

**14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS OVERSEAS  
MAY 17-20, 2016  
DIAMOND HOTEL, MANILA**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**by**

**USEC. MARY GRACE AMPIL-TIRONA  
Executive Director  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas**

**Dear Friends & Partners in Human Development:**

**I - WHAT IS OUR "TAKE-AWAY" FROM THIS CONFERENCE?**

- **A VALIDATION**
- **A REALIZATION**
- **A REFLECTION**

**THAT:**

- **WE CAN NOT GIVE WHAT WE DO NOT HAVE...**
- **WE CAN NOT SHARE WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW...**
- **WE CAN NOT LEARN WHAT WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND...**
- **WE CAN NOT LIKE WHAT WE HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED...**
- **WE CAN NOT APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN...**

**BUT: WHAT CAN WE DO?? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

- **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**
- **PRESERVING GAINS**

**II -- ON A PERSONAL NOTE:****WHAT IS MY TAKE-HOME FROM A TASTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE?**

- **TEACHING & LEARNING ARE FOREVER**

$$20 + 13 + 25 + 10 + 5 + \dots = 73\dots$$

**III -- HELPING HANDS BEYOND BORDERS:**

**ONCE AGAIN AND FOR THE LAST TIME -- LET ME  
PERSONALLY EXTEND MY THANKS FOR THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SERVED YOU WHO SO DESERVE  
TO BE SERVED.**

**YOUR SACRIFICE AND HARD WORK AWAY FROM  
THE MOTHERLAND CANNOT, SHOULD NOT AND HAVE NOT  
BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY THOSE OF US WHO REMAIN  
HOME AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR.**

**WE REMAIN CONFIDENT IN OUR BELIEF THAT FOR  
SO LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO PUT OUR HEADS AND  
HEARTS TOGETHER NOTWITHSTANDING THE GEOGRAPHIC  
BOUNDARIES THAT SEPARATE US -- WE CAN ENSURE THAT**

**THE "BEST" WILL COME -- SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.**

**DO KEEP IN TOUCH...FOR I NEVER SAY GOOD-BYE!**

**JUST REMEMBER THAT MY WORKING NAME IS -- "GERTIE"**

**AND PLEASE DROP THE "USEC" HENCEFORTH AND MY**

**PERSONAL EMAIL IS: [marygracetirona@yahoo.com](mailto:marygracetirona@yahoo.com) AND I**

**AM NOT A MEDIA SOCIALITE!!**

**/MGT-05.19.16 FINAL**