

# Canada's Centennial College opens office in PH

**MANILA** -- The Centennial College, one of the oldest state colleges established in Ontario, Canada launched on Thursday its first representative office in Makati City to increase presence in one of its top markets in Asia.

"Canada and the Philippines have a long relationship and we've always had an interest in having students from the Philippines to study in Canada. We started with 86 students several years ago, and we've had huge percent increase since," said Virginia Macchiavello, associate vice president of Centennial College International Education, told reporters on the sidelines of its Ma-

nila office's inauguration.

According to Macchiavello, there are over 800 Filipino students studying across its programs at the Centennial College, with most particularly interested in the health, community services, and business areas.

From the financial point of view, she said education in Canada is more "reasonable" than other countries. The average program, which is one year in length, costs about 16,000 Canadian dollars.

"There's a range of options for students to study anywhere from one year to four years in Canada. The living expenses is around 15,000 Cana-

dian dollars a year," she said.

"This is much more reasonable than most countries so Canada is a great place to study from a financial point of view. It's a safe place to study and it's a diverse population," she added.

Among others, Canada also offers assistance for graduates who seek to pursue employment in the state.

"Canada's known for working together with the government and the industry so we have a very high employment rate when students graduate," she said.

Scott Allison, chair of the Centennial College Board of Governors, af-

firmed that their strategy is attracting students to study in Canada "but also to have the opportunity to help them stay in Canada if they choose for a period of time".

Aside from Centennial College, two other institutions, namely, Fanshawe College and Fleming College are also holding office at the Corinthian Plaza in Makati City. The newly-launched office of Centennial College will serve as an information hub to Filipinos interested in continuing education in Canada.

At present, the Philippines is the third largest market of the Centennial College International Education next to India and China. (PNA)

# 387 Entries Competing in DOST-NCR's Inventions Contest

It will be a showcase of the most innovative and sustainable ideas in the National Capital Region as 387 entries vie for top prizes in the 2019 Regional Invention Contest and Exhibits (RICE-NCR), which will be held on November 6-8, 2019 at the Technological Institute of the Philippines, Quezon City campus.

RICE is a biennial event of DOST, through its Regional Offices and the Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI), showcasing the works of Filipino inventors and researchers. The winners in the regional levels will advance to the National Invention Contest and Exhibits (NICE) which is held in the following year.

This year's RICE, which carries the theme "Inventions and Innovations for Sustainable Development", has drawn the most number of participants to date in all the years that DOST-NCR has held the competition. The --387 entries from 80 institutions represent a 65% increase from the 2017 RICE-NCR where a total of 251 entries competed.

The inventions and researches from the bright minds of inventors, private institutions, government agen-

cies, and the academe will be competing in the following categories: Invention (Tuklas Award), Utility Model, Industrial Design, Creative Research (Likha Award) for Government Funded Research, Creative Research (Likha Award) for Private Funded Research, Student Creative Research (Sibol Award) for College, and Student Creative Research (Sibol Award) for High School.

Eligible for the Invention (Tuklas Award) Category is any technical solution to a problem in any field of human activity which is new, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable. It may be, or relate to a product or process and their improvements and covered by invention patent still in force granted by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL).

Entries to the Utility Model Category must also be a technical solution to a problem in any field of human activity which is new and industrially applicable, within contemplation of the above statute. It should be covered by utility model registration with a valid registrability report still in force granted by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO-

PHIL).

Industrial Design Category, on the other hand, covers any composition of lines and colors or any three-dimensional form, whether or not associated with lines or colors, provided, that such composition or form gives a special appearance to and can serve as pattern for an industrial product or handicraft. The entry should also be covered by industrial design registration with valid registrability report still in force granted by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL).

The Creative Research Category includes inventions which are patent pending inventions, registration pending utility models and industrial designs and research results not yet applied for patent, utility model and industrial design registration. This category is divided into Private and Government-funded sub-categories.

For aspiring inventors, students can enter their inventions in the Student Creative Research categories for College or High School. Entries here should be new and innovative projects/models

that possess features and characteristics that may have significant contribution to the promotion of S&T innovations that are not contrary to public order, morals, public health, and welfare.

Winners in the 2019 RICE-NCR will be announced on November 8, 2019 and will receive cash prizes and plaques of recognition. More than the financial rewards, however, RICE provides participants with an excellent platform to show off their inventions and researches to the media and the public, as well as an opportunity to network with colleagues.

Possible technology adoptors from different industries are also encouraged to attend the three-day event.

Aside from the exhibition of the entries, there will also be various fora on topics like Design Thinking / Proposal Writing, Intellectual Property for Technology Commercialization, and Science Talk, which will be attended by selected students and teachers identified by the Schools Division Office of each city in Metro Manila.

# PH economy still 'on a roll': Palace

**MANILA** — The current administration is succeeding with its goal of improving the Philippine economy under the watch of President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said on Thursday.

"The Philippine economy continues to be on a roll," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a statement.

This comes after the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported Thursday that the country's economy grew 6.2 percent during the July to September 2019 period, after the government accelerated its spending.

The PSA noted that services posted the fastest growth with 6.9 percent, followed by industry with 5.6 percent, and agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing with 3.1 percent.

Citing reports, Panelo said the latest GDP "puts the Philippines ahead of India, Indonesia and even China".

While it is public knowledge that the hallmark of this Administra-

tion is its unmatched advocacy for peace and order, this development illustrates its competence in other fields, such as protecting the health of the nation's economy notwithstanding inevitable setbacks it has encountered in the past," he said.

The government is targeting a six to seven percent economic growth this year.

Panelo said the Palace commended Duterte's economic team for maintaining the six percent or "above 'fighting target' for economic growth in 2019".

He said the latest figure showed that the government is on the right track to deliver its promises to boost the economy, with an aim to lower poverty rate to 14 percent by 2022.

"Simply put, this means that we are back on track with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's socioeconomic goal," Panelo said.

Duterte earlier promised to reduce poverty incidence to 14

percent by the end of his term in 2022.

The number of Filipinos living below the poverty line fell to 21 percent in the first half of 2018, compared to 27.6 percent registered in the first half of 2015, based on the PSA data released in April.

In a separate statement, Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar said the Duterte government will continue implementing "effective" economic reforms to reach its economic growth target.

"The Duterte Administration is determined and committed in reaching our economic growth target expansion of between six percent to seven percent this year," Andanar said in a separate statement.

"These effective economic reforms introduced by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte will ensure that the Filipino people have a comfortable life for the medium and long term," he added. (PNA)

# Affected families in Mindanao quakes now 52.1K: NDRRMC

**MANILA** -- The number of families affected by the magnitude 6.6 and 6.5 earthquakes that rocked Tuluhan, North Cotabato last October 29 and 31 has climbed to 52,195 or around 260,286 persons, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said in its 6 a.m. update Friday.

These figures are significantly higher than the 50,930 families reported on Thursday.

The report, signed and released by NDRRMC Executive Director Ricardo Jalad,

added that 10, 276 families or 49,183 individuals are now being sheltered in 59 evacuation centers while another 8,799 families or 43,945 persons are being aided outside.

The NDRRMC added that all the affected families are residents of 301 barangays in Davao and Soccsksargen regions.

As of this posting, the number of dead listed in NDRRMC records is still at 21, along with 417 injured and two others missing in Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen and the Bang-

samoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The number of damaged infrastructure was placed at 37,340, higher than the 36,006 reported Thursday, and these are from Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen and the BARMM.

Meanwhile, assistance extended to the affected families by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health and Office of Civil Defense has amounted to PHP50,593,957.28. (PNA)