

# **LEGAL SERVICES COUNTRY PROFILE**

# **THE PHILIPPINES**

**International Legal Services Advisory Council**

Attorney-General's Department

Australia

January 1998

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# Legal Services Country Profile : Philippines

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# Introduction

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The International Legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC) was established in late 1990 by the Australian Government to assist in improving Australia's international performance in legal and related services. To help achieve this purpose profiles for seventeen countries and economies of the Asia Pacific region have been prepared. The Profiles, which are intended as a guide only, cover Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

ILSAC is chaired by the Hon Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG and comprises representation from private legal practice, the Law Council of Australia, commercial dispute resolution centres, education institutions and relevant Government departments and agencies.

This third edition of the Profiles is designed to provide an overview of the legal and related services sector in each country or economy. The information in the Profiles is organised under the following main headings:

1. <b>General information:</b>	key data, legal language, form of government and economic indicators.
2. <b>Basic legal information:</b>	system and sources of law, structure and regulation of the legal profession, law-making bodies and professional legal education.
3. <b>Legal services market:</b>	professional legal associations, local, Australian and foreign law firms, and commercial dispute resolution.
4. <b>Market access requirements:</b>	foreign lawyer admission requirements, regulation and restrictions on foreign lawyers/firms and recent regulatory changes.
5. <b>Australian legal services:</b>	prospects for Australian legal services; Australian dispute resolution services and Australian legal education and training services.
6. <b>References/sources:</b>	list of source material and date of information contained in the profile.

Comments, additional information or corrections, and suggestions for improvement of this Profile would be welcome.

## **How to order**

Copies of the ILSAC Profiles are available at a cost of \$20 each or \$240 for a complete set of the 17 published profiles (post paid in Australia) from the:

**ILSAC Secretariat  
Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department  
Robert Garran Offices  
National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600  
Australia**

**Telephone +61-2-6250 6704; Facsimile +61-2-6250 5952  
Email: [ilsac.secretariat@ag.gov.au](mailto:ilsac.secretariat@ag.gov.au)  
<http://law.gov.au/aghome/advisory/ilsac/ilsac.htm>**

# 1 General information

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## Official name

Republic of the Philippines.<sup>16</sup>

## Population

As of 1 May 1990, (the date of the last census) the total population of the Philippines was 60,684,887.<sup>20</sup> The estimated population growth is 2.2 per cent per year.<sup>16</sup>

The dominant racial group is Malay. There are also many Filipinos who are of Chinese, Spanish or American descent. Approximately 85 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic. The remainder comprises 10 per cent Protestant and 5 per cent Muslim. There is a strong Muslim presence in Mindanao, Sulu and other southern provinces near the island of Borneo.

## Languages

There are more than 80 languages and dialects spoken across the Philippines. These are mainly of Malayo-Polynesian and Sanskrit origin but many have assimilated words from the Indian, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and English languages. Pilipino (based on Tagalog, the local dialect of Manila and the provinces surrounding it in Luzon) and English are the national and official languages. Almost all business and politics is conducted in English. Spanish has dropped out of use.<sup>8/13/19</sup>

## Legal language

English is the language of the law and lawyers in the Philippines.<sup>8</sup> However, depending upon the location and the particular judge presiding, either Pilipino or English may be used in legal proceedings.<sup>3</sup>

## Form of government

Under the 1987 Constitution, the form of government is unitary and is based on the separation of powers between executive presidency, bicameral legislature and independent judiciary. The President is the Head of State, Chief Executive of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The President is elected by the people for a six year term and is not qualified for re-election. The legislative branch is represented by the Congress. The Congress consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 24 Senators who are directly elected by universal suffrage. The House of Representatives has a maximum of 250 members, 200 of whom are directly elected by district, while the other 50 may be appointed by the President from minority groups.

Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency on 25 February 1986 after the overthrow of the administration of Ferdinand Marcos. The Philippines' first 'free' presidential elections were held in May 1992, but after the "Peoples' Power revolution" in 1986, senatorial and local elections were first held in 1987. Unlike the two-party system which prevailed before martial law was declared by the then President Marcos in 1972, seven candidates representing a multi-party system vied for the Presidency.<sup>19</sup>

## Legal Services Country Profile: Philippines

- Head of State and President: General Fidel V. Ramos (term ends 1998).
- Vice-President: Mr Joseph Estrada.
- Main political organisations:
  - pro-government: Lakas (Nationalist Union of Christian Democrats)—NUCD (with the Lakas ng Demokrasyang Pilipino (LDP);
  - opposition: Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), Liberal Party (LP) and Nationalist Peoples Coalition (NPC); and
  - extra-parliamentary: Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CCP-NDF) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Peoples Liberation Front (MILF).<sup>4/16</sup>

## Economic information

Basic indicators	1990	1991	1992	1993
GDP (\$USm)	29,505	26,000	28,032	26,816
Inflation %	14.2	18.7	8.9	7.6
Exports (\$A'000)	468,116	477,554	547,709	644,292
Imports (\$A'000)	130,400	137,877	164,864	185,430
Current account (\$A'000)	337,717	339,676	382,845	458,862

Source: *The Philippines, Country Economic Brief*, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, April 1994.

### Per cent of GDP in services sector

In 1993, the services industry grew by 2 per cent, accounting for 41.7 per cent of GDP and employing 38.7 per cent of the workforce.

The services sector is subject to restrictions under the *Foreign Investments Act*. Consequently, prospective Australian legal services exporters may face restrictions in the future. However, market entry may be possible though joint venture arrangements with local Filipino organisations.<sup>16</sup>

<b>Total two-way trade with Australia (1993–94 A\$'000)</b>	883,047
as % of total Australian trade	0.7
rank in total Australian trade	25
<b>Value of Australian exports (1993–94 A\$'000)</b>	694,806
as % of Australian exports	1.1
market ranking in Australian exports	20
% growth (five-year trend)	11.6
<b>Value of Australian imports (1993–94 A\$'000)</b>	188,241
as % of Australian imports	0.3
market ranking in Australian imports	35
% growth (five-year trend)	8.0

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Composition of Trade—Australia, 1993–94*.

## 2 Basic legal information

### Legal system

As a historical consequence of the Philippines being under the rule of both Spain (1565–1898) and the United States (1898–1946), its legal system is now characterised as a mixture of both civil and common law systems.<sup>19</sup>

### Sources of law

The main sources of law in the Philippines are:

- the Constitution of 1987;
- statutes of Spanish and United States origin. (The Civil and Penal Codes are substantially based on Spanish law. Commercial law, negotiable instruments, taxation, constitutional and remedial law are derived from the United States);<sup>6</sup>
- statutes passed by Congress and other legislative bodies;
- decisions or judgments of the judiciary [amongst others, on constitutional issues: see, for example, Article VIII, sections 4(2) and 5(2)(a)];
- ordinances passed by the local government units;
- rules and regulations issued under authority of a statute; and
- the generally accepted principles of international law.<sup>8/19</sup>

### Structure of the legal profession

The structure of the Filipino legal profession is modelled on the American legal profession.<sup>8</sup>

### Regulation of the legal profession

The legal profession is regulated by the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.<sup>4</sup>

### Law-making bodies

Ultimate legislative power may be exercised by the Filipino people through the system of initiative and referendum. This gives the people the power to reject any Act or law or part thereof passed by the Congress of the Philippines or any local government body. The constitutional power, however, is not self-executory (unlike the constitutional provisions in some states in the United States, for example, North Dakota, Alaska, Nebraska, etc.). Under Article VI section 32 of the 1987 Constitution: ‘Congress shall...provide for a system of initiative and referendum...’. Republic Act no. 6735 was then passed by Congress on August 4, 1989 providing for its implementation.<sup>19</sup>

The Congress of the Philippines is also vested with legislative power by virtue of the Constitution. The Congress is able to legislate on any area of

activity. However, there are certain constitutional limitations to the exercise of the power of the Congress. These limitations are on general powers (like those embodied in the Bill of Rights) and on specific powers (such as limitation on the power to tax, to appropriate public funds and to declare the existence of war). There are also recognised implied limitations on congressional powers, including prohibitions against the delegation of legislative power and the passage of irrepealable laws.

Local governments, such as provinces, cities, municipalities, and “barangays” in the country, also exercise law making powers pursuant to the authority granted and subject to the limitations imposed by the *Local Government Code*.

In certain circumstances, such as in times of war or national emergency, the President may be authorised, for a limited period and subject to prescribed restrictions, to exercise legislative power as seen necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy.

Administrative agencies can also exercise “quasi-legislative” powers by authority of the Congress. However, the Congress must specify the policy to be executed and predetermine the standard to which the administrative agency must conform.<sup>8</sup>

## **Law derived from Australia**

The *Torrens Title* system of land registration has been used as a model in the Philippines.<sup>4</sup>

## **Court structure**

Pursuant to the February 1987 Constitution, the Filipino Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, Regional Trial Courts, Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Courts in Cities, Municipal Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts. In addition, there is a court which deals specifically with corruption cases (the Sandiganbayan). Under a Presidential decree of February 1977, Islamic Shari’a Courts were established in the Southern Philippines in July 1985.<sup>3/5</sup>

## **Professional legal education**

### **Primarily trained**

The vast majority of Filipino undergraduate law students complete their undergraduate studies domestically, primarily within Metro Manila. Comparatively few law graduates pursue postgraduate studies, however, the majority of those that do complete their studies in the United States.<sup>19</sup>

### **Qualifications for practice**

To be admitted to the Filipino Bar, candidates must obtain a four year Bachelor of Laws degree. However, candidates for admission must have also previously completed a four year undergraduate degree in either Arts or Science. After satisfying the academic requirements, candidates must then pass the Bar Examination, conducted by the Supreme Court of the Philippines, before gaining admission.<sup>3</sup>

## **Schools of Law**

There are numerous law schools in different areas in the Philippines. The standards of teaching and learning vary with the schools: whether they are public or private, their location, staff and facilities, etc. Schools of law are either public (that is, government-owned) or private institutions; and the latter may also be sectarian or secular. There are universities which have very high standards, for example, the University of the Philippines (a state-owned university) and Ateneo de Manila University (a Jesuit institution). Some colleges (that is, non-universities) also offer law at comparable standards such as the San Beda College (a Catholic school run by the Benedictine Order). There are also other schools which have relatively low standards (usually provincial or remotely-located schools) based, for instance, on the passing rate of their graduates in the bar examinations.<sup>19</sup>

## **Principal universities**

Universities which offer law include: University of the Philippines, Ateneo De Manila University, Adamson University, University of San Jose Recoletos, Lyceum University, University of the East, Far Eastern University, Baguio Colleges Foundation, University of Iloilo, Central Philippine University, University of Manila, University of San Agustin, University of Mindanao, University of Negros Occidental Recoletos, University of San Carlos, Notre Dame University, University of Santo Tomas, University of Nueva Caceres, Saint Louis University, Silliman University, Mindanao State University, Southwestern University, Western Mindanao State University, University of Pangasinan, Aquinas University, University of Visayas, University of Manila and Manuel L Quezon University.<sup>10</sup>

## **Other academic institutions (non-university Schools of Law)**

Other legal training institutions include the San Beda College, San Pablo College, the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology and San Sebastian College.<sup>2/4</sup>

## **Post-graduate legal courses**

The University of the Philippines and the University of Santo Thomas offer post-graduate courses. These include both Masters and Doctorates of Law.<sup>4/9</sup>

## **Other domestic legal qualifications**

Not applicable.

## **Practical legal training**

Practical legal training is available.<sup>9</sup>

## **Foreign legal training**

### **Sources**

The main sources of overseas training for Filipino lawyers are the United States and Spain. This is largely because the commercial laws of the Philippines are similar to the American commercial laws and the Filipino civil laws are similar to the Spanish civil laws.<sup>2</sup> Filipino Constitutional Law is also similar to the United States. Filipino lawyers also undertake international law studies in the United States.<sup>19</sup>

### **Skills obtained**

Filipino law graduates generally undertake postgraduate study overseas. The United States is the most popular study destination for undertaking Master and Doctorate degrees in law.<sup>13</sup>

### 3 Legal services market

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#### Professional associations (law societies/bar associations)

**Philippine Bar Association**  
Room 347, Valero Plaza  
124 Valero Street  
Salcedo Village  
Makati, Metro Manila  
The Philippines

**Philippine Lawyers Association**  
Room 606, Philam Resources Building  
231 Juan Luma Street  
Binondo, Manila  
The Philippines

**Integrated Bar of the Philippines<sup>4</sup>**  
3rd Floor, IBP Building  
Dona Julio Vargas Avenue  
Ortigas Complex  
Pasig, Metro Manila  
The Philippines

#### Local legal firms

##### Local legal firms

There are over 1,000 law firms operating throughout the country. The major law firms are concentrated in Metro Manila, particularly in Makati.<sup>2</sup>

##### Local lawyers

There are approximately 33,000 lawyers in the Philippines.<sup>6</sup>

##### Per cent in international commerce

Less than 1.5 per cent of lawyers (or less than 500) are involved in international commerce or related transactions.<sup>2</sup>

##### Dollar value of legal services

Information not available.

##### Local legal firms involved in international work

The majority of Filipino lawyers are sole practitioners. There are only around 20 law firms in the Philippines with an international practice.<sup>6</sup>

##### Practice mix

In general, the following local law firms are involved and specialise in the areas listed:

## Legal Services Country Profile: Philippines

- Agcaoili & Associates—banking and finance;
- Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz—litigation and corporate investment law;
- Belo Abiera & Associates—taxation and intellectual property;
- Bito Lozada Ortega & Castillo—maritime law and intellectual property;
- Carag Caballes Jamora & Somera—corporate, commercial and investment laws, natural resources law, intellectual property, maritime law, labour law and banking;
- Carpio Villaraza & Cruz—civil litigation and corporate law;
- Cases Cabaltera & Associates—intellectual property;
- Castillo Laman Tan & Pantaleon—intellectual property, litigation and corporate investment law;
- Ledesma Saludo & Associates—general practice;
- Quasha Asperilla Ancheta Pena & Nolasco—corporate and investment law, intellectual property and litigation;
- Quisumbing Torres & Evangelista—taxation and intellectual property;
- Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles—foreign investment law and taxation;
- Siquion Reyna Montecillo & Ongsiako—labour law and banking;
- SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan (the largest law firm in the Philippines)—banking and finance, securities law, corporate, commercial and investment laws, labour and employment relations law, litigation, taxation, intellectual property law, natural resources law and maritime law;
- Tan Manzano & Velez—intellectual property; and
- Villaraza & Cruz—corporate and commercial.<sup>6/17</sup>

## Australian and other foreign legal firms

### Australian firms

Foreign firms are not permitted to establish offices in the Philippines. They may, however, work with Filipino law firms on a correspondent basis.<sup>6</sup>

- hampers & Company is extensively involved in projects in the Asia-Pacific region. In the Philippines, its lawyers have advised on a number of projects for Australian clients over a 20 year period. The firm works closely with several leading law firms in Manila.<sup>1</sup>

## Legal Services Country Profile: Philippines

- Clayton Utz is associated with the Filipino law firm of SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan through the Pacific Rim Advisory Council (PRAC). This firm has 90 lawyers including 29 partners.<sup>12</sup>

### *Australian lawyers*

Not known.

### *Local lawyers*

Not applicable.

### **Foreign legal firms**

Foreign firms are not permitted to establish offices in the Philippines. They may, however, work with Filipino law firms on a correspondent basis, as does Baker & McKenzie with Quisumbing Torres & Evangelista.<sup>18</sup>

### **Status of lawyers employed**

#### *Local lawyers*

Not applicable.

#### *Foreign lawyers*

Foreign lawyers are not allowed to practise in the Philippines.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Principal home countries*

Not applicable.

#### *Practice mix*

Not applicable.

### **Commercial arbitration**

In the Philippines, arbitration is recognised as an alternative method for settling disputes. Articles 2028 to 2046 of the *New Civil Code* contain general rules on voluntary arbitration. Specific rules for voluntary arbitration of civil disputes are contained in the *Arbitration Law*. The *Labor Code* provides for a system of voluntary arbitration of disputes arising from labour-management relations. The Department of Labour has promulgated implementing rules and regulations to be followed in all voluntary arbitrations in the labour sector.<sup>8</sup>

### **Firms/centres**

*The Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC)* was created by law in February 1985 to arbitrate disputes in the construction industry sector. The CIAC has issued rules of procedure governing construction arbitration.

**The Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC)<sup>2/8</sup>  
6th Floor, Finman Centre, Tardeollao Street  
Salcedo Village, Makati Metro Manila  
Telephone: 815-11466**

*The Philippine Clearing House Corporation* which processes the daily exchanges of cheques and other demands of most of the country's commercial banks and financial institutions, has established an arbitration committee. The committee arbitrates, on a voluntary basis, any dispute or controversy between and among participants of the Corporation's clearing house operations.

*The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry* has also established a Committee on Conciliation and Arbitration to arbitrate, on a voluntary basis, commercial disputes involving its members. It also acts as the National Committee in the Philippines for purposes of arbitration under the Rules of Conciliation and Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce.<sup>4</sup>

### **Principal coverage**

Information not available.

### **Foreign restrictions**

As foreign lawyers are not authorised to practise law in the Philippines, they cannot appear before an arbitration panel unless they are parties to the arbitration, or are duly authorised regular employees of a party. There are no specific rules (under the *Arbitration Law*) that concern the participation of foreign companies and foreign-owned subsidiaries in arbitration proceedings.<sup>8</sup>

### **International instruments**

The *Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States 1965 (ICSID)* came into force for the Philippines on 17 December 1978.

The Philippines became a party to the *New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958)* on 6 July 1967.

The Philippines has not adopted the *UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985)*.<sup>7</sup>

## 4 Market access requirements

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### Foreign lawyer/ firm regulation\*

*(\*Foreign lawyers cannot practise law in the Philippines. Foreign law firms are prohibited from operating in the Philippines, but are allowed to appoint local correspondent law firms.<sup>2)</sup>*

### Body responsible

Not applicable (see above).

### Laws & regulations

Not applicable (see above).

### Foreign lawyer admission to practice requirements\*

*(\* Foreign lawyers cannot practise law in the Philippines.<sup>2)</sup>*

### Citizenship

An essential requirement for admission to the Philippines Bar and to practise law is that the lawyer is a Filipino citizen.<sup>6</sup>

### Educational qualifications

Not applicable.

### Experience

Not applicable.

### Pupillage period

Not applicable.

### Residency requirements

Applicants must be Filipino citizens and also reside in the Philippines.<sup>6</sup>

### Government approvals

Not applicable.

### Other

In addition to being a Filipino citizen and residing in the Philippines, prospective applicants must be at least twenty-one years of age.<sup>8</sup>

### Admission authority

Not applicable.

## Special admission

Not applicable.

## Additional requirements

### Visa restrictions

Nationals of countries with which the Philippines has diplomatic relations, and those with assured onward passage, do not require visas for stays of less than 21 days. This does not apply to foreigners who intend to study, work or perform an activity or stateless persons and nationals of countries that do not extend reciprocal privileges to Filipinos.

Visitors may come to the Philippines for business, pleasure or health with a temporary visitor's visa, which allows them to stay for up to 59 days. Visitors whose stay will exceed 59 days are required to obtain alien certificate registrations. For those who stay for over six months, a Certificate of Residence for Temporary Visitors must be obtained.<sup>11</sup>

### Work permits

Article 40 of the Philippines *Labor Code* requires that "any alien seeking admission to the Philippines for employment purposes, and any domestic or foreign employer who desires to engage an alien for employment in the Philippines shall obtain an employment permit from the Department of Labor". Such a permit is only available if the Department is satisfied that no Filipino can or is willing to do the work. The permit only applies to the particular work indicated. A non-resident foreigner applying for a work permit in the Philippines must train at least two Filipinos whilst working in the country.<sup>8</sup>

## Regulation of foreign law firms\*

*(\*Foreign law firms are prohibited from operating in the Philippines, but are allowed to appoint local correspondent law firms.<sup>2</sup>)*

### Use of firm names

Not allowed.<sup>4</sup>

### Employment of local lawyers

Not applicable. However, it is reported that foreign firms often employ the services of local firms on a case by case basis.<sup>6</sup>

### Local firm association

Non-Filipino lawyers cannot form partnerships with local lawyers.<sup>8</sup> However, correspondent relationships are possible (for example, Baker & McKenzie with Quisumbing Torres & Evangelista). Furthermore, some foreign firms are linked through international legal networks (for example, Clayton Utz is linked with SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan through the Pacific Rim Advisory Council).

**Government approvals**

Not applicable.

**Other**

Not applicable.

**Restrictions on practice\***

*(\*Foreign lawyers are not permitted to practise law in the Philippines.<sup>2</sup>)*

**Local law**

Not applicable.

**Home law**

Not applicable.

**Foreign law**

Not applicable.

**International law**

Not applicable.

**Other**

Non-Filipino lawyers cannot appear before courts in the Philippines.<sup>8</sup>

**Recent regulatory changes**

The Philippines has a constitutional barrier to improved market access for most professional services, including legal services. Foreign equity is not permitted in licensed professions and a nationality requirement is imposed for the practice of licensed professions. Provision of home country and international law services by foreign lawyers is understood to be possible on a consultancy basis, but is not specifically sanctioned by current regulation. The Philippines authorities have been requested to liberalise market access regulation.

There has been significant legislative change in the Philippines. A new law was passed in 1993 granting foreign investors the right to lease private lands for productive endeavours; a new central monetary authority has been created (June 1993); a new Value Added Tax law came into effect in 1994; and legislation expanding the scope for build-operate-transfer (BOT) infrastructure projects were passed recently. A bill is pending to liberalise the entry of foreign banks into the Philippines.

## 5 Australian legal services

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### Australian law firms\*

*(\*Australian law firms and lawyers providing services see 3—Legal services market above.)*

### Prospects for Australian legal services

#### Prospects for Australian legal services

Australian investment in the Philippines remains modest although a number of major Australia companies, including P&O, ANZ, CML, ACI, TNT, Pacific Dunlop and Goodman Fielder, have already entered the market. Nevertheless, the Filipino government recognises that if it wishes to have continued economic growth it must open up the market internationally and encourage foreign investment. The Philippines is presenting encouraging signs for Australian businesses and is increasingly being perceived as a commercial base in the region.

The signing, on 25 January 1995, by the Philippines of an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA) with Australia augurs well for future Australian investment in the Philippines. However, until the legal services market is opened up allowing foreign lawyers to practise home country and international law, the prospects for Australian legal service providers remain limited.

### Dispute resolution services

#### Centres/firms

The **Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)** provides services for the settlement of international commercial disputes of all kinds to the region. ACICA was established in 1985 as a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Victoria by the Institute of Arbitrators, Australia. The Institute of Arbitrators has as its main objectives the education and training of arbitrators and their grading, the nomination of arbitrators to arbitrate disputes and the promotion of arbitration as a means by which commercial disputes can be resolved. ACICA has entered into arrangements with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in accordance with the provisions of the ICSID Convention.

ACICA has Co-operation and Trade Arbitration Agreements with 34 International Arbitral Centres around the world including those in the world's major trading nations in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas.

ACICA is a member of the Council of Asia Pacific Commercial Dispute Resolution Centres and has close relationships with the International Chamber of Commerce Court of Arbitration in Paris.

For further information on ACICA, contact:

**The Secretary General  
Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration  
Level 1  
22 William Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
Phone: (03) 9629 6799  
Fax: (03) 9629 5250**

The **Australian Commercial Disputes Centre (ACDC)** provides consulting, training and dispute resolution services both domestically and internationally. It concentrates on mediation, expert appraisal and determination. ACDC has entered into arrangements with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in accordance with the provisions of the ICSID Convention.

ACDC is the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Registry for the whole Asia-Pacific Region. LCIA's services are available to all involved in international commercial activity. It is open to any party to elect to have his/her dispute determined under the internationally recognised LCIA Arbitration Rules or UNCITRAL Rules.

ACDC is also a member of the Council of Asia Pacific Commercial Disputes Centres.

For further information on ACDC, contact:

**The Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Commercial Disputes Centre  
Level 5  
50 Park Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Telephone: (02) 9267 1000  
Facsimile: (02) 9267 3125**

## **Legal education and training**

### **Overseas students studying law in Australia**

#### *Undergraduate/postgraduate*

It is understood that there are presently only a few Filipino undergraduate law/legal studies students at Australian (public & private) universities, including one at the University of Technology, Sydney. It is also understood that there are presently no postgraduate students studying law/legal studies at Australian (public & private) universities.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Short courses*

Not known.

### **Overseas students studying in Australia**

#### *Commonwealth-funded higher education institutions*

As at 30 June 1993, there were 375 Filipino students recorded as studying at Australian higher education institutions.<sup>15</sup>

*Short courses*

Not known.

**Qualifications recognised**

Information not available.

**Australian Education Centre  
representation**

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**Dollar value of educational  
services**

Information not available.

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