

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Kade Aaron Smith
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 6/14/2025 Return: 6/21/2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Manila, Philippines Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: United Nations Foundation; & Eleanor Crook Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Met with the U.S. Embassy in Manila, the United Nations Country Team, UN entities in the Philippines (UNICEF, WFP, etc.),  
toured rural healthcare facilities, visited local schools, and explored other elements of U.S. and International aid (UN) across the country.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, **signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:**
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all attachments and the Additional Sponsor Form(s)**;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. **Signify statement is true by checking the box.**  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 6/23/2025

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Congresswoman Julia Letlow Date: 6/23/2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.


**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

- Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation
- Travel Destination(s): Manila and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Philippines
- Date of Departure: June 14, 2025 Date of Return: June 21, 2025
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Kade Smith  
*Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.*
- Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$14,171.36	\$860.39	\$279.64	\$53.78 (museum fees, guide, etc.)
Accompanying Family Member				

- All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: June 27, 2025

Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President

Organization: United Nations Foundation

***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: 202-884-9040 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.

Name of Traveler: Kade Aaron Smith

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Congresswoman Letlow

Office Address: 142 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: (202) 225-8490

Email Address of Contact Person: ted.verrill@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Kade Aaron Smith
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation; and Eleanor Crook Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Manila and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Philippines
4. a. Date of Departure: June 14, 2025 Date of Return: June 21, 2025  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:
  - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
As a Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Letlow (LA-05), I frequently interact with policies related to agriculture, nutrition, rural development, international development, and international organizations, etc. which are the main learning points for this trip. This trip will help develop my understanding of existing international aid programs and how they are carried out overseas.
9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Julietta

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5-12-25

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

United Nations Foundation

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Eleanor Crook Foundation

4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members *and* employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Please see attached.

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: June 14, 2025 Date of Return: June 21, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Manila and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Philippines

c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
- b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
- c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
- d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
  - b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

Please see attached.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
  - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Please see attached.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Edsa Shangri-La City: Manila, Philippines Cost Per Night: \$140  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.

Hotel Name: Rockfort Hotel City: Cotabato, Philippines Cost Per Night: \$70  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$9,850	\$700	\$375
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: May 8, 2025  
 Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President  
 Organization: United Nations Foundation  
 Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006  
 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org Telephone: 202-887-9040

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).


# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: United Nations Foundation
2. Name of your organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
  - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 5/8/2025

Name: Mariana Becerra Title: Director of North American Advocacy

Organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation

Address: 227 N Mitchell St. San Marcos, TX 78666

Telephone: 2027660197 Email: mbecerra@eleanorcrookfoundation.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

**UN Foundation Congressional Learning Trip to the Philippines  
Answers to Primary Trip Sponsor Form Questions 4, 12, and 15b2**

**4. Names and titles of all House invitees and explanation of why the individual was invited:**

The following individuals have been invited to participate in this learning trip to the Philippines because they work on issues related to the Indo-Pacific, international development, agriculture, nutrition, global health, U.S. foreign policy, international organizations, and/or associated subjects.

Patrick Mocete, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Young Kim

Maeve Healy, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Grace Meng

Ted Verrill, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Julia Letlow

Kade Smith, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Julia Letlow

Mike Doprazio, Chief of Staff,  
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Chandler Smith, Legislative Director  
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Lindsay Ryan, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Edward Kim, Legislative Director  
Rep. John Moleenaar

Madelyn Derks, Legislative Director  
Rep. Mark Alford

Becca Flikier, Legislative Director  
Rep. Lois Frankel

John Altendorf, Legislative Director  
Rep. Brad Finstrad

Cesar Gonzalez, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart

Giselle Reynold, Legislative Director  
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart

Mark Dreiling, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Don Bacon

Cameron Madsen, Legislative Director  
Rep. Michael McCaul

Keely Thompson, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Ed Case

Julia Hearthway, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

Dylan Sodaro, Chief of Staff  
Rep. Gabe Amo

Isabel Sanchez, Legislative Director  
Rep. Johnny Olszewski

Justina Graff, Professional Staff Member  
House Agriculture Committee

Daniel Feingold, Professional Staff Member  
House Agriculture Committee

Tanner Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Rep. Jim Baird

Andrea Hitt, Communications Director  
Rep. Jim Baird

Josie McLaurin, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Dan Newhouse

Emma Vogel, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Adam Gray

Andrew Donlon, Legislative Counsel  
Rep. April McClain Delaney

Tynesha Boomer, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Sanford Bishop

Bryana Spann, Legislative Assistant

Rep. Jahana Hayes

Remy Fortin, Legislative Director  
Rep. Bill Huizenga

Giulia DiGuglielmo, Legislative Director  
Rep. Darrell Issa

Shine Lee, Legislative Director  
Rep. Young Kim

Michael Weglein, Deputy Policy Director  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Christopher Smith, Legislative Director  
Rep. Ryan Mackenzie

Dan Butler, Legislative Director  
Rep. Tom Kean

Megan Wenrich, Legislative Director  
Rep. Jefferson Shreve

Carlie Tianello, Legislative Director  
Rep. Julie Johnson

Crystal Sung, Legislative Assistant  
Rep. Julie Johnson

Jennifer Chan, Legislative Director  
Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Jake Kochmansky, Legislative Assistant\*  
Rep. John Moolenaar

*\*Name did not appear on earlier list*

**12. Description of the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:**

The UN Foundation (UNF) works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship, with a focus on interconnected issues such as global health, nutrition, sustainable development, and peace and security. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to better understand bilateral and multilateral efforts to strengthen health systems in the Philippines, respond to food insecurity and nutrition challenges, and promote economic growth and development.

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. ECF invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis. In 2017, the Foundation pledged \$100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition.

UNF is organizing all aspects of the program/logistics. UNF handles all outreach to congressional offices and is the contact for planning purposes. UNF received a grant from ECF to partially support this trip. ECF has not played any role in organizing this trip and has not been involved in the selection or invitation of the trip participants.

**15b2. Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:**

The Philippines' development history is a story of resilience and uneven progress. After gaining independence in 1946, the country was once seen as one of Asia's most promising economies, but decades of political instability, weak institutions, and overreliance on agriculture slowed its development. The Marcos era in the 1970s brought a wave of infrastructure expansion funded by foreign debt, but this ultimately led to an economic crisis in the 1980s.

Post-1986 reforms laid the groundwork for recovery, but poverty and inequality remained persistent challenges. In the 2000s and 2010s, the Philippines finally gained stronger economic momentum and before the pandemic was one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, with annual GDP growth averaging 6-7%. COVID-19 delayed its progress, but the country is now on a recovery path. If growth stays steady, the Philippines is projected to reach upper-middle-income status between 2026-2028. As such, the UN's role in the Philippines is evolving, shifting from traditional development assistance to transformative strategic partnerships, knowledge generation, and resource leveraging by playing a strong enabling and convening role.

During the course of five full days on the ground, the delegation will meet with the UN Country Team, U.S. Embassy, and Government of the Philippines in Manila and travel to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to see firsthand how the UN is responding to these challenges and adapting to a changing development landscape in the Philippines and the larger region.

While in BARMM—the poorest part of the Philippines, where many communities lack access to basic education, health, and infrastructure services—the delegation will learn how the region was plagued by decades of conflict, largely due to the struggle for self-determination and autonomy by Muslim-majority communities. Following a landmark peace agreement between armed groups and the federal government in 2014, BARMM has become the Philippines' most significant peace and development milestones and has opened new opportunities for self-governance, economic growth, and social stability.

In addition, the delegation will explore nutrition and food security challenges throughout the country, which are shaped by poverty, extreme weather, and an increasingly uneven food system. Despite economic growth, many Filipino households—especially in rural areas—struggle to access affordable and nutritious food on a regular basis. Undernutrition remains a major public

health issue, with high rates of stunting among children under five and widespread micronutrient deficiencies, including iron, iodine, and vitamin A. Adding to the problem, typhoons, droughts, and floods frequently disrupt local food production and supply chains, making food security even more fragile for millions of Filipinos. The delegation will examine how the UN, U.S., and the Government of Philippines are combatting these health threats on multiple fronts, including through the delivery of lifesaving ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods, as well as efforts to foster resilient food systems, reduce unsustainable agriculture practices, and increase access to nourishing diets.



**Agenda for UNF Congressional Learning Trip to the Philippines**

**June 14-21, 2025**

**\*\*All Times Local\*\*  
+12 hours from Washington, DC**

**Saturday, June 14 — Washington, DC/Travel**

*Attire: Casual.*

1:30pm Depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) via Korean Air KE94  
*Flight time 15h 10m*

**Sunday, June 15 — Travel/Incheon/Travel**

*Attire: Casual.*

5:40pm Arrive Incheon International Airport (ICN) for connection  
*Layover 2h 35m*

8:15pm Depart ICN via Korean Air 625  
*Flight time 4h 15m*

11:59pm Arrive Manila International Airport (MNL) --- VIP ARRIVAL

12:15am Transit via hired car to Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

1:00am Check into Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

Overnight Edsa Shangri-La Hotel  
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 1550

**Monday, June 16 — Manila**

*Attire: Business.*

8:15am – 9:00am Breakfast at the hotel (at your leisure)

9:00am – 9:30am Transit via hired car to UN in the Philippines Office

Note: BRING YOUR PASSPORTS

9:30am – 9:45am **UN Department of Safety and Security Briefing**

The delegation will receive a briefing from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The office will detail the current security situation

in the Philippines and provide guidance on any safety protocols that must be adhered to during the course of the learning trip.

*Location: UN House*

**9:45am – 10:45am Meeting with UN Country Team, led by Arnaud Peral, UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines**

The delegation will meet with the UN Country Team to contextualize the major development challenges in the Philippines and provide a general overview of how the 21 UN agencies, programmes, and funds in the Philippines work together and actively partner with the Government of the Philippines and the U.S. to advance inclusive human development, improve health outcomes, promote economic growth, strengthen sustainable agricultural practices, and manage disaster risk reduction, etc.

*Location: UN House*

**10:45am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to U.S. Embassy Manila**

**11:30am – 12:30pm Meeting with U.S. Country Team**

The delegation will meet with the U.S. Country Team to discuss U.S.-Philippines relations, and how the U.S. and UN work together to address issues related to economic development, energy access, humanitarian assistance, food security, and related issues.

*Location: U.S. Embassy Manila*

**12:30pm – 12:45pm Transit via hired car to 1919 Grand Cafe**

**12:45pm – 2:00pm Working Lunch with Regis Chapman, World Food Programme (WFP) Philippines Country Director; Behzad Noubary, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative to the Philippines, ai; Lionel Dabbadie, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Representative to the Philippines, Umit Mansiz, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Philippines Country Director; and Dolly Reario, Country Representative, Helen Keller International**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the heads of WFP, UNICEF, FAO, IFAD, and Helen Keller International in the Philippines to learn how the UN is working collaboratively to treat children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition, severe acute malnutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies; improve the incomes of smallholder farmers, and increase the production and consumption of nutritious foods while

supporting the diversification of livelihoods for increased household and community resilience to shocks and stressors.

*Location: 1919 Grand Cafe, 117 Juan Luna St, Binondo, Manila*

2:00pm – 2:30pm Transit via hired car to the National Nutrition Council

2:30pm – 3:15pm **Meeting with National Nutrition Council, Supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), WFP, and UNICEF**

The delegation will meet with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and additional nutrition and food security government organs. The NNC is the Philippines' premier policymaking and coordinating body on nutrition, operating under the Department of Health. The NNC is tasked with formulating national food and nutrition policies, coordinating the implementation of nutrition programs, and promoting nutrition education and capacity building. It plays a central role in addressing malnutrition and hunger by implementing key initiatives such as the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), Operation Timbang Plus, and the Nutriskwela Community Radio Network. Composed of representatives from various government agencies and the private sector, the NNC ensures a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition governance, partnering with local and international stakeholders to improve the health and nutritional status of Filipinos.

The delegation will learn how the NNC designs government programs and public health initiatives aimed at promoting better nutrition and food security in the Philippines and monitors the population's dietary habits and identifies key nutritional problems such as undernutrition and obesity, as well as develops food technologies and fortified products to address nutrient deficiencies, especially among vulnerable groups like children and pregnant women.

*Location: National Nutrition Council*

3:15pm – 3:45pm Transit via hired car to Department for Foreign Affairs

3:45pm – 4:30pm **Meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs**

The delegation will meet with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs to discuss U.S.-Philippines relations and the Government of the Philippines' strategic partnership with the United Nations.

*Location: Department of Foreign Affairs*

4:30pm – 5:00pm Transit via hired car to Headquarters of the Presidential Anti-Organized

**Crime Commission**

5:00pm – 6:00pm

**Meeting with Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) and Briefing on Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Online Fraud, Supported by UNODC**

The delegation will meet with leaders from the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission to learn about progress made in shutting down widespread criminal activities including human trafficking and online fraud orchestrated by Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO).

Initially established to boost economic growth through online gambling targeting foreign markets, POGOs have increasingly been linked to illicit operations. In October 2023, a significant raid in Manila uncovered a large-scale scam hub operating under the guise of a POGO firm, leading to the rescue of over 300 individuals, both Filipinos and foreign nationals. The delegation will visit the site of this former POGO, which has been converted to a base of operation for the PAOCC. POGOs have been found to be involved in cryptocurrency and romance scams, often referred to as “pig butchering,” where victims are lured into fake investment schemes through online relationships. In response to the escalating situation, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced a ban on POGO operations by the end of 2024. Despite the ban, concerns remain about the persistence of POGO-like scam hubs within the Philippines.

PAOCC plays a pivotal role in the Philippine government's efforts to combat illegal activities associated with POGOs. Operating under the Office of the President, the PAOCC has been instrumental in identifying and dismantling illicit POGO operations that have been linked to human trafficking, cyber fraud, and illegal detention.

*Location: PAOCC Headquarters*

5:45pm – 6:30pm

Transit via hired car to Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Executive Time

7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Working Dinner with UN Foundation**

The delegation will have a working dinner to review the day's programming and brief participants on important points of reference for the following two days' visit to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

*Location: Summer Palace, Level Two, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel*

Overnight                      Edsa Shangri-La Hotel  
   1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 1550

**Tuesday, June 17 — Manila Travel BARMM**

*Attire: Casual/Business Casual.*

- 6:00am – 6:30am      Breakfast at hotel
- 6:30am – 6:45am      Check out of hotel
- 6:45am – 7:30am      Transit via hired car to MNL
- 7:30am                      Arrival and check-in process
- 8:40am                      Depart MNL via Philippines Air (PAL Express) 2959  
*Flight time 1h 5m*
- 10:30am                      Arrive Cotabato City Awang (CBO) Airport
- 11:00am – 12:30pm      Transit via hired car to Maguindanao Provincial Hospital
- 12:30pm – 1:00pm      **Working Lunch and Nutrition Briefing led by UNICEF**

The delegation will have a working lunch and be briefed on the health landscape of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which faces significant nutrition challenges, including high rates of stunting and chronic malnutrition, exacerbated by factors like armed conflict and natural disasters. The UN is collaborating with BARMM authorities to address these challenges and supporting BARMM's Regional Plan of Action for Nutrition, which aims to improve food systems, build resilience, and improve social cohesion in the Bangsamoro region.

*Location: Maguindanao Provincial Hospital*

- 1:00pm – 1:30pm      **Visit to Maguindanao Provincial Hospital In-Patient Treatment Center for Acute Malnutrition, Cold Room, Maternal and Child Health Program, and Immunization, Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will tour a local integrated provincial health office to learn how UNICEF is supporting key healthcare efforts in BARMM. The delegation will observe in-patient treatment for acute malnutrition, maternal and child health programs, and ongoing immunization campaign activities.

- 1:30pm – 2:00pm      Transit to Datu Saudi Ampatuan

2:00pm – 2:45pm

**Visit to Resilient Livelihoods Development Project and Women-Friendly Space (WFS) Facility, Supported by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and FAO**

The delegation will visit a local Resilient Livelihoods Development (RLD) Project for Women and Youth Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Maguindanao, which is a joint initiative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), with funding support from the Government of Australia.

Now in its second phase, the project builds on the foundations laid in Phase 1 (2022–2023), which focused on restoring food security and livelihoods for internally displaced women and youth in five conflict-affected municipalities of BARM. Phase 2 (2024–2025) deepens this impact by expanding agricultural value chains, strengthening local enterprises, and embedding enabling policies that support women- and youth-led cooperatives. Together, both phases aim to institutionalize a gender-transformative approach to recovery by integrating sexual and reproductive health, protection, and economic empowerment.

A defining feature of the project is the establishment and operationalization of Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) in each municipality, including Datu Saudi Ampatuan. These WFS serve as safe, accessible, and inclusive “one-stop hubs” that offer GBV response services, psychosocial support, maternal health care, financial literacy, and life skills training. They also serve as launching pads for community-based organizations (CBOs) that are managing agri-enterprises and producing value-added goods under the “Bai the Best!” community brand. Through these CBOs, women and youth—many of whom are Moro, Indigenous, or Christian—are transforming from aid recipients to economic actors and community leaders, demonstrating the power of integrated interventions to restore dignity.

2:45pm – 3:00pm

Transit via hired car to Pink Mosque

3:00pm – 3:15pm

**Visit to the Pink Mosque**

The delegation will visit the Pink Mosque, officially known as Masjid Dimaukom, which is a prominent landmark located in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur. Built in 2014 under the leadership of the late Mayor Samsudin Dimaukom, the mosque is uniquely painted in bright pink to symbolize peace, love, and unity among diverse communities. Unlike traditional mosques, its vivid color makes it stand out and has turned it into both a religious sanctuary and a local tourist attraction. Beyond its visual appeal, the Pink Mosque represents a powerful message of interfaith respect and harmony in a region that has faced historical

conflict, serving as a beacon of hope and cultural pride for the people of Mindanao.

- 3:15pm – 4:45pm Transit via hired car to Rockfort Hotel
- 4:45pm – 5:15pm Check into hotel and Executive Time
- 5:15pm – 5:30pm Transit via hired car to WFP BARMM Field Office
- 5:30pm – 6:15pm **BARMM Background and Political Situation Briefing**

In preparation for the working dinner with BARMM Officials, the delegation will be briefed by the UN in Mindanao Regional Team on relevant background and the current political situation in Mindanao. As of May 2025, the political landscape in BARMM is undergoing significant transformation in anticipation of its first regular parliamentary elections, scheduled for October 13, 2025. These elections, postponed from their original 2022 date due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the delayed enactment of the Bangsamoro Electoral Code, will mark the transition from the interim Bangsamoro Transition Authority to a fully elected regional government.

The electoral process has been complicated by the Supreme Court's 2024 decision to exclude Sulu province from BARMM, necessitating the reallocation of parliamentary districts and the filling of seven vacant seats. Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, appointed in March 2025, has been tasked with overseeing this transition, though his appointment has faced criticism from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for not aligning with their recommended list of nominees. The region is also contending with security challenges, including a rise in election-related violence and clan feuds, prompting the Commission on Elections to designate 90% of BARMM's municipalities and cities as areas of concern. Despite these hurdles, the upcoming elections are seen as a critical step toward solidifying BARMM's autonomous governance and advancing the peace process in Mindanao.

*Location: WFP BARMM Field Office*

- 6:15pm – 6:30pm Transit via hired car to the Office of the Chief Minister of BARRMM
- 6:30pm – 8:30pm **Working Dinner with H.E. Abdulraof Abdulraof Macacua, Chief Minister of Bangsamoro and Additional BARMM Officials**

The delegation will have a working dinner with H.E. Abdulraof Abdulraof Macacua, Chief Minister of Bangsamoro and additional BARMM officials to learn more about the immense progress made in recent years to bring peace and stability to this once conflict-plagued region. For more than four decades, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

(BARMM)—formerly the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)—was in the middle of armed struggle, as the region's residents fought for the right to self-determination. The problem of violence was complicated by land conflicts, violent extremism, and inter-ethnic tensions.

In 2014, the Philippine Government finally signed a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), ending decades of conflict and struggle that claimed more than 150,000 lives from both ends. The deal paved the way for the creation of BARMM in 2019, replacing the former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The agreement aims to address long-standing issues of marginalization, poverty, and self-determination among the Moro people by granting them greater autonomy, a regional government, and control over their resources. The peace process continues to be a work in progress, focusing on normalization, transitional justice, and inclusive governance to ensure long-term stability and development in the region.

*Location: Office of the Chief Minister of BARMM*

8:30pm – 8:45pm Transit via hired car to Rockfort Hotel  
Overnight Rockfort Hotel  
Lot 2, Block 2 San Isidro Ave, Cotabato City, 9600 Maguindanao

### Wednesday, June 18 — BARMM

*Attire: Casual.*

6:45am – 7:00am Breakfasts delivered to individual rooms  
7:00am – 8:00am Transit via hired car to Rural Health Unit of Upi  
8:00am – 9:00am **Visit to Rural Health Unit of Upi, Supported by UNICEF**

The delegation will visit a rural health unit to observe out-patient treatment for acute malnutrition, provincial immunization campaigns, and other vital healthcare programs.

*Location: Rural Health Unit of Upi*

9:00am – 9:30am Transit via hired car to Blala Elementary School  
9:30am – 10:30am **Observe School Feeding at Blala Elementary School (Brgy. Renede), Supported by WFP**

The delegation will visit a local elementary school to learn about the Farm-to-School Meals Programme—a joint initiative of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Government of BARMM. Launched as a pilot

in 2024, the programme now benefits 10,000 elementary learners across 28 schools in ten municipalities of Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte.

The delegation will observe the Farm-to-School Meals Programme in action and learn how it enhances education, health, and nutrition outcomes by delivering cost-effective, nutritious school meals sourced from local smallholder farmers and fishers. By connecting schools with farmers, the programme supports local economies and strengthens community livelihoods. Integrated with school-based water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives, deworming, nutrition education, and agricultural activities such as school gardens, the programme addresses the root causes of poverty and hunger. The delegation will learn how this holistic approach not only improves children's health and learning but also lays the foundation for greater employment opportunities, higher incomes, and improved well-being for future generations.

*Location: Blala Elementary School*

10:15am – 11:00am Transit via hired car to Joint Peace and Security Team Base

11:00am – 11:45am Meeting with the Joint Peace and Security Team (JPST), (Brgy. Ganasi), Supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM-UN Migration) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The delegation will meet with members of the Joint Peace and Security Team (JPSTs)—a peacekeeping force composed of Philippine security personnel and decommissioned Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Mindanao. The JSPT is part of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and each JPST unit is a 30-man composite team from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, and the MILF—half of which are former combatants. The delegation will learn how the JPST in Ganasi, along with others, plays a crucial role in supporting the peace process, maintaining ceasefire mechanisms, assisting in resolving disputes, and promoting human rights.

In support to the normalization process, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the UN implemented the Support to Peacebuilding and Normalization (SPAN) Project, while Japan generously provided support through the UNDP-Japan Assistance to Normalization partnership. Both initiatives aim to provide assistance in the deployment of the JPST and the support of peacekeeping stations in the Bangsamoro Region, which will serve as their base of operations.

*Location: JPST Base*

11:45am – 12:00pm Transit via hired car to Gian's Restaurant

**12:00pm – 1:00pm Working Lunch with UN Field Visit Team and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU)**

The delegation will have a working lunch with the UN field visit team and OPAPRU to ask additional questions about the ongoing peace process.

OPAPRU leads negotiations and facilitates the implementation of Philippine peace agreements with various rebel and insurgent groups, including the MILF and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA). The delegation will learn how the office works on programs that foster reconciliation, transitional justice, and social healing, especially in communities that have experienced armed conflict. Through dialogue, capacity-building, and inclusive peacebuilding efforts, OPAPRU contributes to the creation of a more peaceful and cohesive society, aligned with the government's broader goal of sustainable development and nation-building.

*Location: Gian's, Sinuat Ave Upi, Maguindanao*

**1:00pm – 1:45pm Visit to Construction Site of Indigenous People's School of Living Traditions and Meeting with Minister Melanio U. Ulama, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, and the Maguindanao Indigenous People Association, Supported by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**

The delegation will learn more about the "Support to Bangsamoro Transition" (SUBATRA) Programme, funded by the EU and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The project aims to build the capacity of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Bangsamoro Government and civil society organizations—establishing an environment where democratic governance can flourish in the region.

UNOPS and other partners are implementing the SUBATRA Programme, with UNOPS providing support in overall project management. As part of the SUBATRA Programme, UNOPS is building a new Indigenous People's School of Living Traditions in Upi. This school aims to safeguard ancestral knowledge, traditions, practices, languages, and cultural expressions vital to the identity and resilience of IP communities. The SLT in Upi will serve as a community-led learning space where culture bearers, elders, and knowledge holders transmit traditional knowledge to younger generations. This intergenerational transfer of knowledge is critical in the face of modernization and external influences that can erode cultural practices. Lastly, the delegation will meet with local IP community leaders to better understand how the UN is promoting dialogue, mutual understanding, and recognition within BARMM's peacebuilding and governance frameworks.

*Location: Indigenous People's School of Living Traditions in Upi, Maguindanao*

1:45pm – 2:00pm Transit to Agriculture-Livelihoods Project

2:00pm – 2:45pm **Visit to Agriculture-Livelihoods Project, supported by WFP**

The delegation will learn about UN-led efforts to enhance agriculture-related livelihoods and boost the climate resilience of indigenous women in BARMM. The project, which received a \$780,000 contribution from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in February 2025, is intended to reach 28,000 people from indigenous and rural communities and aims to promote leadership opportunities for women and strengthen their skills for adapting to extreme weather conditions that threatens food and nutrition security.

Under the AECID-funded project, rural and indigenous women are undergoing training in climate-resilient agriculture and leadership skills. The project will aim at strengthening women's cooperatives by linking their agricultural production to reliable markets. The activities will also incorporate social behavior change to improve local food and nutrition practices.

*Location: Agriculture-Livelihoods Project*

2:45pm – 3:45pm Transit via hired car to Rockfort Hotel

3:45pm – 5:45pm Executive Time

5:45pm – 6:00pm Transit to UNOPS Office in BARMM

6:00pm – 8:00pm **Working Dinner Debrief with the UN in Mindanao Regional Team**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief with the UN in Mindanao Regional Team to discuss regional programming and identify opportunity and resource gaps, ask additional questions, discuss lessons learned, and share reflections from their time in BARMM.

*Location: UNOPS Office in BARMM*

**Thursday, June 19 — BARMM/Travel/Manila**

*Attire: Casual.*

9:00am – 10:00am Breakfast and check out of hotel

9:30am – 10:00am Transit via hired car to CBO

10:00am Check in for flight

- 11:10am Depart CBO via Philippines Air (PAL Express) 2960  
*Flight time 1h 40m*
- 12:50pm Arrive MNL
- 1:00pm – 1:30pm Transit via hired car to National Resource Operations Center
- 1:30pm – 2:15pm **Working Lunch at National Resource Operations Center (NROC) and Visit to Emergency Relief Items Warehouses, Supported by WFP**

The delegation will visit the National Resource Operations Center (NROC) in Manila to learn how NROC serves as the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) primary logistics and disaster response hub in the Philippines. NROC is tasked with prepositioning, repacking, and dispatching relief goods and supplies to areas affected by natural disasters, emergencies, and humanitarian crises. The center plays a vital role in the government's disaster preparedness and response efforts, ensuring that aid is delivered swiftly and efficiently to communities in need. The delegation will examine warehouses equipped with emergency materials and learn how NROC maintains a strategic stockpile of food and non-food items that can be mobilized during typhoons, earthquakes, and other emergencies across the country.

*Location: NROC Conference Room*

- 2:15pm – 3:15pm Transit to New Bilibid Prison and Bureau of Corrections
- 3:15pm – 4:00pm **Visit to New Bilibid Prison and Bureau of Corrections, Supported by UNODC**

The delegation will visit New Bilibid Prison to learn how the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is supporting the government's efforts to decongest detention facilities through various initiatives, including establishing jail libraries, implementing the Nelson Mandela Rules, and promoting public health emergency preparedness.

Ranking third in the world for jail and prison overcrowding, the Philippines is working to address systemic issues connected with correctional overcrowding. The Philippines has the eleventh highest prison population in the world and from 2015 to 2021, persons deprived of liberty in the corrections system ballooned from 94,691 to 165,528—an almost 75% rise. With UNODC's advocacy and support, the government has launched an initiative to ensure better jail management, the humane safekeeping of PDLs [persons deprived of liberty], and the speedy delivery of responsive justice.

*Location: New Bilibid Prison*

4:00pm – 4:15pm Transit via hired car to Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Department of Health

4:15pm – 4:45pm **Visit to Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Supported by WHO**

The delegation will visit the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and learn how the RITM is tasked by the Philippine Department of Health and the Philippine Government to supervise, plan, and successfully implement research programs to prevent and to control prevailing infectious and tropical diseases in the Philippines. This includes research involving the advancement of vaccines and medications used by medical professionals, such as physicians, nurses, and medical technologists, that they utilize whenever patients they handle are under the diagnosis and treatment of infectious and treatable and curable diseases.

The institute also trains medical and health workers in order to be further educated in their fields in relation to the management of tropical infectious diseases. Formulation of plans and research projects involving biological products proposed and currently utilized by the Philippine Department of Health are also covered by the functions of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, including the manufacture of biologic products and vaccines.

*Location: Research Institute for Tropical Medicine*

4:45pm – 5:00pm Transit to Putatan Health Center and TBDOTS Clinic

5:00pm – 5:30pm **Visit to Putatan Health Center and TB DOTS Clinic, Supported by WHO**

The delegation will visit the Putatan Health Center to learn about outpatient care for tuberculosis, malnutrition, maternity, and other general health interventions. Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant public health concern in the Philippines, which ranks among the countries with the highest TB burden globally. According to WHO, the Philippines reported approximately 740,000 TB cases in recent years, with thousands of deaths annually. The disease is prevalent particularly in densely populated and low-income areas where access to healthcare, nutrition, and sanitation is limited.

A TB DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course) clinic is a specialized clinic that provides tuberculosis (TB) treatment under direct observation, ensuring patients take their medications as prescribed and complete the full course of treatment. These clinics are crucial for

controlling the spread of TB and reducing drug resistance. One of the major challenges in combating TB in the country is the high rate of undiagnosed and untreated cases, partly due to stigma, limited health-seeking behavior, and gaps in healthcare infrastructure. Additionally, the rise of drug-resistant TB poses a growing threat, requiring more complex and costly treatment. Despite efforts such as the National TB Control Program, challenges in funding, awareness, and consistent treatment adherence continue to hinder the goal of eradicating TB in the Philippines.

*Location: Putatan Health Center and TB DOTS Clinic*

- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Transit to Edsa Shangri-La
- 6:30pm – 7:00pm Check into hotel and Executive Time
- 7:00pm – 9:00pm **Working Dinner with Dr. Eunyong Ko, WHO Deputy Representative to the Philippines; Louie Ocampo, UNAIDS Philippines Country Director; Leila Joudane, UNFPA Representative to the Philippines; Daniele Marchesi, UNODC Head of Office; and Signe Poulsen, Senior Human Rights Adviser, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

The delegation will have a working lunch with leaders from WHO, UNIADS, UNFPA, UNODC, and OCHCR to learn about the health landscape and human rights across the Philippines and how the UN is supporting the country's national health policy and development agenda. The delegation will learn how rapid economic growth and strong country capacity have contributed to Filipinos living longer and healthier. However—despite substantial progress—achievements in health have not been uniform, and challenges remain.

*Location: HEAT Restaurant, Fahrenheit Room, Ground Floor, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel*

- Overnight Edsa Shangri-La Hotel  
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 1550

**Friday, June 20 — Manila**

*Attire: Casual.*

- 7:00am – 7:30am Breakfast at hotel
- 7:30am – 9:00am Travel via hired car to International Training Center on Pig Husbandry
- 9:00am – 9:45am **Visit to the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry, Supported by FAO**

The delegation will visit the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) in the Philippines, which is a specialized institution dedicated to advancing the skills and knowledge of pig farmers, technicians, and livestock professionals both locally and internationally. Located in the province of Batangas, the center was established through a collaboration between the Philippine and Dutch governments to promote sustainable and efficient swine production practices.

The delegation will learn how the ITCPH plays a vital role in combating African Swine Fever (ASF) and keeping American consumers safe through a combination of training, disease surveillance, vaccination, and community engagement. ITCPH provides specialized education on biosecurity and pig management to farmers and local government personnel, helping them adopt effective practices to prevent ASF outbreaks. It also supplies sentinel pigs for monitoring virus presence, which supports the safe repopulation of previously affected farms. In partnership with the Department of Agriculture, ITCPH participated in ASF vaccination trials, showing a 90% antibody response in pigs, which supports the vaccine's effectiveness. Furthermore, ITCPH is an active partner in the "Bantay ASF sa Barangay" initiative, which focuses on grassroots surveillance and containment efforts. By combining technical training, practical tools, and collaboration with local communities and veterinarians, ITCPH is significantly contributing to the recovery and resilience of the country's swine industry.

*Location: International Training Center on Pig Husbandry*

9:45am – 11:15am Transit to the American Cemetery in Manila

11:15am – 12:30pm Expert Guided Visit to the American Cemetery in Manila

The delegation will visit the American Cemetery in Manila, the final resting place of over 17,000 U.S. military personnel who died in the Pacific during World War II, with memorials to thousands more missing in action. The delegation will receive an expert guided visit by a staff member of American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), which plays a crucial role in supporting and maintaining the cemetery. The delegation will learn how the ABMC is responsible for the cemetery's upkeep, ensuring its grounds, headstones, memorials, and visitor facilities are preserved. Beyond maintenance, the ABMC provides historical interpretation and educational programs, helping visitors understand the significance of the sacrifices made during the war. Through guided tours, digital archives, and commemorative events, the commission honors the legacy of fallen soldiers and ensures that their stories continue to inspire future generations.

*Location: American Cemetery in Manila*

12:30pm – 1:15pm Transit via hired car to National Museum of Fine Arts

1:15pm – 2:30pm **Working Lunch and Expert Guided Visit to the National Museum of Fine Arts**

The delegation will have a working lunch with an expert in Filipino art history and engage in a guided visit to the National Museum of Fine Arts. The delegation will learn how the museum is a cornerstone of the Philippines' cultural and artistic heritage. Housed in the former Legislative Building, the museum plays a vital role in preserving and showcasing the country's most important works of visual art, including masterpieces by renowned Filipino artists such as Juan Luna, Félix Resurrección Hidalgo, Fernando Amorsolo, and Carlos "Botong" Francisco. One of its most iconic pieces is Luna's *Spoliarium*, a massive and deeply symbolic painting that reflects the Filipino struggle during Spanish colonization. The delegation will learn how the museum serves as a space for artistic appreciation but also as an educational resource that fosters national pride, cultural identity, and historical awareness.

*Location: Emilia's / National Museum of Fine Arts*

2:30pm – 2:45pm Travel via foot to Intramuros

2:45pm – 4:45pm **Expert Guided Visit to UNESCO World Heritage Site San Agustin Church and Briefing on the History of Intramuros**

The delegation will participate in an expert guided visit to Intramuros, a historic district of Manila often referred to as the "Walled City." Built during the Spanish colonial period in the late 16th century, Intramuros served as the political, religious, and military center of the Spanish government.

Today, Intramuros stands as a cultural and architectural treasure, featuring well-preserved structures like Fort Santiago, Manila Cathedral, and San Agustin Church—the oldest stone church in Manila (built in 1607) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993. The delegation will be briefed on Intramuros' cultural and historical importance and how UNESCO, via its partnerships with the Philippine government and heritage conservation organizations, is promoting the implementation of strict conservation measures at San Agustin, regular maintenance, and restoration efforts that respect the church's original architecture and materials, as well as providing guidelines for managing tourism and urban development around the site to prevent damage and degradation.

4:45pm – 6:00pm Executive Time

6:00pm – 8:00pm **Working Dinner Debrief with UN Colleagues**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief with UN colleagues to discuss lessons learned, post-learning trip follow-up, and potential opportunities for continued engagement and coordination with the U.S. Congress and the UN in the Philippines.

*Location: Saloncito Room, Level Two, Barbara's Heritage Restaurant*

8:00pm – 9:00pm Transit via hired car to Edsa Shangri-La

Half-night Edsa Shangri-La  
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City 1550

**Saturday, June 21 — Manila/Travel/Incheon/Washington, DC**

*Attire: Casual.*

12:00am – 12:15am Check out of hotel

12:15am – 1:05am Transit via hired car to MNL

3:05am Depart MNL via Korean Air 620  
*Flight time 4h 10m*

8:15am Arrive ICN for connection  
*Layover 2h 10m*

10:25am Depart ICN via Korean Air 93  
*Flight time 13h 50m*

11:15am Arrive IAD

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*

Mark DeSaulnier, California  
*Ranking Member*

John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland  
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas  
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

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Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

June 10, 2025

Mr. Kade Smith  
Office of the Honorable Julia Letlow  
142 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to the Philippines,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for June 14 to 21, 2025, sponsored by United Nations Foundation and Eleanor Crook Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:eme

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**You're Invited: UNF Congressional Learning Trip to the Philippines (June 14-21)**

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From Micah Spangler <mspangl@unfoundation.org>

Date Wed 5/7/2025 5:29 PM

To Smith, Kade <Kade.Smith@mail.house.gov>

Cc Verrill, Ted <Ted.Verrill@mail.house.gov>

Dear Kade,

On behalf of the United Nations Foundation, I'm honored to invite you to join a learning trip to explore how the UN in the Philippines is working to help improve health outcomes, advance economic growth, promote peace and justice, accelerate human capital development, and strengthen disaster resilience capabilities.

**The delegation, comprised of 5-7 senior congressional staffers, will depart Washington on Saturday, June 14 and return on Saturday, June 21.**

The Philippines' development history is a story of resilience and uneven progress. After gaining independence in 1946, the country was once seen as one of Asia's most promising economies, but decades of political instability, weak institutions, and overreliance on agriculture slowed its development. The Marcos era in the 1970s brought a wave of infrastructure expansion funded by foreign debt, but this ultimately led to an economic crisis in the 1980s.

Post-1986 reforms laid the groundwork for recovery, but poverty and inequality remained persistent challenges. In the 2000s and 2010s, the Philippines finally gained stronger economic momentum and before the pandemic was one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, with annual GDP growth averaging 6-7%. COVID-19 delayed its progress, but the country is now on a recovery path. If growth stays steady, the Philippines is projected to reach upper-middle-income status between 2026-2028. As such, the UN's role in the Philippines is evolving, shifting from traditional development assistance to transformative strategic partnerships, knowledge generation, and resource leveraging by playing a strong enabling and convening role.

During the course of five full days on the ground, the delegation will meet with the UN Country Team, U.S. Embassy, and Government of the Philippines in Manila and travel to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to see firsthand how the UN is responding to these challenges and adapting to changing landscapes in the Philippines.

While in BARMM—the poorest part of the Philippines, where many communities lack access to basic education, health, and infrastructure services—we will learn how the region was plagued by decades of conflict, largely due to the struggle for self-determination and autonomy by Muslim-majority communities. Following a 2019 agreement between armed groups and the federal government, BARMM has become the Philippines' most significant peace and development milestones and has opened new opportunities for self-governance, economic growth, and social stability.

In addition, we will explore nutrition and food security challenges throughout the country, which are shaped by poverty, extreme weather, and an increasingly uneven food system. Despite economic growth, many Filipino households—especially in rural areas—struggle to access affordable and nutritious food on a regular basis. Undernutrition remains a major public health issue, with high rates of stunting among children under five and widespread micronutrient deficiencies, including iron, iodine, and vitamin A. Adding to the problem, typhoons, droughts, and floods frequently disrupt local food production and supply chains, making food security even more fragile for millions of Filipinos. We will examine how the UN, U.S., and the Government of Philippines are combatting these health threats on multiple fronts, including through the delivery of lifesaving ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods, as well as efforts to foster resilient food systems, reduce unsustainable agriculture practices, and increase access to nourishing diets.

**If you are interested in participating in this learning trip, please kindly let us know by Monday, May 12 as space is limited.**

We hope your busy schedule allows you to take this opportunity to learn more about the UN's work in the Philippines and how U.S. leadership is essential to advancing shared foreign policy priorities across this critical Indo-Pacific ally.

All the best,

Micah Spangler  
Senior Director, Advocacy & External Relations  
United Nations Foundation  
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