

**COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**  
**Second Virtual Youth Leaders in the Diaspora Program 2022**  
**For Overseas Filipino Youth**  
**Concept Paper**

**I. Overview**

Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD) is a cultural immersion program in the Philippines intended for Filipino youth who were born abroad or migrated at an early age and found themselves unfamiliar with the Philippine culture and are detached from their Filipino roots.

To implement the program during the pandemic, the CFO conducts an online module from one to three days, which aims to help participants discover issues and challenges experienced by their peers, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also hope that this program will serve as a platform for sharing solutions, sparking inspiration, and advocating positive impact in their societies and local communities.

**II. History**

The YouLeaD can trace its roots to the Lakbay-Aral Program of the CFO. Lakbay-Aral is a Filipino term that means "travel study". It was developed and implemented since 1983 and enables Filipino youth overseas to rediscover their Filipino roots and appreciate the richness and diversity of their heritage. The program combines lectures on Philippine history and language and guided tours to scenic and historical landmarks. Interaction with Filipino students, public officials and members of indigenous communities and participation in local festivities are also included in the program.

The program also seeks to help participants answer long-standing questions about themselves and their identities as half- or part-Filipinos that they may have had growing up. Joining the program would aid them in the journey of understanding a significant part of their identities, which would hopefully move them toward a more meaningful relationship with their Filipino families and the nation itself.

**III. Objectives:**

The talks will touch topics on design thinking, creativity, decision making, and youth leadership. Participants are expected to:

1. Prepare Filipino youth leaders to become responsible citizens and contributing members of their communities in the Philippines and abroad;
2. Empower participants to be actively engaged in addressing issues of concern in their schools and communities;
3. Build mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect through shared culture and values;

4. Learn about international and national agencies and organizations on their best practices to improve the lives of the Philippines' vulnerable population such as indigenous people and minority group; and
5. Introduce and develop modes of volunteer mechanisms for Filipino youth abroad for joint development efforts in the Philippines.

#### **IV. Event Mechanics:**

1. The main event will be held on **24 September 2022, Saturday, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Philippine Time)**.
2. Participation in the program is FREE.
3. Interested participants may fill up the online Zoom registration form: [bit.ly/2ndVirtualYLD2022Registration](https://bit.ly/2ndVirtualYLD2022Registration) until **17 September 2022, Saturday**. Please note that the email address that the representatives will input in the form must have an existing Zoom account.
4. Each participant must attend the whole program to be able to acquire a Certificate of Participation or Completion.

#### **V. Eligibility Requirements:**

The qualifications for participants are the following:

1. Aged 15-30 years old of Filipino descent living overseas;
2. Will be able to commit to attending the whole program;
3. Has no conflict in their school or work schedules and no prior commitments on the said dates;
4. Has a laptop or desktop;
5. Has fast internet connection; and
6. Has Zoom and Canva accounts.

#### **VI. Partnerships, Marketing and Promotion:**

For this module, the CFO will send invitations to Philippine schools overseas and Filipino associations overseas. The CFO will also request the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in disseminating the invite for this event to Philippine Posts and promoting it to their networks abroad. This event will be the first virtual event to be opened to all overseas Filipino youth and to be livestreamed via YouLeaD Facebook Page.