

**PROVIDING FOR ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN LIEU OF THE TWO-YEAR HOME-COUNTRY PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT**

WHEREAS, the Exchange Visitor Program Committee was mandated by the Philippine government to coordinate the country's participation in the Exchange Visitor Program of the United States government;

WHEREAS, the Committee recognizes the aim of the government to strengthen the educational, scientific, and educational capabilities of the country through inter-country exchange of knowledge and expertise;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the Philippines benefits from its participation in the EVP without jeopardizing the opportunity of the Filipino EVP participants for self-actualization;

WHEREFORE, the Committee hereby resolves to amend the Interim Rules and Regulations (IRR) Implementing Administrative Order No. 242, as adopted on 15 September 1998, by adding additional provisions under Section 8 of the IRR, as follows:

1. Adoption of Additional Criteria for the Issuance of a NOS
  - 1.1 The EVP Committee may also provide NOS to former EVP participants who do not meet the criteria set forth in Subsection 8.1 of the IRR, provided that they satisfy the requirements for the conduct of special projects and/or activities in lieu of the two-year home-country physical presence requirement, which may or may not require the presence in the Philippines of EVP participants, but which should, nonetheless, result in quantifiable benefits for specific sectors or institutions in the Philippines;
  - 1.2 The duration of implementation of these special activities may be equivalent to or less than the two-year period required under the residency requirement of the EVP;
  - 1.3 A formal submission of proposal/s by the EVP participant to the EVP Committee for the conduct of these special projects/activities is necessary to enable proper evaluation by the EVP Committee;
  - 1.4 The EVP Committee may refer proposals to specific agencies of government for preliminary review and acquisition of recommendations, which will serve as inputs to the EVP Committee in its evaluation of the proposal; and
  - 1.5 The projected gains/benefits for the country should be stated in the project proposal, to serve as one of the bases for evaluation by the EVP Committee.
2. Decision-Making Process by the EVP Committee
  - 2.1 All applications, requests, issues, and concerns attending to the EVP implementation shall be presented to the EVP Committee members through meetings to be convened for this purpose or by written communication.
  - 2.2 Decisions on issues, proposals, and applications shall be reached by the EVP Committee members through a process of consultation. The "qualified majority" rule shall be the basis for reaching at a decision, should the Committee fail to reach a consensus;

114