

PHILIPPINES

Statement by
H.E. Amb. Evan P. Garcia
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council
14th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of JAPAN
31 October 2012

Madame President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of Japan.

My delegation notes that Japan attaches great importance to the UPR process, and has voluntarily submitted a mid-term report. The Philippines hails Japan for the inclusiveness and transparency of its comprehensive national report.

Madame President, as a country of origin of migrant workers, the Philippines appreciates Japan's hosting of the country visit of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers in 2010. The Philippines recommends that Japan consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers as well as the ILO Convention 189.

On the matter of trafficking in persons, the Philippines acknowledges Japan's deep concern for trafficked victims. However, although Japan signed the Palermo Protocol a decade ago, it remains unratified. Thus, the Philippines recommends that Japan exert utmost efforts in ratifying the Palermo Protocol.

Madame President, as a fellow Asian country and a very good friend and neighbour, the Philippines wishes Japan well in its journey in promoting, protecting and implementing human rights for its people.

Thank you, Madame President.