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Republika ng Pilipinas  
**Kagawaran ng Edukasyon**  
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

**OUA MEMO 00-0221-0184**  
**MEMORANDUM**  
22 February 2021

For: **OUA Strand**


Subject: **INVITATION TO THE SECOND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION  
ON A SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON SCHOOLING**

The Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) would like to invite its strand offices to A Safe Return to In-Person Schooling: A Second Roundtable Discussion on 23 February 2021 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. This event shall feature the insights of both education and health experts on the safe reopening of schools.

Kindly note that only those offices not involved in the ongoing Strand Interface on Programs and Guidelines (SIPAG) Conference may attend the roundtable discussion.

Interested individuals may access the said event at <https://unicef.zoom.us/j/99902619677> (password: 570420). For more information, please refer to the attached document with the event description, participants and program.

For immediate and appropriate action.

  
**ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA**  
Undersecretary



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**Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)**

*[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]*

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# A SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON SCHOOLING

## SECOND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

The Philippines has experienced the longest national school closure in the region and given the overwhelming evidence regarding the negative consequences of prolonged school closures on the learning, development, and overall well-being of children, the safe resumption of in-person schooling should be thoroughly planned based on evidence. As such, a second Health-Education Discussion will be undertaken to focus on how to safely reopen schools guided by experts in both fields. The participants will provide insights for the Department of Education's consideration as it develops a roadmap for the resumption of in-person learning that can be proposed to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

## PARTICIPANTS

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Department of Education - Moderator
- Department of Health
- Council for the Welfare of Children
- ECCD Council Secretariat
- National Task Force Against COVID-19
- National Economic and Development Authority
- Department of Science and Technology
- Department of Labor and Employment

### LEGISLATORS

- Chair of the House Committee on Education and Culture
- Chair of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts, and Culture
- Chair of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education
- Chair of the Senate Committee on SDGs, Innovation, and Futures Thinking

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC)
- UNICEF - Moderator
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Bank, Asian Development Bank
- DFAT, USAID

### OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY

- Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
- Philippine Business for Education
- Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS)
- SEAMEO INNOTECH
- Aral Pilipinas Coalition

## PROGRAM

**1:30 PM**

Welcome Remarks  
*Senator Sherwin Gatchalian*  
*Dr. Rabindra Abayasinghe, WHO*  
*Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez, UN RC*

**1:45 PM**

Effects of School Closures on Child Health and Development  
*Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, PPS*

**2:00 PM**

Return to In-Person Schooling  
- Lessons from Indonesia  
*UNICEF Indonesia*  
- Recommendations for a Phased Reopening in the Philippines  
*UNICEF Philippines*

**2:40 PM**

Open Forum

**4:15 PM**

Closing Remarks  
*Department of Education*  
*Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov, UNICEF*

**Zoom link:** <https://unicef.zoom.us/j/99902619677>

**Password:** 570420