



**National Council on Disability Affairs**  
**2012 Accomplishment Report**

## Foreword

The year 2012 is another challenging and a fulfilling year for the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) as it strives to pursue its mandate of sustaining disability rights promotion. With the growing concerns of Filipinos with disabilities, it has intensified its coordination and advocacy efforts through progressive partnership and collaboration with various government agencies and non-government organizations of and for persons with disabilities in the country as well as its counterparts overseas.

The Council likewise continues to fast track its coordination with concerned entities to promote implementation of local statutes and international disability mandates, amongst are the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the Incheon Strategy to Make the "Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific which serves as the framework for the 3rd Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.

Indeed, 2012 was a fruitful year for NCDA, owing to its collaborative leadership in steering societal awareness, concerns and actions in responding to the needs of persons with disabilities where it will continue to be its greatest challenge and commitment.

It looks forward in 2013 the furtherance of unifying the sector of persons with disabilities, capacitate them, and ensure their participation in governance to truly adhere to the precepts prescribed in the national laws and international mandates on disability.

In the succeeding pages are NCDA's major accomplishments in 2012.

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## **POLICIES AND PLANS FORMULATION, COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION SERVICES**

### **Promulgation of NCDA Board Resolutions**

The NCDA, on its effort to facilitate better program and service delivery primarily among its member-agencies and other institutional partners has adopted and promoted the following Board Resolutions in 2012:

1. Adoption of Universal Design concept in the construction of physical facilities and to request the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to lead in the development of standard guidelines on Universal Design on built environment taking into consideration Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and making as reference materials guidebooks developed by other countries.
2. Creation of the "Sub-Committee on Access to Justice and Anti-Discrimination" to attend to the concerns involving human rights violation and discrimination involving persons with disabilities in the exercise of their fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by the UNCRPD.
3. Creation of the "Sub-Committee on Policy Development and Legislation" to formulate, recommend and propose policies and legislations on PWD rights, among its functions.
4. Clarification on the role of NCDA in the issuance of Identification Card of PWDs in some identified circumstances and to fill-in-the gaps in the implementation of R.A. No. 9442 in cases when the cities, municipalities, or barangays where the PWD applicants reside have not been issuing an ID in order not to deprive PWD of their privileges
5. Request to the Department of Education (DepEd) and local government units to allocate funds in support of Disability Services, for DepEd to adopt the framework for successful school inclusion, and for the NCDA to establish Disability Support Service Unit to strengthen inclusive education.



## Legislative Agenda

The Council has also participated in the deliberation of the following disability-relevant bills; including submission and consultation of position papers for the same

- Consolidated Senate Bill No. 3287 "Electoral Process Act of 2012," sponsored by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel.
- Senate Bill No. 3145 "An Act Expanding the Positions Reserved for Persons with Disability, amending for the purpose R. A. No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability".
- Senate Bill No. 3002 "An Act Instituting Inclusive Education in all Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools Nationwide for Children and Youth with Special Needs and Establishment of the Bureau of Special Education Creating the Implementing Machinery Thereof, Providing Guidelines for Government Financial Assistance and Other Incentives and Support for Other Purposes," authored by Senator Eduardo Angara.
- Senate Bill No. 2999 "An Act Providing a Special Polling Place for the Disabled and the Elderly".
- Senate Bill No. 2855 "An Act Providing Additional Relief to Families with Dependents Supporting Aging Parents and Persons with Disabilities," authored by Senator Ralph Recto.
- Senate Bill No. 2823 "An Act Providing for the Establishment of City and Municipal Centers for Children and Young Adults with Disabilities and for Other Purposes," authored by Senator Manny Villar.
- House Bill No. 4924 "An Act Establishing a Comprehensive System for Registration and Licensing of Social Welfare and Development Agencies and Accreditation of Social Welfare and Development Programs and Services.
- House Bill No. 4121 "An Act Requiring the Use of Sign Language Insets for Local News Programs, amending for the purpose Section 22, R. A. No. 7277," authored by Reps. Teddy A. Casino and Nerl Javier Colminares.
- House Bill No. 3838 "An Act Requiring All Franchise Holders or Operators of Television Stations, Producers of Television Programs, Home Video Programs and Motion Pictures to have their Programs and Films with Closed-Caption and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof," authored by Reps. Rufus Rodriguez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.
- House Bill No. 1055 "An Act Requiring All Franchise Holders or Operators of Television Stations, Producers of Television Programs, Home Video Programs and Motion Pictures to have their Programs and Films Broadcast with Closed-Caption and Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof," authored by Reps. Rufus Rodriguez and Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.



## Coordination with Member-Agencies of the NCDA Governing Board and Other Institutional Partners on Disability- and PWD-Relevant Programs and Services:

The NCDA continuously works with its Governing Board's member-agencies and other institutional partners on the following programs and services:

### 1. Department of Public Works and Highways

- Conduct of access audit of government buildings/sports centers and other structures. Five (5) institutions were given letter of commendation for complying with the Accessibility Law and a number of Municipal Mayors / Agency Heads / School Principals were sent "notices of non-compliance".
- Construction of access ramps, amounting to P4,487,482.27 on both sides of the existing footbridge fronting Ever Gotesco Mall in Commonwealth, Quezon City.



### 2. Department of the Interior and Local Government

- Endorsement of the NCC-NCDA Joint Circular on Web Accessibility to cascade compliance among local government units.
- Formulation of indicators regarding compliance of local government units (LGUs) to PWD-relevant laws and other instruments.

### 3. Department of Education

- Issuance of the "Policy and Guidelines on Protecting Children in School from Abuse, Violence, Exploitation, Discrimination, Bullying and Other Forms of Abuse" to organizations of and for persons with disabilities for their reference and guidance.
- Collection of baseline data on kidnapping and similar incidents of children and youth with disabilities wherein the generated results will be used for discussion and endorsement to critical stakeholders like the Philippine National Police, parents' groups, school personnel and local government units.

### 4. Department of Health

- Linkage with the DOH Information Management System on the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disability.
- Proposed policy on "Making Massage Practice Equally Competitive to Blind People relative to the DOH Administrative Order No. 2011-0034 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) governing Massage Clinics and Sauna Establishments requiring all masseurs to be at least High School graduate for them to be issued a License".
- Conduct of "Consultative Dialogue with Drug Manufacturers and Association, other government agencies and Parents' Association of Persons with Disabilities held on October 2 and November 19, 2012 to explore strategies in accessing affordable drugs and medicines commonly used by persons with different types of disabilities.



## Strengthening of NCDAs Sub-Committees and Regional Committees on Disability Affairs

As a mechanism for the development of policies, programs and projects and advocacy for disability inclusive programming, regular meetings of the following NCDAs Sub-Committees were held, to wit: (1) Accessibility on Built Environment and Transportation; Training, Employment and Livelihood; (2) Auxiliary Social Services; (3) Health; (4) Information and Communications Technology; (5) Advocacy; (6) Education; and (7) International Disability Network were held to discuss and resolve issues affecting persons with disabilities. A joint meeting of all these Sub-Committees was also convened and held in September to refresh members on the terms of reference and updated accomplishments.

With the clamor of the sector of persons with disabilities to have access to justice, a Sub-Committee on Anti-Discrimination and Access to Justice was created with the Department of Justice as Chair. The Sub-Committee is mandated primarily to assist persons with disabilities in filing cases against violation of disabilities laws, and furthermore, to act as legal counsels in the litigation/hearing of cases either as complainants/plaintiffs and/or respondents. Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman, NCDAs Chairperson led the launching held in September 18, 2012 together with DOJ officials.

Likewise, the Regional Committees on Disability Affairs (RCDAs) were also convened quarterly to generate issues where policies can be developed. These meetings are being held to monitor the progress of program implementation of stakeholders and provide directions on inclusive program development for persons with disabilities. Majority of the RCDAs are chaired by DSWD Field Directors who act on concurrent capacity other than their regular functions.



Launching of the NCDAs Sub-Committee on Access to Justice and Anti-Discrimination led by DSWD Secretary and NCDAs Chairperson Corazon Juliano-Soliman together with DOJ officials.



Still at the local level, the NCDA through its RCDAs and through the mobilization of its Regional Programs Coordinators also engaged with local government units at various levels and with various government and non-government bodies in undertaking the following:

1. Collection of data and relevant information on:

- Issuance of PWD ID cards,
- Organized self-help groups of persons with disabilities,
- Employment of persons with disability,
- Provision of educational assistance for persons with disability,
- Education of persons with disability, and
- Local ordinances relating to persons with disability and disability in general



2. Disability forums;



3. Organization of and consultation with self-help groups of persons with disabilities, organizations of parents of persons with disability, and organizations of women with disability;

4. Trainings on the assessment and measurement of wheelchairs;

5. Access audits of different government and private establishments;

6. Establishment of Persons with Disabilities' Affairs Office (PDAO);



7. Monitoring of updates on the implementation of disability-relevant laws, such as among others RA No. 7277, RA 9442, and RA No. 10070; and

8. Leadership training for persons with disability



## 2012 Plan-of-Action/Policy and Program Recommendations of the NCDA sub-committees:

### Sub-Committee on International Disability Network (IDN)

1. Enjoining the NCDA member-agencies to support the "Fully Able Nation" campaign for disability-inclusive midterm 2013 election to upscale GO-NGO project support; and
2. Encouragement of member-agencies to use current adaptive technologies as a tool for future disability-inclusive election and occupational/livelihood purposes.

### Sub-Committee on Advocacy

1. Presentation of disability-relevant advocacy and information programs of Information and Communication Technology (ICTO), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of Justice (DOJ);
2. Holding of a Communication Planning Workshop among its member-agencies within the year to strengthen the advocacy on disability issues and concerns; and
3. Support of member-agencies in monitoring and reporting any act of ridicule against persons with disability to improve their acceptance and integration in the society.



### Sub-Committee on Education

1. Submission of a position paper to Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on the delisting of ICT as one of the skills courses that can be offered to persons with disability, especially persons with visual impairment and readiness of its facilities and trainers to handle trainees with disabilities;
2. Reiteration of existing policies on the organization of parents' groups in schools, especially those with SPED Centers/programs, and on absences of a student in school, especially those under special and critical medical conditions by the Department of Education;
3. Creation of a task force to address discrimination issues and concerns of persons with disabilities to be headed by the Department of Justice; and
4. Orientation among higher education institutions on the "Guidelines in the Admission of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education and Post-Secondary Institutions" by the Commission on Higher Education.

### Sub-Committee on Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

1. Dissemination of NOVA Foundation's job vacancies for job seekers with disabilities, as well as the use of NCDA Website's Job Links and Webstore as windows of work opportunities for open employment and PWD entrepreneurs;
2. Target compliance to NCDA-NCC Joint Circular on Web Accessible of member-agencies with inaccessible websites through NCDA's motivating project "A-ward and R-ecognize A-accessible W-bsites (A.R.A.W)," prioritizing one workshop for the Department of Transportation and Communication, Office of the President and Department of Education, among others;
3. Reiteration to TESDA the review of the accreditation of Data Encoding as a separate course which was subsumed in the Civil Service Commission accreditation under the clerical/sub-professional category;
4. Holding of the "ICT Job and Skills Fair for Persons with Disability" every year, to "break in" qualified PWD workforce into the IDC industry through the Department of Science and Technology - National Computer Center - ICTO; and
5. Submission of the survey form on the country situation on ICT for PWDs to G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (a flagship advocacy initiative of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development).



## ADVOCACY AND PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Non Handicapping Environment (NHE) Project

The NHE project is a joint undertaking between NCDA and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which was funded by the latter and implemented in two (2) pioneering sites in the country, namely; the Municipalities of New Lucena in Iloilo Province and Opol in Misamis Oriental. Technical assistance was also provided to the project by the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) through capacity building of local key stakeholders and persons with disabilities via the conduct of Disability Equality Training, NHE Forum, and Advocacy Campaigns such as NHE Comics Distribution and Orientation, among others.



*Barrier-free and accessible structures for persons with disabilities such as ramps, hand/grab rails, and signages, among others, have become familiar sites in the NHE pilot areas.*

### Promotion of Statutory Laws on Disability

Intensified efforts have been undertaken to promote among key stakeholders landmark disability laws of the country, amongst are: (1) Republic Act 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities; (2) Republic Act 9442, the act amending RA 7277; (3) Republic Act 10070 better known as Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) Law; and (4) Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, better known as the Accessibility Law.

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## Promotion of Statutory Laws on Disability

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In an effort to intensify implementation of RA 10070, the Council conducted the first PDAO Congress in Manila with the purpose of consulting the appointed heads of PDAOs. Around 64 PDAO heads and 17 PWD Focal Persons in local government units were present during the dialogue which also threshed out the working relationships between them, the Local Social Welfare and Development Officers and other local stakeholders. Highlighting the Congress was the review and deliberations among the participants the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the said law.



National Congress on Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (RA 10070).

On the other hand, campaigns for the issuances of PWD identification cards among local chief executives were also conducted in compliance to RA 9442. A total of 714 municipalities and 110 cities submitted their reports on PWD issuances totaling 192,675 issued IDs as of December 31, 2012.

In addition, the NCDA in 2012 also acted on more than 200 complaints relative to the implementation of R.A. 9442 and called the attention of various establishments for compliance to the said law. Information drive on the said law was held, including the conduct of meetings by the "Monitoring Committee on the Implementation of RA 9442" to discuss and respond to various issues and concerns.

### SUMMARY OF THE ISSUANCE OF PWD IDs AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012

REGIONS	NO. OF PWD IDs ISSUED	CITIES	MUNICIPALITIES
Region I	11,531	8	96
Region II	4,330	3	60
Region III	23,146	13	111
Region IV-A	17,613	6	69
Region IV-B	4,050	2	41
Region V	6,853	5	26
Region VI	26,836	15	63
Region VII	13,066	9	37
Region VIII	3,132	5	43
Region IX	2,226	2	26
Region X	6,757	8	33
Region XI	11,723	5	36
Region XII	6,065	5	26
CAR	4,670	2	30
CARAGA	12,596	5	22
NCR	34,659	17	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192,675</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>714</b>





## Campaign on Inclusive Education

With the goal of strengthening the capacity of the Department of Education (DepEd) and its partners in implementing inclusive education, NCDA top officials attended the "High Level Officials' Benchmarking Workshop" in Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia to observe best practices in the implementation of inclusive education in Australia. The importance of policies, support services and community engagement were highlighted during the workshop which took place in August. As their output, a draft document titled "Philippine Policy Framework on Inclusive Education" was developed.



The eight-man Philippine delegation who participated in the Public Sector Linkage Program on Building the Capacity to Strengthen the Implementation of Inclusive Education in the Philippines together with Australian mentors. Meanwhile, Senate Bill No. 3002, "An Act instituting inclusive Education in All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools" was filed by Senator Edgardo Angara with inputs from NCDA and DepEd.



Participants to the High Level Officials' Benchmarking Workshop on "Strengthening the Capability in the Implementation of Inclusive Education in the Philippines," in Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

Furthermore, a Training of Trainers was held in the same University on September 3-14 that was attended by senior officers of the Council together with DepEd technical staff. The team prepared the "Facilitators' Guide on Inclusive Education" that would be used as reference in the conduct of advocacy on inclusive education in the country. As an off-shoot of these overseas trainings and as a commitment to the benefactors, i.e., the Australian Agency for International Development and QUT, a "Stakeholders' Orientation on Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities in the Philippines" was held on December 5 under the auspices of the Council. Key stakeholders of Inclusive Education program have participated. Similar undertakings followed that were conducted in Manila; Tanza, Cavite; Legazpi City, Albay; Iloilo City, Iloilo Province; and Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur.



## Support to NGO Initiatives

NCDA is one of the primary movers that supports the Fully Abled Nation (F.A.N.) Campaign for the Nationwide Registration of Voters with Disabilities, including the promotion of accessible polling places to ensure persons with disabilities' right to suffrage, in partnership with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), The Asia Foundation, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), and other concerned government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs). The project utilizes the links of NCDA with RCDA local member agencies and disabled people's organizations.

Through this campaign, the COMELEC has registered more than 344,000 voters with disabilities as of October 2012. It also paved the way to its issuance of a

NCDA has also partnered with the Leonard Cheshire Disability Philippines Foundation, Inc. Young Voices Philippines (LCDPFI-YVP) for the launching of a national campaign dubbed as "May PWD ID Ako, Kasali Ako," a national advocacy program of LCDPFI which aims to involve 16 – 25 years old youth with disabilities in facilitating and monitoring number of PWDs having disability IDs in their own respective communities. The national campaign was held in September this year in Iloilo City where Police Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz, Philippine National Police Regional Director in Region 6, was the Keynote Speaker. He committed to establish a "PWD Desk" where complaints for violations of laws against persons with disabilities can be filed. As a result, the PWD Desk was established and launched on December 7 located at the PNP Regional Office in Iloilo City. The LCDPFI-YVP program will be disseminated throughout the country and will be monitored via audio-video broadcasting, social networking like Facebook and Twitter, photo shoots and news writing.

Resolution providing accessible polling places for persons with disabilities. The F.A.N. Campaign will ensure that registered PWDs can vote starting the 2013 mid-term elections and forthcoming elections in cognizance of their right to suffrage.



## Formulation of the "Philippine Decade of Make the Rights Real" Plan of Action 2013-2022



Philippine delegation to the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting who participated in the adoption of for the Incheon Strategy on Disability Inclusive Development to prepare for the launching of the 3rd Asian and the Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, held in Incheon, Korea on October 29– November 1, 2012 headed by DSWD Undersecretary Parisya H. Taradji, NCDA Alternate Chairperson.

In preparation for the impending launch of the 3rd Asian and the Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities and to introduce the Incheon Strategy on Disability Inclusive Development, a two-day consultation and planning workshop attended by representatives of national government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs) was conducted in October. A total of 41 participants have attended, which include 25 government agencies and 16 CSO/ DPO representatives.

A government delegation was also organized by the Council where representatives of agencies have attended the "High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Asian and the Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 2003-2012" held in Incheon, South Korea from October 29 - November 3, 2012. The delegation was headed by Undersecretary Parisya H. Taradji, Alternate NCDA Chairperson and NCDA together with the representatives of DepEd, DOTC, DOLE and three (3) non-government organizations, namely; KAMPI, Tahanang Walang Hagdanan and Philippine Chamber of Masseurs. As a member State of the UN Economic and Social Council of Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the Philippine delegation joined the majority in adopting the Incheon Strategy Framework which guides the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

In adopting this regional mandate, the NCDA prepared a presidential proclamation providing 2013-2022 as the Philippine Decade of Make the Rights Real for Persons With Disabilities. Once this will be approved by the President, it will serve as the legal basis for government agencies to translate into action the goals and targets prescribed thereof for the next decade while the National Plan of Action for the Decade is still in the process and hopefully will be finalized and completed in the first quarter of 2013.



## NCDA's Presence in International Meetings and Conferences

The NCDA took active roles in 2012 in representing the Philippine government in international undertakings, such as the following:



1. UN-ESCAP's "Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asia and the Pacific Decade of Disabled on March 14-16, 2012.
2. UN-ESCAP and Leonard Cheshire Disability's "Conference on Disability Inclusive Millennium Development Goals(MDG) and Aid Effectiveness" held in Bangkok, Thailand on March 13-16, 2012.

3. Attended the "Fifth Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" on September 12-14, 2012 in the UN Headquarters, New York.

4. 1st Community - Based Rehabilitation World Congress held in Agra, India on November 26 - 28, 2012 which aimed to reduce poverty and promote the quality of life of PWDs and their families as well as share and learn CBR strategies and best practices.



### Attendance to the DSWD National Management Development Conference

The Council and Collaboration with member-agencies of the NCDA Governing Board actively participated in the DSWD's CY 2012 Mid-Year National Management Development Conference held in Koronadal, South Cotabato on June 27-30 to keep abreast with the thrusts and developments of its mother-agency, that is DSWD, to align its directions and efforts to the over-all goal of the Department. The NMDC served also as a venue for the Council to update its members, especially the Regional Directors for networking and collaboration various key stakeholders at the local levels to address the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities nationwide. The "Persons with Disabilities Situationer" highlighting the National Disability Situation and the five (5) core messages that serve as the anchor to implement the Council's programs and plans in the future. These include (1) participation in government, (2) accessibility, (3) data base on persons with disabilities, (4) issuance of PWD IDs and establishment of Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAOs), and (5) rights-based approach and inclusive development.





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