



THE OADR PRESS

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OADR, unfazed by the COVID-19 pandemic, moves advocacy online



Barangay officials tuning in to the special KP episodes of the OWS.

Restrictions in mobility and face-to-face engagement did not weigh down on the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) as it successfully mounted two flagship advocacy activities in 2020—the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Convention (NADRC) and the OADR Webinar Series (OWS).

Social media, video conferencing applications, and other online platforms proved to be more useful and relevant than ever as people and organizations strive to maintain connectivity amidst the ongoing pandemic. For the OADR, shifting online enabled the Office to continue promoting the use of ADR and expand stakeholder reach and engagement at a cost-effective manner.

Strength in numbers

Proving that pandemic-related restrictions were not a deterrent, the OADR was able to gather online a total of 47,000 participants in the first season of the OWS. While face-to-face engagement would have been ideal, the use of Zoom and Facebook which are free and accessible, made it easier for the OADR to reach out to more stakeholders, particularly those residing in remote areas.

The participants were able to learn from the informative lectures conducted by ADR experts during the webinars. Among the topics included were the types of ADR mechanisms and its stages, relevant laws and policies on ADR, and the Barangay Justice System. The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), country lead ADR provider for IP cases, also discussed their

ADR program in one of the episodes of the OWS.

Officials and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa in Barangays, especially those in the rural areas, vastly benefitted from the special episodes on the ADR mechanisms under the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP) Law that were conducted in partnership with the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The OWS is an advocacy activity for promoting the use of ADR in resolving disputes. The KP episodes, in particular, were aimed at capacitating local barangay officials in maintaining peace and justice in the local communities, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) Executive Director V Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc introduces the OADR and presents the history, current status, and future path of Philippine ADR at the NADRC held last 02-04 December 2020. (Image captured via online platform)

The first of many

As it is, the large turnout of participants in the OWS is already a laudable feat but the OADR upped the ante with the successful

mounting of the first-ever NADRC held virtually last 02-04 December 2020.

Over 2,200 guests and participants from the government, private, academe, and consumer sectors converged and discussed about the use of ADR in the Philippine Judiciary, Indigenous Conflict Resolution, ADR under the KP Law, and the much-anticipated ASEAN Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and Philippine ODR System (PODRS).

Aptly themed “Innovations in Philippine ADR: Improvement of Governance and Access to Justice,” the OADR highlighted its commitment to moving ADR to greater heights as a vital segment of the Philippine Justice System.

In his keynote speech, Justice Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra challenged Philippine ADR stakeholders to change the mindset of the people that litigation is the only means for resolving disputes, to develop mediation programs outside of the court system, across the bureaucracy and throughout the public and private sectors, and catch up with Asia's ADR powerhouses, Singapore and Hong Kong.

OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc responded, “The OADR accedes to the call to action of Justice Secretary Guevarra. Rest assured that our efforts are aligned to making ADR the primary option for settling disputes, and not as a mere alternative.”

With such great vision in mind, the ADR community can expect for bigger, better, and bolder advocacy campaigns from the OADR in 2021 and the years to come.



The OADR Training and Program Development Division (TPDD), team behind the NADRC.

PRRD names OADR Executive Director



Inaugural Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte appointed Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc, CESE as the first Executive Director of the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) on January 2020.

A trained government manager and a Career Executive Service eligible, Executive Director Alogoc has over ten (10) years of extensive law practice and has held key positions in all three branches of the government. She served in the Department of Agriculture, Judicial and Bar Council, and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, among others.

"Soon, the OADR will be on its own as an independent attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ). We are poised to take our next chapter as the country's premier institution of excellence on ADR," said Executive Director Alogoc.

The OADR is mandated to promote, develop and expand the use of ADR in the private and public sectors. It assists the government in monitoring, studying and evaluating the use of alternative dispute strategies. Furthermore, it recommends to Congress needful statutory changes to develop, strengthen and improve ADR practices in accordance with world standards.

OADR fills 43 plantilla positions

To fully perform its mandate, the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) has filled over 65 percent of its plantilla positions identified in its approved Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.

A total of 43 plantilla positions has been filled since Executive Director V Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc prioritized the publication of vacancies upon her assumption in January 2020. "A strong complement will institutionalize and establish the OADR as an independent agency under the wing of the Department of Justice. We are forming a diverse workforce equipped with appropriate skills and experience who can bring a new perspective to the organization," said Executive Director Alogoc.

The selection and thorough screening of applicants were facilitated by the Human Resource Merit Promotion and Selection Board. With the goal of building a strong institution, the Board ensured that shortlisted applicants are skilled to faithfully execute their duties while upholding the agency's values.



1st row (from left to right): Atty. Ma. Christina V. Abalos-Naig, Director III, Training, Accreditation and Promotion Service; Executive Director V Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc; and Atty. Ali Loraine V. Manrique, OIC Chief, Finance and Administrative Division.
2nd row (from left to right): Ms. Laurence P. Garcia, OIC Chief, Accreditation and Certification Division; Mr. Ryan C. Thomas, OIC Director, Policy, Compliance and Monitoring Service; Mr. Darrel Winthrop G. Torres, OIC Chief, Public Information and Promotion Division; Mr. Ramon P. Logoc, Chief, Training and Program Development Division; and Ms. Kristel Claudine D. Aslanbaigi, Chief Administrative Officer, Compliance and Monitoring Division.

DID YOU KNOW?



- The Philippines has become a party to the New York Convention when it signed the Agreement on 10 June 1958. The Philippine Senate subsequently ratified the Agreement on 06 July 1967. The Convention requires courts of contracting states to give effect to private agreements to arbitrate and to recognize or enforce arbitration awards made in other contracting states. It also seeks to provide common legislative standards for the recognition of arbitration agreements.
- The ADR Act of 2004 adopted the 1985 UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. The ADR Act distinguishes between international and domestic commercial arbitration. R.A. 9285 governs international commercial arbitration, while R.A. 876, as amended by R.A. 9285, continues to govern domestic commercial arbitration. Construction disputes continue to be governed by Executive Order No. 1008, series 1985.
- On 07 August 2019, Justice Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra signed the United National Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation, or simply known as "the Singapore Convention on Mediation," which entered into force on 12 September 2020. The Philippines, together with four other ASEAN member states, is among the 46 countries that signed the Convention. However, the Philippine Senate has yet to ratify the instrument.

OADR to attune PH ADR law with international policy developments



Dir. Ma. Christina V. Abalos-Naig in New York attending the 71st Session of UNCITRAL WG II.

At a virtual session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) held on 06 November 2020, Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) Executive Director V Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc presented the measures undertaken by the Philippines in relation to the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and the New York Convention.

As the country representative, Executive Director Alogoc highlighted OADR's work in amending the ADR Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9285) and The Arbitration Law (Republic Act No. 876) to enhance the country's legal framework on ADR and to harmonize said laws with international policy developments such as the amended UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration that was adopted in 2006.

Expedited Arbitration Provisions in the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules

A most recent international development on ADR is the incorporation of Expedited Arbitration Provisions (EAP) in the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, as agreed upon by the UNCITRAL Working Group (WG) II – Dispute Settlement during their 71st session held on 03-07 February 2020 in New York.

Atty. Ma. Christina V. Abalos-Naig, Director III of the OADR-Training, Accreditation and Promotion Service, and Department of Justice (DOJ) State Counsel Jane Hazel Marie S. Garcia-Doble, who are among the representatives of the Philippines to the UNCITRAL session, said that the WG II thoroughly discussed the rules and scope of application of the EAP. Detailed report on the WG II discussions and agreements can be viewed at the UNCITRAL Official Website via https://uncitral.un.org/working_groups/2/arbitration.

The WG II is expected to present the revised draft of the EAP provisions reflecting the agreements of the body, process flowchart, and timelines, during the working group meetings in March and September 2021.

The OADR began its groundwork for the amendments of the ADR Act of 2004 and The Arbitration Law in 2014 through the conduct of multi-sectoral consultations. The latest working draft proposes to merge R.A. 9285 and R.A. 876 to have an all-encompassing law on ADR that is attuned to the times.

OADR National ADR Advocacy Campaign kicks off at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela

The Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), in partnership with the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela (PLV), held a two-day Orientation Seminar on Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9285, Executive Order (E.O.) No. 97, series of 2012, and the establishment of an ADR mechanism at the PLV Auditorium on 22 to 23 February 2021. The activity is the inauguration of a series of OADR national advocacy activities for the year 2021.

With the strong support of the host institution, the OADR managed to convene more than forty (40) participants, consisting of the university's top officials, deans and professors, who will craft the policies to be integrated in their ADR Program. The OADR and PLV ensured that the activity was done in compliance with health and safety protocols.

In her Keynote Speech, OADR Executive Director V Atty. Irene D.T. Alogoc said that, "This endeavor is the beginning of a remarkable institutional progress, particularly in promoting and preserving the welfare of your officers, employees and students." Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian and Mayor Rexlon T. Gatchalian sent their recorded messages highlighting the importance of ADR and commending the



OADR confers Certificates of Recognition to PLV officials: Office of Student Affairs Head Prof. Michville A. Rivera, OIC Dean of Graduate Studies Dr. Ryan Dela Peña, VP for Administration Mr. John Cabaddu, VP for Academic Affairs Dr. Yolanda G. Gadon, and PLV President Dr. Nedeña C. Torralba.

partnership between the two institutions. Executive Director Alogoc was joined by Director III Atty. Ma. Christina V. Abalos-Naig and OIC Director Ryan C. Thomas of the OADR, and Atty. Jay Patrick R. Santiago, Senior Associate of Quisumbing Torres and OADR-accredited arbitrator in educating PLV officials about ADR, its mechanisms, and the establishment of an ADR program as an integral process of the university system.

The National ADR Advocacy Campaign of the OADR is consistent with its mandated objectives under Section 49 of R.A. No. 9285 to promote, develop and expand the use of ADR in the private and public sectors, assist the government in monitoring, studying and evaluating the use of ADR, and recommend to Congress needful statutory changes to develop, strengthen and improve ADR practices in accordance with world standards.

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OADR expands network, inks partnership agreements with 5 APOs

True to its commitment in expanding the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the country, the Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) signed partnership agreements with five (5) ADR Provider Organizations (APOs) in 2020.

From June to October of last year, the OADR signed Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (PDRCI), Philippine Institute of Arbitrators (PIArb), Philippine International Center for Conflict Resolution (PICCR), Conflict Resolution Group Foundation, Inc. (CoRe Group), and National Center for Mediation (NCM).

These strategic partnerships intend to explore cooperation opportunities with private ADR providers especially in areas of developing ADR programs, implementing ADR training standards, expanding ADR policy research studies, enhancing accreditation procedures, launching advocacy/education campaigns and exchanging valuable information on the use and practice of ADR.

OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc said, "Restrictions may be in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic but this did not hamper us from expanding our ADR network. The OADR continues to be proactive and steadfast in exploring strategic partnerships that will facilitate the development and implementation of programs and initiatives that will institutionalize and mainstream the use and practice of ADR in the country."



OADR-PDRCI MOA signing ceremony held on 09 June 2020 with OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc, PDRCI Secretary-General Robert N. Dio, and other OADR and PDRCI officials.



OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc and NCM President Apolinario Aure presents the signed OADR-NCM MOA in a ceremony held on 08 October 2020. (Photo from Phil. Star Press Reader)



OADR signs an agreement with PIArb in a ceremony held on 16 June 2020. In the photo: OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc, PIArb President Jesusito G. Morallos, and other officials from the OADR, PIArb.



OADR-CoRe Group MOA signing ceremony held on 10 September 2020. L-R: CoRe Group Executive Director Mia Theresa Q. Corpus, CoRe Group President Tristan C. Besa, OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc, OADR Director III Ma. Christina V. Abalos-Naig.



OADR Executive Director Irene D.T. Alogoc, PICCR President Sixto Jose C. Antonio, and other OADR and PICCR officials at the MOA signing ceremony on 07 September 2020.

Get to know the OADR accreditation...

Pursuant to Department of Justice Circular No. 49, s. 2012, only OADR-accredited provider organizations and practitioners are permitted to offer ADR services to government agencies. These services include, among others, serving as ADR neutrals, providing training, and designing, managing, overseeing and/or administering ADR programs.

For more accreditation-related information/inquiries:

- send an email to acd.oadr.doj@gmail.com, or
- visit <https://www.doj.gov.ph/office-for-alternative-dispute-resolution.html>.



Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution



The Office for Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) is an attached agency of the Department of Justice.



6th Floor, JDC Center Building, Engracia Reyes Street, Ermita, 1000 Manila, Philippines



(02) 8524 8939



info.oadr@gmail.com



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