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Welcome Address
Orientation on Accreditation and Certification of Persons
Y2 Hotel, Makati Avenue, Makati City
17 October 2016, 09:a.m-4:00p.m

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen!

Warm welcome to this orientation on accreditation and certification of persons.

To set the tone for this orientation, let me state that accreditation is relevant in this fast changing business environment for all of those that we serve. Accreditation is a public statement that our organization strives to ensure that your services are of the highest possible quality as you open your service delivery and business processes to outside scrutiny to continually improve the quality of your services.

For those persons that you serve, whether they are consumers, customers, patients, clients, or residents, you exist to provide a service to them. An organization's mission is defined around the persons served. Accreditation demonstrates to these persons that our organization is committed to reducing risk, addressing health and safety concerns, respecting cultural and individual preferences, and providing the best possible quality of service.

Our business environment has been further changed with the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 offering opportunities in the form of a huge market of US\$2.6 trillion and over 622 million people. In 2014, AEC was collectively the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world.

With one massive market under the AEC, opportunities in trading goods, services, information, systems and even people are wide open. We have seen the increasing trade of goods and services with less restrictive terms under trade and economic cooperation in regional blocs. In AEC, one of the significant outcomes of the AEC is that mobility of ASEAN professionals and skilled workers will be greatly enhanced, i.e., one can practice his profession where he wants to as long as he is qualified. Qualification standards in the practice of profession tend to differ from country to country, company to company.

We are giving this orientation on the basic concepts of ISO/IEC 17024: Accreditation Program for Personnel Certification Bodies so that our professionals and skilled personnel can benefit from a certification with recognized benchmark of skills that can translate across national borders as it is aligned to international standards, making them more employable and attuned to continuous professional development.

Certification of persons will also promote consumer and public confidence in the capabilities and competence of the people who provide specialized services or who create the products that support our daily lives and livelihoods.

Certification for persons is one means of providing assurance that the certified person meets the requirements of the certification scheme. The question now is how can we be confident with the certification provided?

This is where accreditation takes place. Accreditation gives assurance that the testing, calibration and certification services provided by an organization are accurate and credible. Such accreditation is recognized both nationally and internationally and has become the hallmark of a quality certification program. This complementary relationship between accreditation and certification is what will help our professionals and skilled workers gain an advantage in practicing their professions anywhere.

This orientation aims to raise awareness on accreditation and its benefits; and also to introduce the accreditation scheme on certification of persons, which we are looking forward to adopt and implement in the near future. I will leave to our speaker this morning the task of telling you more about accreditation and the services of the Philippine Accreditation Bureau. Later in the afternoon, another speaker will talk about certification of persons.

Let me end this talk with high hopes that you will benefit from this orientation and be encouraged to use accreditation to your advantage. Again welcome and have a good day.