

8th World Autism Awareness Day

The Embassy wishes to inform everyone of the enclosed letter dated 13 March 2015 from Ms. Carmen R. Zubiaga, Acting Executive Director of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) regarding the observance of the **“8th World Autism Awareness” on 02 April 2015**, adopting the theme **“Employment: The Autism Advantage”**.

This global event aims to bring the world’s attention to millions of individuals affected by this disorder to help them lead a full and meaningful life.

The NCDA is requesting support for the celebration by intensifying public awareness and increasing consciousness on accepting persons with autism as members of the society.

The NCDA has suggested the following activities to support the celebrations:

1. Hanging of streamers (layout and design are downloadable at NCDA website <http://www.ncda.gov.ph>);
2. Exhibit of artworks made by people with autism; and
3. Illuminating the office buildings and landmarks through **“Light It Up Blue”** in the evening of 02 April.

Filipinos in Australia are enjoined to support the 8th World Autism Awareness Day.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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March 13, 2015

HON. ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO
Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs
11th Floor DFA Building
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

BY: _____
NO: _____

Attention: **Ms. Marian Jocelyn Tirol-Ignacio**
Director, United Nations and Other International Organizations (UNIO)

Dear Secretary Del Rosario:

On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139 declaring April 2 as **World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)** in perpetuity. Copy of said resolution is attached for your ready reference and perusal. This UN resolution declares WAAD as one of the only four official health-specific United Nations Days that will bring the world's attention to autism, a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions of the human race. This global event aims primarily to give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood, and looking for help to improve their lives so that they can lead full and meaningful lives. With this significant event, the Day's observance would shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis.

Now on the eighth annual observance, the United Nations adopted this year the theme "**Employment: The Autism Advantage**" owing to the result of a research of the United Nations that employers are missing out on abilities that people with autism spectrum disorder have in greater abundance than a 'neurotypical workers' do. A global research conducted by the United Nations revealed that more than 80% of adults with autism are unemployed.

In consonance with this global event, the Philippines is joining with the rest of the countries of the world in commemorating the WAAD thru the holding of a **Light-It-Up Blue (LIUP)** ceremony nationwide. LIUP involves the lighting-up blue of edifices, landmarks, monuments, churches, schools including the homes, and other related infrastructures. The country's commemoration will be held simultaneously nationwide on April 6, a resetting of the April 2 schedule as it falls on Holy Thursday. As a matter of time-honored tradition, we give reverence to the Lenten season, hence the resetting. A symbolic ceremony will be held on said date at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City where its iconic globe will be lighted blue at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. The LIUP is an awareness campaign that started in New York City, New York, USA on the date the WAAD was adopted under the auspices of Autism Speaks, a US-based non-governmental organization that promotes global support for persons with autism. This campaign was unprecedented in its breadth and depth.

In view of the foregoing, we would like to seek your support by replicating the above-mentioned activity in your agency including your affiliated organizations by hanging streamers in conspicuous areas within your office premises. We would deeply appreciate if you could also issue a memorandum, circular or similar directive to be circulated within the agency circle. The design and layout of the streamer can be downloaded at the NCCA website <http://www.ncca.gov.ph>.

Should you need further details on the matter, please feel free to get in touch with us through the staff in-charge, Mr. Rizalio R. Sanchez at Telephone Numbers 951-5013 or 932-6422 local 111, or thru Mobile Phone No. 0920-9062306. You can also email us at council@ncca.gov.ph.

We look forward to your unselfish support and participation to the Day's celebration.

Very truly yours,

CARMEN R. ZUBIAGA
Acting Executive Director

Encl: as stated.
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United Nations

A/RES/62/139



General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 January 2008Sixty-second session
Agenda item 66 (a)**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2007***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/435)]***62/139. World Autism Awareness Day***The General Assembly,*

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁴ according to which children with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, as well as the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Aware that autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, mostly affecting children in many countries irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status, and characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restricted, repetitive behaviour, interests and activities,⁵

Deeply concerned by the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent development challenges to long-term health care, education, training and intervention programmes undertaken by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as its tremendous impact on children, their families, communities and societies,

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ Resolution 61/106, annex I.

⁵ See *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, tenth revision (subcategories F84.0 and F84.1), endorsed by the forty-third World Health Assembly in May 1990.

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Recalling that early diagnosis and appropriate research and interventions are vital to the growth and development of the individual,

1. *Decides* to designate 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2008;
2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Autism Awareness Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of autism;
3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding children with autism;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

76th plenary meeting
18 December 2007