

October 8, 1961 THE COLOMBO PLAN

THE COLOMBO PLAN AND THE PHILIPPINES

The Colombo Plan is an international programme for the Co-operative Economic Development of South and South-East Asia. Drawn up in January, 1950 in Colombo, the members of the Plan originally were the Governments of the Commonwealth countries only namely, Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United Kingdom with the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak.

One by one all the countries in the area entered the Plan and non-Commonwealth countries from outside the area, namely United States of America and Japan also joined.

The Philippines joined the Plan on October 8, 1954. Even before this time, however, free technical training had been offered on a bilateral basis. The Plan is bilateral in operation because negotiations for assistance are made, not through any international agency, but directly between a donor and a receiving country.

The concentrated attention provided by the Colombo Plan has resulted in development plans in the light of available resources of material and manpower. Colombo Plan assistance supplements this national effort. The assistance rendered, therefore, is generally of a marginal character, to fill gaps in national resources, to stimulate national effort and to speed up progress. No assistance is given unless it has been asked for, and when it is given, there are no strings or conditions attached.

Broadly speaking, the forms of assistance fall under the categories of: grants and loans for national development projects; specialized equipment including machinery, farm equipment, transport vehicles, laboratory equipment; services of experts and technicians; and training in advanced technology to the students of the countries of South and South-East Asia.

As a recipient country, the Philippines gets help that is colorfully varied. We have scholarship in almost any field in which training is desired.

We have received books and equipment for a number of government entities and non-government entities alike. The Kadang-Kadang Control projects has received considerable aid, and so has our vocational education. Four hundred radio sets have been received by the bureau of public schools and Australian experts accompanied them to show what can be done with them for educational purposes.

On the other hand, unwealthy as it is, the Philippines has managed at last, after many spurts of earnest attempts, to offer also to its sister-countries in South and Southeast Asia, nine scholarship for different fields of study. In this way it feels that its participation in the Plan is more complete, even if against the nine scholars that it host, it has sent some 400 Filipino scholars into different Colombo Plan host countries, namely, England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, Canada and Pakistan.

Students from different parts of Southeast Asia have already been availing themselves of Philippine Colombo Plan scholarships, an earnest try at cooperative effort to live the Colombo Plan philosophy of give-and-take.

That is the spirit of cooperation and understanding which is the Colombo Plan, a vast and fulfilling experiment in international friendship and understanding through the medium of an existing need and the filling of that need by a friend.



To commemorate the seventh year of admission of the Philippines to this cooperative enterprise, The Bureau of Posts has issued a set of 5c and 6c stamps portraying a globe showing the Asian member countries being assisted under the Colombo Plan with the map of the Philippines at the center.

The present members of the Colombo Plan are: -

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| Australia | Nepal |
| Burma | North Borneo |
| Cambodia | New Zealand |
| Canada | Pakistan |
| Ceylon | Philippines |
| India | Sarawak |
| Indonesia | Singapore |
| Japan | Thailand |
| Laos | United Kingdom |
| Federation of Malaya | United States of America |
| | Viet-Nam |