



Australia — Philippines Defence Cooperation

- Australia-Philippines Defence Cooperation has grown in the last two years, and focuses on the key areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security and assistance to the Philippines Defence Reform program.
- In financial year 2009-10, the Defence Cooperation Program with the Philippines was approximately AUD \$4.377 million (approx Php 175 million). The budget for financial year 2010-2011 is estimated to be AUD \$4.680 million (Php 187.2 million).
- Education and training are major priorities for Australia's engagement with the Philippines. For financial year 2009-2010, approximately AUD \$3.7 million (Php 148 million) was spent on education and training programs, with 120 students from the Philippines studying in Australia including 9 students at the Australian Defence College, 15 students at Australian Defence Force Academy, and 30 sponsored scholarships for Masters and other programs at various Australian universities. In financial year 2010-2011, it is expected that Australia will provide approximately 140 places for various education and training programs to students from the Philippines.
- A key initiative has been maritime security assistance. Australia has provided significant support to the Philippines' Coast Watch South initiative since 2005. Coast Watch South aims to coordinate activities of the Philippines' maritime security agencies, and to improve security in the Sulu and Celebes Seas.
- Mobile Training Teams are also run periodically in-country each year, and provide training in diverse areas such as Command and Leadership, doctrine development, Law of Armed Conflict, aviation security, financial management and accountability, and combat medic training.
- The Australian Defence Force conducts two annual training activities with the Armed Forces of the Philippines: Maritime Training Activity LUMBAS, which focuses on maritime security training and mariner skills enhancement; and Land Training Activity DAWN CARACHA, which focuses on Special Forces skills enhancement.
- A Status of Visiting Forces Agreement between Australia and the Philippines is before the Philippines Senate for ratification. This agreement will provide the overarching administrative arrangements for our bilateral Defence relationship and lay the foundation for greater Defence cooperation in the future.

* The Australian financial year is used for all accounting, taxation and budgeting purposes, and runs from July 1 to June 31 of the next year.