16 July 2012**, the Guidance and Counseling Program (GCP) for Filipino spouses / partners of foreign nationals will be **conducted by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) in its Manila and Cebu offices.**

Under Department Orders No. 11-97, No. 15-89, and No. 28-94 of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals are required to attend the guidance and counseling program as a pre-requisite to the issuance of passports. The objective is to enable the spouses/partners make informed decisions and prepare them for the realities of cross-cultural marriages.

The number of attendees per session is **LIMITED**, and participants will be accommodated strictly on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Only for those with **COMPLETE GCP REQUIREMENTS** will be considered. A guidance and counseling certificate will be issued to those who have satisfactorily completed the guidance and counseling program. This certificate will be presented to Philippine immigration authorities at the airport on the day of departure.

The schedule of sessions in Manila and Cebu is listed below.

Filipino spouses of Korean nationals who have passed the GCP will be required to take the Two-Day South Korea Cultural Workshop (SKCW). This will be conducted **EXCLUSIVELY at the CFO offices in Manila and Cebu starting July 25, 2012.**

Meanwhile, GCP Counseling sessions at the People's Reform Initiative for Social Mobilization Inc. (PRISM) will continue **until July 13, 2012**, and at the St. Mary Euphrasia Foundation-Center for Overseas Workers (SMEF-COW) **until September 15, 2012.**

For further assistance, you may email the CFO at imiravalles@cfo.gov.ph or info@cfo.gov.ph.

Guidance and Counseling Sessions in CFO Manila Office (Effective July 16, 2012)

COUNTRY	DAY	TIME
United States of America	Monday to Friday <i>(12 slots everyday)</i>	9:00 am-12:00 nn
Canada	Tuesdays and Fridays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	9:00 am-12:00 nn
Other European countries	Mondays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	9:00 am-12:00 nn
Germany	Wednesdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	9:00 am-12:00 nn
United Kingdom and Italy	Thursdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	9:00 am-12:00 nn
Japan	Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
South Korea and other Asia Pacific Countries	Tuesdays and Thursdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Australia	Mondays and Thursdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Taiwan	Tuesdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
New Zealand	Wednesdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Other Countries (Middle East, South Africa, etc.)	Fridays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM

Guidance and Counseling Sessions in CFO Cebu Office (Effective July 16, 2012)

COUNTRY	DAY	TIME
US and Canada	Mondays to Fridays <i>(12 slots everyday)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Australian and New Zealand	Monday and Wednesday <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
Japan and South Korea	Tuesdays and Thursdays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM
EU and other countries	Fridays <i>(12 slots per session)</i>	2:00 PM- 5:00 PM

In view of these changes, the CFO Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) and Peer Counseling Sessions for Filipino emigrants will follow the new schedule as specified below:

**Schedule of Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) for Filipino Emigrants
CFO Manila (effective 16 July 2012)**

Country	Day	Time
United States of America	Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays <i>(70 slots everyday)</i>	10:00 am - 12:00 nn
	Tuesdays and Fridays <i>(70 slots everyday)</i>	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Canada	Mondays to Fridays <i>(60 slots everyday)</i>	9:30 am - 12:00 nn
Europe	Tuesdays and Fridays <i>(70 slots everyday)</i>	10:00 am - 12:00 nn
Australia and New Zealand	Tuesdays and Fridays <i>(60 slots everyday)</i>	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Japan and other Asian countries	Mondays and Thursdays <i>(70 slots everyday)</i>	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Schedule of Peer Counseling Sessions for Filipino Youth Emigrants (13 to 19 Years Old)
CFO Manila (Effective July 16, 2012)**

Destination Country	Day	Time
All Countries	Mondays to Fridays <i>(25 slots per session)</i>	9:30 am - 12:00 nn
		2:00 pm-5:00 pm

**Schedule of Pre-departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS)
CFO Cebu (Effective July 16, 2012)**

Country	Day	Time
USA and Canada	Monday to Friday <i>(40 slots per session)</i>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n
Australia and New Zealand	Mondays and Wednesdays <i>(40 slots per session)</i>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n
Japan	Tuesdays and Thursdays <i>(40 slots per session)</i>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n
EU and Other Countries	Fridays <i>(40 slots per session)</i>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 n.n

Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) for Exchange Visitor Program Participants (J-1 visa holders)

CFO Manila (Effective May 8, 2012)

Day	Registration	J1 Orientation Seminar
Wednesdays and Fridays <i>(60 slots per session)</i>	12:00 n.n. – 1:30 p.m	2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m