RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program
Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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The Philippines

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**Specifics**

- **Located:** Southeastern part of Asia, between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, east of Vietnam.
- **Capital:** Manila
- **Population:** 87,857,473 (July 2005 est.)
- 26.5% of the Philippine population is below the international poverty line
- **Gross National Income per capita in 2011 U.S. $2,210**
- 26.5% of Filipinos are living on less than $1.35/day (2008)
- **Climate:** Above 80° due to proximity to the Equator
- **Literacy Rate:** 97% Male 98% Female
Filipino (formerly Pilipino) is based on Tagalog and is one of the official language of the Philippines. The other is English.

Only 55% of the population speak Filipino

111 distinct indigenous languages and dialects, of which only about 10 are important regionally

Christian Malay 91.5%

Muslim Malay 4%

Chinese 1.5%

Other 3%
History

- Became an American Territory after the Spanish-American War (1898)
- Commonwealth status in 1933
- Japanese invaded the Philippines early in 1942 and ruled until 1944
- Became an independent nation on July 4th, 1946
- Economic recovery was necessary from the destruction caused by World War II
- New constitution specified the withdrawal of U.S. military forces in 1991
- Kidnapping of twenty-nine people by the Abu Sayyaf group in April 2000
Education is now compulsory until age twelve and is available for all.

Statistics indicate that children from the poorest 40% of the population do not attend school.

Official language in schools is **English** after third grade.

Children are grouped homogeneously by ability in a co-ed setting.

"**Linga franca**" is an experimental approach in which students are taught in the native dialect and Filipino for the first two years and English in the third grade.

All students are required to wear uniforms from elementary school to college.

Girls wear pleated skirts and white blouses. Public school pupils wear dark blue skirts. Each private school has its own color. Boys wear white shirts and dark pants. Teachers are required to wear uniforms as well.

Male teachers are called sir and female teachers ma’am (pronounced “mum”).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level/Grade</th>
<th>Typical Age</th>
<th>Classes include:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>7-8</td>
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<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>8-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>11-12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>14-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>15-16</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>16-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>17-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Secondary Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ages vary (usually four years, referred to as Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tertiary Education</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classroom Setting

- Class sizes range from twenty to more than fifty in public schools.
- Resources, such as books and desks, are often shared.
- Schools lack electricity, have dirt floors, and may be flooded in the rainy season.
- Private schools charge fees but have smaller class sizes and have a reputation of providing a better education.
- Grottoes to the Virgin Mary or a patron saint are found on school campuses. School days begin and end with prayer.
School Day/Year

- The school year runs from June to March to avoid the hot months of April and May.
- School starts at seven-thirty and ends at four-thirty with a break of one and a half hours for lunch.
- No meals are served at the school, though snacks may be sold on break.

K+12 Education in the Philippines (A Documentary)
# Teaching & Learning

## Teaching

- Teacher-centered instruction
- Strict and traditional classrooms
- Discussion is limited

### Qualifications for teachers:

- Teachers must pass licensure exam before teaching.

## Student

- Never asked how they feel about a topic in class, expand learning, or asked to investigate
- Not familiar with immediate feedback or one to one consultation on academic performance
- Eye contact in the classroom is expected though not when facing disciplinary actions
Important To Know

- Filipinos **thrive** on interpersonal relationships
- Being corrected or correcting another person in public is **not** considered acceptable behavior
- Filipinos want to grant all requests, and so they often say yes when they mean no or maybe
- Time consciousness and time management are **not** important considerations
- Decisions are often reached on the basis of **feelings** rather than facts
- It is believed that if you raise your voice or lose your temper, you lose face
- **Hiya** (concept of shame) is a motivating factor
Filipino Views and Attitudes

Views of English and English Speakers

* English and Filipino are the official languages of the country
* Philippine laws and court decisions are written solely in English
* English is also used in education, religious affairs, print and broadcast media. In highly technical subjects such as nursing, medicine, and computing, English is preferred.

Views of the U.S. and Americans

* The United States fought against the invasion of the Japanese before their independence in 1946
* 80% of Filipinos view the influence of the United States as mainly positive
Filipino Values

✶ Filipinos believe that education is the path to upward mobility.

✶ College is necessary to obtain positions that promise security and advancement.

✶ Teachers are placed on the same level as doctors and are considered a prized profession.

✶ Work is valued. Most Filipinos will work seven days a week and take an additional job to improve their lifestyle or pay for education.

✶ Family is the center of the social structure and is where a person gets their strength.

✶ Personal relationships and wealth are considered the roads to success and all have an equal opportunity to achieve it.

✶ Easter, All Saint’s Day, and New Year’s Day are the most important family holidays.
Predominate Areas of Filipinos in U.S.

- Honolulu, HI
- Vallejo-Fairfield, CA
- Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA.
- San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos, CA
- Stockton, CA
- Jacksonville, FL
- San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA
- Las Vegas-Paradise, NV
- Reno-Sparks, NV
- Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, CA
Resources

Books


Websites

Culture of The Philippines - history, people, clothing, traditions, women, beliefs, food, customs, family. (n.d.). *Countries and Their Cultures*. Retrieved February 20, 2013, from [http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html#ixzz2MiNfKwfh](http://www.everyculture.com/No-Sa/The-Philippines.html#ixzz2MiNfKwfh) (slide s 3 – 5)

Resources


Images

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Video

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