

Philippine Tax Academy Delegation Enhances Customs Training Expertise Through KOICA Fellowship Program

Manila, December 5, 2023 — In a significant stride towards advancing customs training and education, five (5) representatives from the Philippine Tax Academy (PTA) participated in the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Fellowship Program from October 23 to November 3, 2023, held in South Korea. The delegation, comprising Customs Institute Chancellor II, Atty. Noemi Alcalá B. Garcia, CI Chancellor I, Dr. Elizabeth B. Pableo, Office of the Resource Management Group Director IV, Director Ma. Luisa M. Notario, Chief Education Program Specialist for Research, Education, and Innovation Division, Dr. Gina A. Opiniano, and Development Management Officer III, Mr. Mark B. Olaguir joined forces with two (2) representatives from the Department of Finance and seven (7) representatives from the Bureau of Customs.

The activities took place in various locations in South Korea such as Pangyo, Cheonan, Seoul, and Busan, providing a unique opportunity for knowledge and culture exchange and collaboration in the realm of customs training.

The Fellowship Program aimed to provide participants with valuable courses and discussions centered around the establishment of the Customs Institute (CI). During the sessions, the PTA representatives developed comprehensive action plans to address key areas of improvement within the customs training framework.

The primary focus of the action plans revolved around enhancing learning opportunities for customs officials. The proposed measures included reinforcing facilities for e-learning education at the CI and developing a range of e-learning courses. Additionally, the plans aimed to transform CI's current onboarding courses for new employees and refresher courses for existing staff into a cohesive and continuous learning system. This system would be tailored based on management levels, ranks, and diverse professional courses, ensuring a more dynamic and effective training approach.

Throughout the Fellowship Program, PTA representatives actively engaged with international counterparts in the customs sector, fostering valuable linkages and collaboration. Strengthening ties with the local Bureau of Customs was also a key outcome, showcasing a commitment to cohesive efforts in advancing customs training methodologies.

The KOICA Fellowship Program will run for three (3) years. The primary objective is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the establishment of the Customs Institute at the Philippine Tax Academy. This year's capacity-building is the second year of the program. The fellowship program draws inspiration from the best practices of the KOICA government's counterpart Customs Training and Customs Bureau.

This immersive opportunity has proven to be highly beneficial for the Philippine Tax Academy and the Customs Institute. By integrating lessons learned and best practices, both entities are poised to continuously improve their operations and management, ultimately serving the needs of their stakeholders more efficiently and effectively. #









