

The Philippines

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## TAFE courses in Philippine schools

TAFE NSW through South Western Sydney Institute (SWSI) will be signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with partner Philippine educational institutions this September for the delivery of selected TAFE NSW courses in the Philippines, according to Sydney Solicitor Atty. Imelda Argel.

Dr. Lauro Tacbas, President of the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 18 August 2007, formalising UNP's commitment to the project, Argel said.

The four partner educational institutions are: Jose Rizal

University (JRU) in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila; The University of Northern Philippines (UNP) in Vigan City; Saint Dominic College in Cavite City; and Northwestern Visayan College in Aklan.

The TAFE NSW qualification will open new opportunities for the graduate. Most of the diploma courses being considered for delivery in the Philippines are for occupations that will result in being awarded 60 points for skill qualification under the qualifying Skilled Occupation List (SOL) for migration purposes.

Those who complete a one year certificate III plus completion of 900 hours of work

experience would qualify for a suitable skills assessment under the current TRA guidelines.

According to Argel, a major advantage is that nursing and accounting students who completed their NSW TAFE Diploma Course in the Philippines and continue their studies to complete their Bachelors Degree in Nursing or Accounting is that they will not need to pass the Philippine Nursing or Accounting Board exams, respectively, for purposes of migration.

After two years of full time study in Australia, nursing or accounting Bachelors degree graduate will qualify for suitable

Continued page 9

## TAFE ... From page 1

skills assessment in a shorter period of time than if they studied the normal course offered by colleges and universities in the Philippines in the same degree, Argel continued.

Under the current plan, nurses need only to complete three semesters of TAFE NSW Diploma in Nursing in the Philippines and 5 semesters of full time studies in an Australian University or a total of four years to become a registered nurse in Australia.

Argel said, the completion of TAFE NSW Diploma in Nursing in the Philippines would result in the Diploma

graduate being able to apply for work as "enrolled nurse" in Australia and after completion of Bachelors in Nursing degree in Australia, the Bachelors in Nursing degree graduate will be eligible for registration as registered nurse and apply for work and/or permanent resident as a registered nurse in Australia under certain conditions.

As there is no year 11 and 12 in the Philippines, other diploma courses being planned to be offered are pathways for enrolment towards a Bachelor degree at an Australian universities in lieu of degree at an Australian universities in lieu of Years 11 and 12.

Under current guidelines, the completion of a minimum

of two years of full time study in Australia will qualify the Bachelors degree graduate to a suitable skills assessment by the relevant skills assessing authority for migration purposes.

Delivery of courses in the Philippines is expected to commence in June 2008 generally with Jose Rizal University which sought to commence delivery of the courses as early as November this year, depending in the demand.

The current tuition fee for overseas student for these courses in Australia range from A\$14,500 to \$27,000 per year. Tuition fees for TAFE NSW courses in the Philippines are expected at less than 30% of the tuition fee in Australia.