

[CHED promotes educational tourism to enhance economy](#)

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Education

More foreign students are coming to the country to study due to educational tourism now being promoted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Dr. Carlito Puno, CHED chairman, told newsmen here that at least 2,000 students from India and 200 from Nepal are set to arrive in the Philippines in October this year in response to the vigorous campaign on educational tourism by CHED.

This is similar to the medical tourism now being promoted by the Department of Health in cooperation with highly equipped tertiary private hospitals and medical centers throughout the country.

"In educational tourism, we are using education as point of entry in tourism and other economic activities," Puno explained.

Puno said educational tourism is not new because there are already several foreign students in the Philippines, particularly Koreans, who, most of them, have chosen to enroll in colleges and universities in Baguio City and Cebu.

Before this, the country had an influx of Iranian and Sudanese students.

Educational tourism is now an inter-agency program of CHED, along with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Foreign Affairs that recently agreed to issue multi-entry visas to foreign students.

"You know, the multi-entry visas were requested by the Indian students who found difficulty shuttling to New Delhi from their respective provinces just to renew their expiring visas with the Philippine Embassy located in the Indian capital," he said.

This is also the request of Chinese students who are also being encouraged to study in the Philippines soon.

The Indian students, he said, will take up medicine, veterinary medicine, aeronautics as well as maritime education, said Puno when he was guest during the 14th biennial celebration of the Pangasinan State University on Friday.

It is not yet known what are the preferences of the Nepalese students. Puno said the coming of foreign students to study in the Philippines seeks to enhance enrolment of local colleges and universities which admittedly are lacking in enrolment today.

The provincial colleges and universities will benefit much because the foreign students will be charged premium tuition fees unlike local students taking up similar courses.

He said the foreign students will be charged tuition fees at 60 per cent higher than the tuition fees being charged local students, really boosting the incomes of local colleges and universities.

With increased enrolment and consequently incomes from tuition fees of foreign students, provincial colleges and universities can improve their facilities, Puno said.

"The coming of foreign students would be a big boon to private colleges and universities in the provinces where they will be soon fanned out," he said.

Puno expressed belief there is a possibility that the number of students enrolling in the Philippines could reach 5,000 by next year. (PNA)

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