



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Inputs to the midterm progress report on the third phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, particularly in promoting human rights training for media professionals and journalists

17 April 2017

1. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (herewith the Commission)¹ submits to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Methodology, Education and Training Section, its inputs on relevant initiatives undertaken by the Commission in promoting human rights training for media professionals and journalists.
2. The Commission supports the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE), and has been implementing initiatives that respond to its objectives. The award given to the Commission by UNESCO is a testament to this advocacy.²
3. The specific objectives of WPHRE Phase 3 with regard to media professionals and journalists include:
 - a. To highlight their role in the promotion and protection of human rights;
 - b. To provide guidance on effective human rights training programming for media professionals and journalists;
 - c. To support the development, adoption and implementation of relevant sustainable training strategies;
 - d. To highlight the importance of enabling environments guaranteeing the protection and safety of media professionals and journalists;
 - e. To facilitate support for human rights training for media professionals and journalists by local, national, regional and international organizations;
 - f. To support networking and cooperation among local, national, regional and international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations.
4. As one of its tools for the furtherance of WPHRE Phase 3, the Commission through its Human Rights Education and Promotion Office signed a Memorandum of Agreement on 9 December

¹ As the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of the Philippines, the Commission has the mandate vested by the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the Paris Principles to address, promote and protect the full range of human rights including civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. We have the mandate to regularly report on human rights situations and violations, and recommend steps on advancing the realization of human rights and dignity of all.

² In 1994, the UNESCO Prize for the Teaching of Human Rights was awarded to Chairman Sedfrey Ordonez, on behalf of the Commission on Human Rights at the International Colloquium on the Right to Humanitarian Assistance in UNESCO Paris.

2015 with the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). MTRCB, as part of its scope of cooperation with the Commission, will take part in the formulation of human rights training for media professionals and to support the popularization of human rights. MTRCB regulate and classify motion pictures, television programs, and publicity materials to “promote a value-based media and entertainment culture.”

5. As a follow up to this undertaking, the Commission through the Human Rights Education and Promotion Office organized a focus group discussion with media professionals and journalists who are in the academe, NGOs, and GOs to discuss about the status and integration of human rights education in media and journalism, in accordance with Article XIV, Section 3, Paragraph 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution requiring all educational institutions to inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights. The focus group discussion aimed to
 - a. gather perceptions, views, beliefs, and recommendations from the academe, particularly the Mass Communications Department and other related courses of selected colleges and universities, and from media NGOs, and GOs on how to effectively provide human rights education and training to media professionals and journalists.
 - b. foster dialogue, cooperation, networking and information-sharing among relevant stakeholders.

6. The focus group discussion has identified the following recommendations and ways forward. The Commission is taking steps to implement the recommendations.

	Good practices in promoting human rights	Identified needs	Recommendations	Next Steps/ Opportunities
General Statements on Human Rights Education		A reliable source of human rights information	<p>For CHR to check and stop the spread of false information</p> <p>For CHR to provide materials for a course outline or human rights module</p> <p>Visual aids, video materials, Facebook page to promote human rights in campuses</p> <p>Handbook for training faculty on human rights education</p> <p>Human rights awareness should call for positive action and not just condemnation for wrongdoing and violence</p> <p>Human rights training for journalists should consider existing realities including market-driven journalism</p>	<p>Assist Univ of Caloocan City to come up with enhanced curriculum for 2018</p> <p>CHR to raise with CHED the need to integrate human rights in the curriculum</p>

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			<p>CHR to look into UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Assessment</p> <p>Clarify the role of the State as duty bearer and CHR as monitoring institution</p>	
Campus Engagements	<p>Student groups organized for human rights promotion</p> <p>Debate contests to provide students a venue to air their views</p> <p>Tap student governments</p>		<p>More campus engagements/workshops on human rights</p> <p>HR orientation for students and for faculty</p>	<p>(Note: HREPO conducted human rights training in Univ of Caloocan City in February 2017)</p> <p>Partner with schools and student organizations</p>
Engagement with media	<p>Center for Community Journalism and Development has produced a journalism handbook on human rights</p> <p>PCIJ has information materials including a book "Know Your Rights."</p> <p>PCIJ reports also did a training on EJK documentation, with FLAG and CHR</p>		<p>Involve top management of media outfits and the academe for human rights education</p> <p>Also study how media works</p> <p>Tap the Philippine Association of Communication Educators for inclusion of human rights education</p> <p>Involve PAHRA and PhilRights</p> <p>Involve Human Rights Action Centers</p> <p>Involve PCOO on human rights issues especially IP rights and GAD</p>	<p>For CHR to have a media literacy program</p> <p>For CHR to revisit and popularize CCJD's journalism handbook on human rights, and information materials produced by CSOs</p> <p>MOA with National Press Club for human rights education</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation of trainings, and post-training follow-up sessions with media</p> <p>Partner with MTRCB for information dissemination</p>

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Institutional Values	The following institutions cited their core values as the basis for strong human rights grounding of their students: PUP, Assumption College, Miriam College			