



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

**2013/SOM3/EC/WKSP/009**

## **Issues Considered by the Philippines for Accession to the Apostille Convention**

Submitted by: Philippines



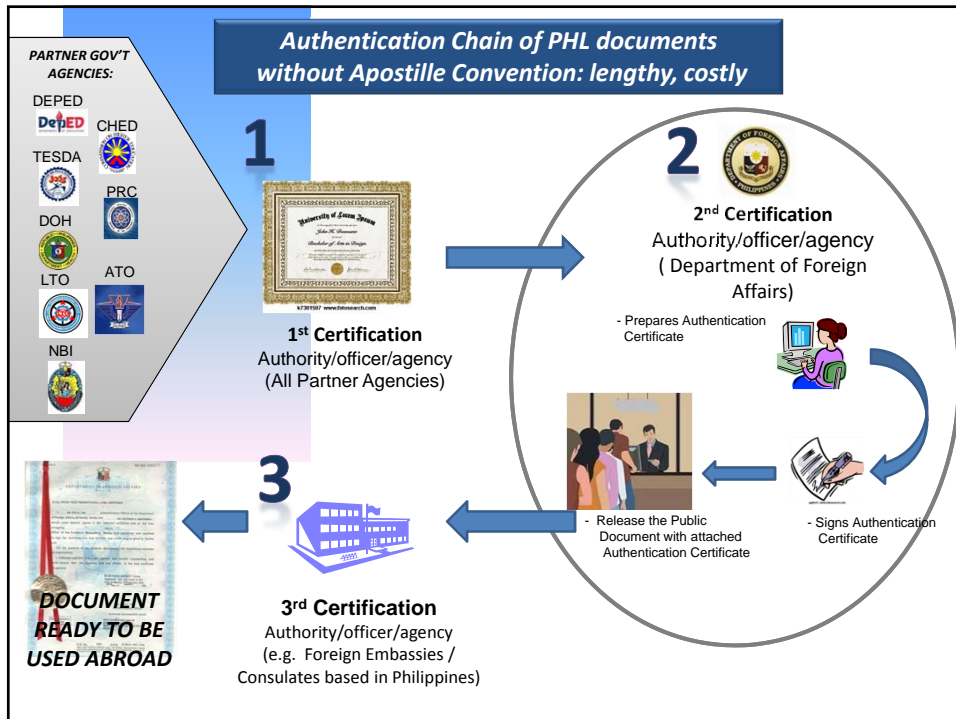
**Workshop on Simplified Authentication  
Process for Production of Public Documents  
Abroad Through the Use of the Hague  
Apostille Convention  
Medan, Indonesia  
27 June 2013**

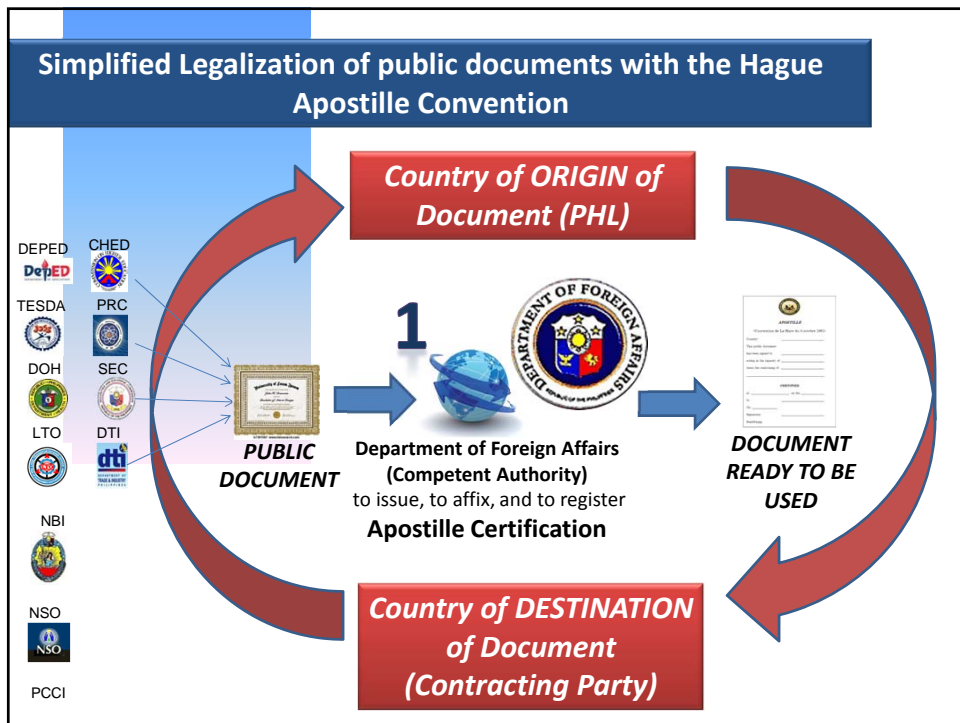
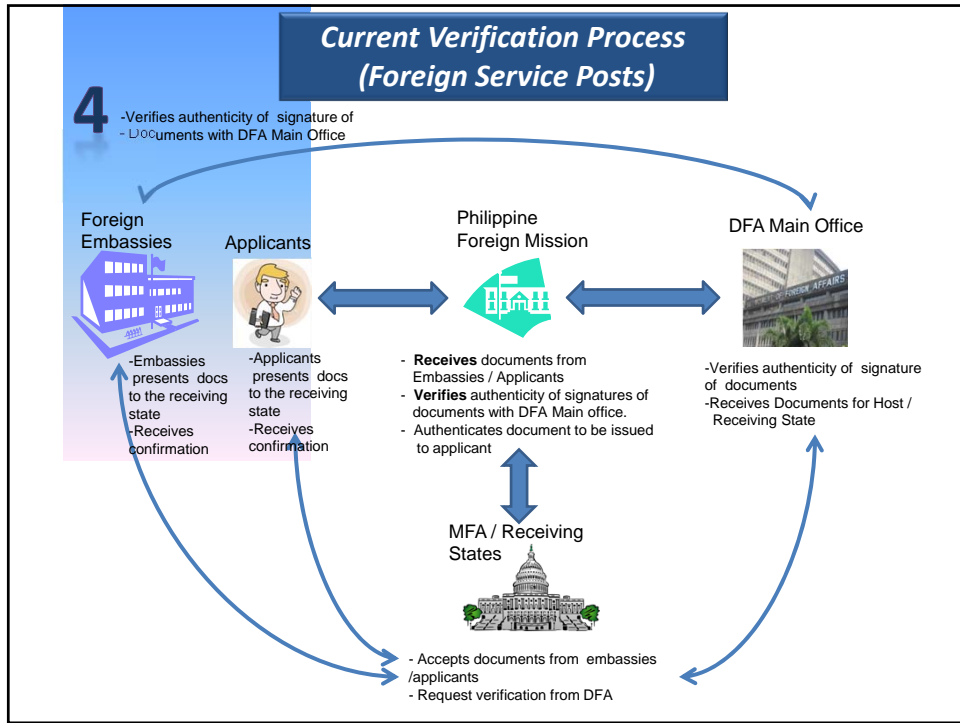
**APEC Workshop on  
Simplified Authentication Process  
for Production of Public Documents Abroad  
Through the Use of  
The Hague Apostille Convention**

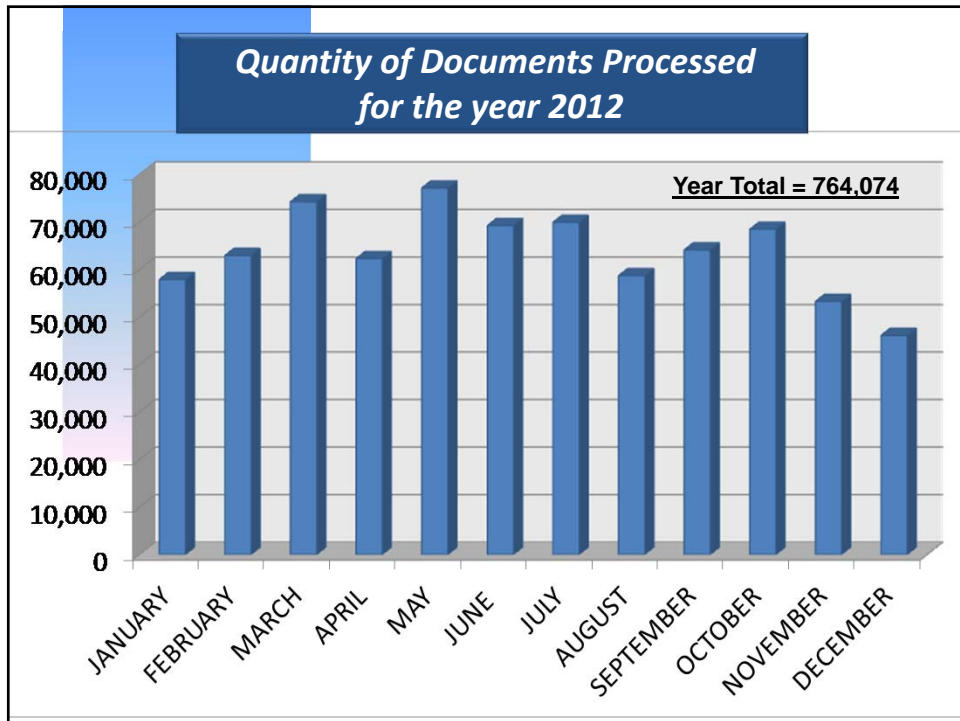
**Medan, Indonesia  
27 June 2013**

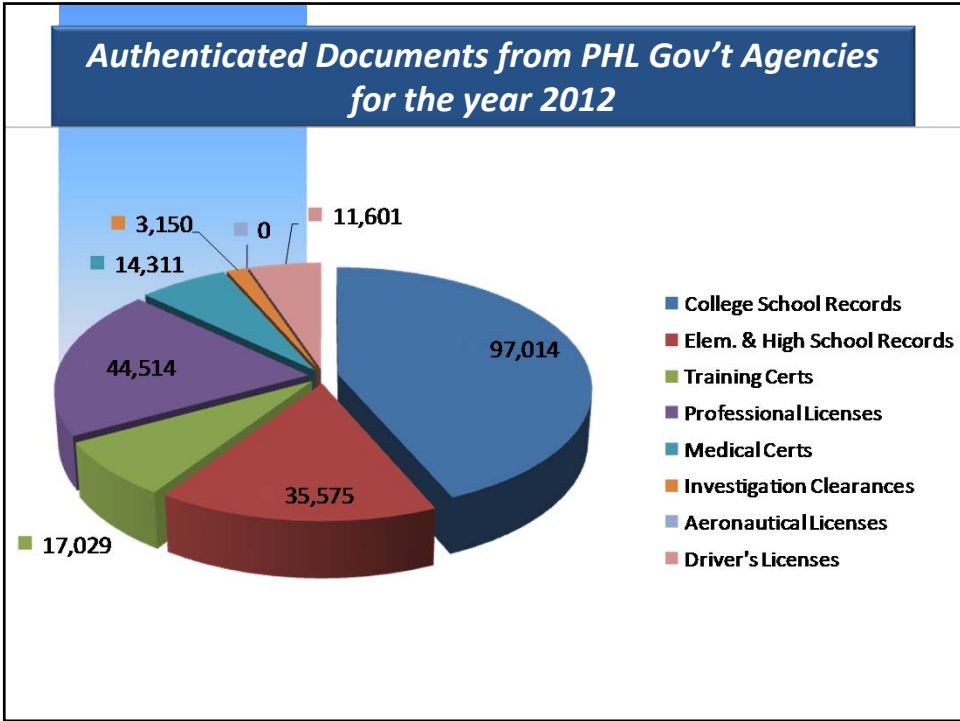
**Issues Considered by the Philippines  
For Accession to the Apostille Convention**

**Presented by: Mr. Jaime Victor B. Ledda**  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Consular Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Philippines










### Regional Statistics of Filipinos Abroad (as of December 2012)

REGION	ESTIMATED NUMBER
Americas	4,283,372
<b>Asia and Pacific</b>	<b>2,078,383</b>
Europe	782,878
Middle East & Africa	2,830,047
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>9,974,680</b>

Source: Office of Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs, DFA



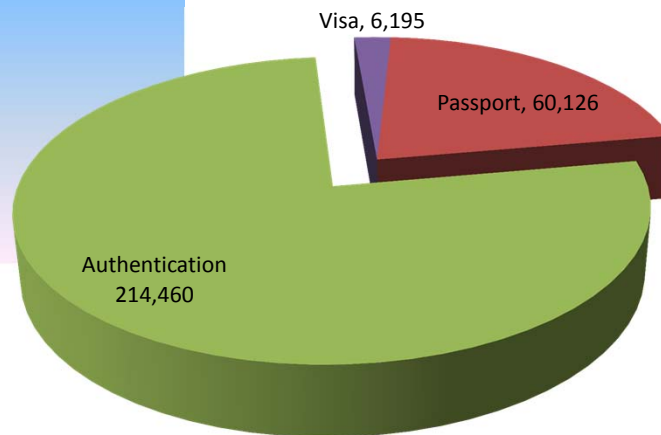
**Regional Statistics of Authenticated Documents  
from Philippine Foreign Service Posts (PFSPs)  
(as of December 2012)**

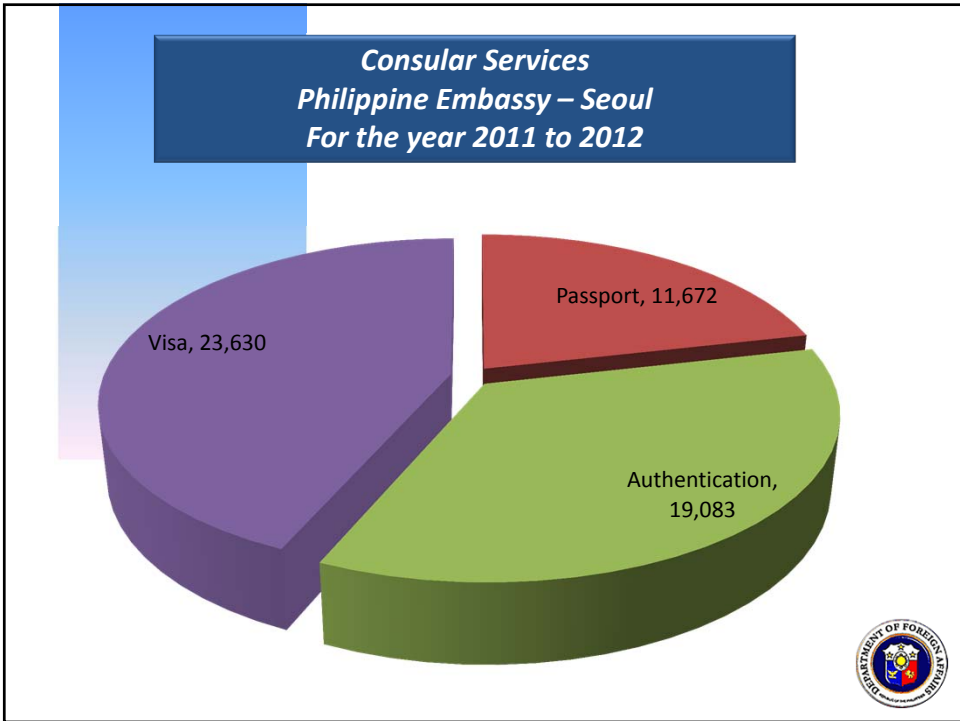
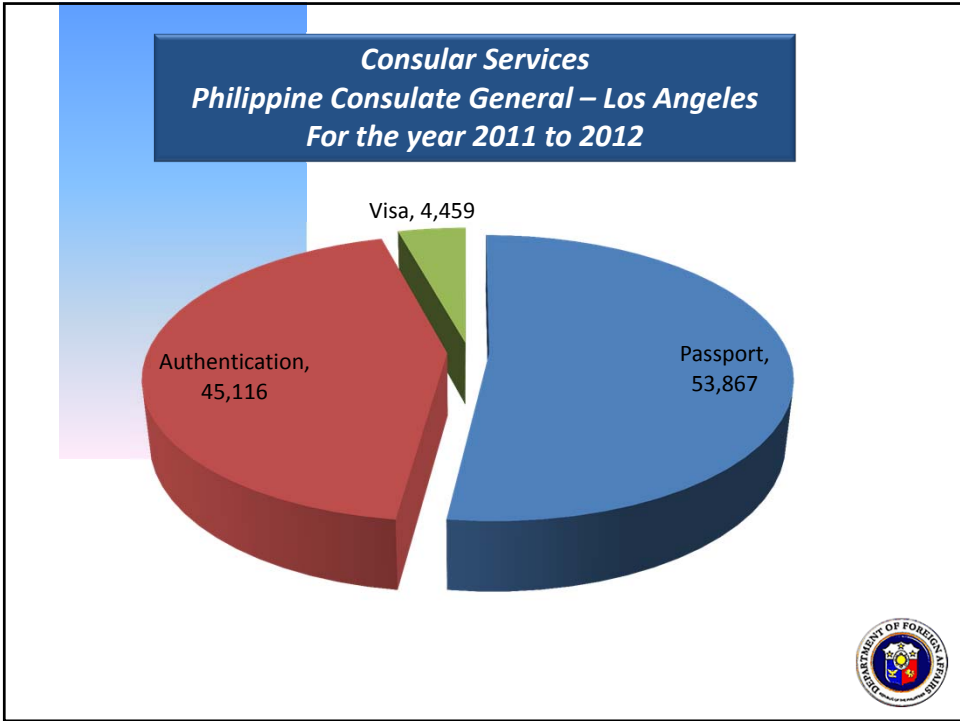
PHL Foreign Service Post	2011	2012
Hong Kong PCG	98,349	116,111
Los Angeles PCG	28,001	17,115*
Seoul PE	9,969	9,114
Sydney PCG	506	595
Tokyo PE	1,981	2,419

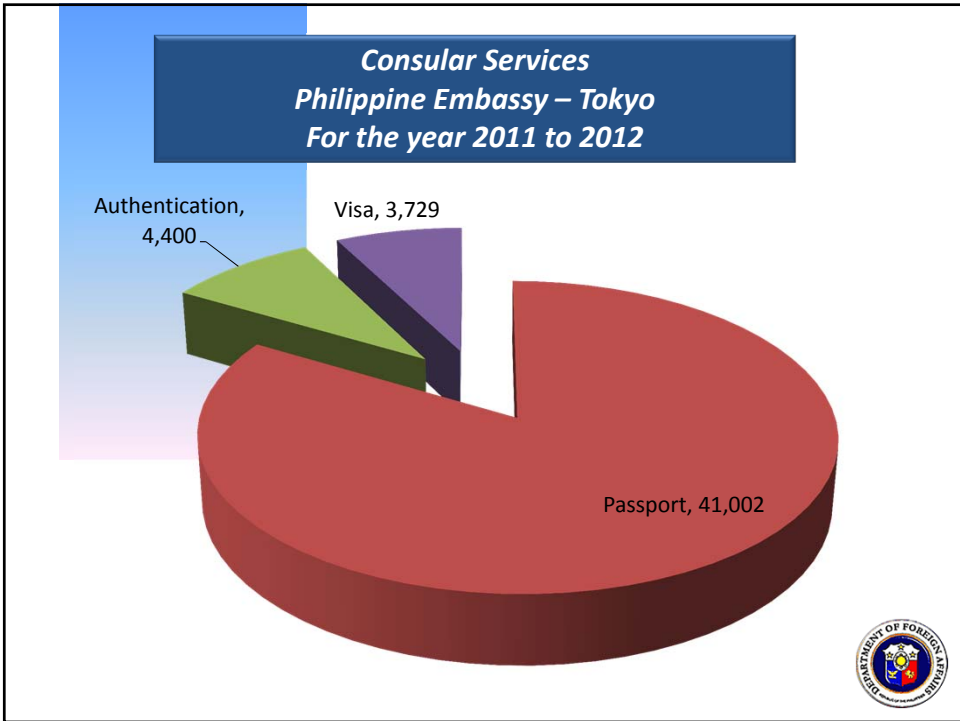
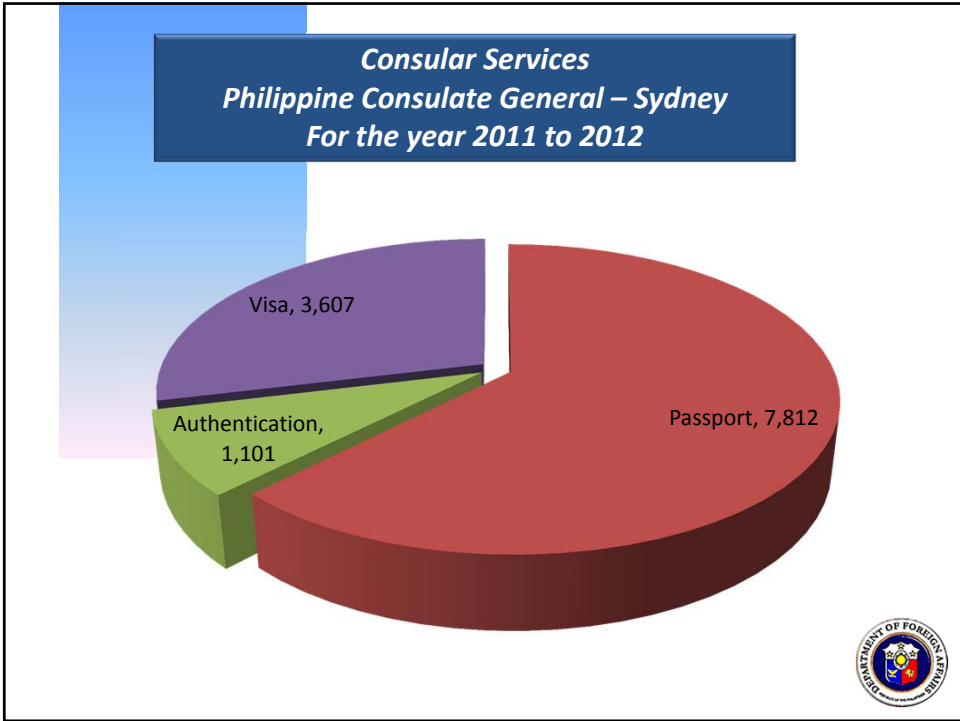
\*Los Angeles PCG - Partial Qty. (January to July 2012)



**Consular Services  
Philippine Consulate General – Hong Kong  
For the year 2011 to 2012**









Benefits


**Outline:**

- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- **BENEFITS**
- PHL Challenges & Actions

**1 EFFICIENCY**

Easier facilitation of Authentication for government-issued public documents.

**2 EFFECTIVENESS**



Replacement of cumbersome process of legalization of public documents.

Wider scope of document validity with one-hundred-five (105) contracting parties as of May 1, 2013 . (New Members: Nicaragua and Bahrain)


**Outline:**

- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- **BENEFITS**
- PHL Challenges & Actions

**3** Benefits

**SECURITY**

Risk aversion of falsified documents. Documents can be easily monitored and detected.



Assignment of a Competent Authority (CA) to issue, affix and register Apostille delimits falsification of documents.

**Outline:**

- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- **BENEFITS**
- PHL Challenges & Actions

**4**

Benefits  
**BUSINESS & TRADE**

Encourage foreign investments and trade.

Global business environment thrives on fast-paced transactions, Apostilles of documents can be verified online and in real time.

Apostille brings the Philippines to a good standing in the aspect of document credibility in the International scope.



**Outline:**


- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- **BENEFITS**
- PHL Challenges & Actions

**4**

Benefits  
**BUSINESS & TRADE**

The 2010 World Bank “Investing Across Borders (IAB)” report (the report which measures foreign direct investment (FDI) based on legal and regulatory framework) states the following:

1. Apostille facilitates processing of foreign public documents for companies which are starting-up business in host State.
2. World Bank recommends States to join the Convention to improve legal and regulatory framework that could boost the State’s FDIs.



**Outline:**

- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- **BENEFITS**
- PHL Challenges & Actions


# 5


## Benefits

### Great advantage for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

Streamlined process of legalisation greatly benefits OFWs in terms of convenience and lower cost.

OFWs will be able to process their public documents without having to travel from agency to agency to gather certifications and transmit documents. Cost for Apostille greatly discounts the cost of travelling.





**Outline:**


- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- APOSTILLE FUNDAMENTALS
- BENEFITS
- **CHALLENGES**

### **Future Enhancement of Authentication Service of the Philippines:**

*The Hague Convention of 1961 (Apostille Convention)*

#### PHILIPPINE APOSTILLE CHALLENGES

1. Formalization of PHL Accession to Apostille Convention within six (6) months.
2. Forum on Accession to Apostille Convention with relevant government authorities, embassies & consulates, court, notary public.
3. Inter-agency meeting with partner issuing government agencies.
4. Determination of public documents to be "Apostillized".




**Future Enhancement of Authentication Service  
of the Philippines:  
The Hague Convention of 1961 (Apostille Convention)**

**Outline:**

- OVERVIEW
- RATIONALE
- APOSTILLE FUNDAMENTALS
- BENEFITS
- **CHALLENGES**

PHILIPPINE APOSTILLE CHALLENGES	
5.	Designation of one (1) or more authorities that are competent to issue Apostilles.
6.	Establishment of Apostille Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure.
7.	Appropriation of Budget.
8.	Working facilities compatible with Apostille IT Infrastructure.
9.	Signing of MOA for Partner Issuing Government Agencies.





**Department of Foreign Affairs  
Office of Consular Affairs  
Philippines**

## Maraming Salamat po! (Thank You!)

