



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

June 20, 2017

Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan  
Chairperson  
Commission on Higher Education  
HEDC Building  
CP Garcia Avenue  
UP Diliman  
Quezon City, 1101  
Republic of the Philippines

Dear Dr. Licuanan:

On April 20, 2017, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) on behalf of the Government of the Philippines regarding the country's medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing comparability of accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the Philippines, to the system used to accredit medical schools in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited medical schools in a country that the NCFMEA deems comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, please access the Foreign School Information Web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank Ms. Concepcion V. Pijano, Executive Director of PAASCU, for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding PAASCU's accreditation activities. Her testimony was very helpful and the Committee valued her participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA accepted the report submitted by the Philippines. The Philippines is due for a redetermination of comparability at the NCFMEA's spring 2018 meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact PAASCU before the spring 2018 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at [jennifer.hong@ed.gov](mailto:jennifer.hong@ed.gov) or Patricia Howes, Committee Coordinator, at [patricia.howes@ed.gov](mailto:patricia.howes@ed.gov).

Thank you for providing the information regarding your country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,



Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Philippines Desk  
Office