



Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
Department of Justice
Manila

OFFICE FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Year-End Report for CY 2021

The OADR was established under Republic Act No. 9285, otherwise known as the ADR Act of 2004, as an attached agency of the DOJ, with the following objectives:

- 1) Promote, develop and expand the use of ADR in the private and public sectors;
- 2) Assist the government to monitor, study and evaluate the use by the public and the private sector of ADR; and
- 3) Recommend to Congress needful statutory changes to develop, strengthen and improve ADR practices in accordance with world standards.

In 2021, OADR still operated as a line program of the DOJ Proper. In the said year, the Office continued its transition strategy that commenced with the President's appointment of the first Executive Director of OADR in January 2020. Core operational targets were achieved, and transition towards full attached agency operations by 2022 was pursued as envisioned in the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan and DOJ Development Plan.

ADR Trainings

The OADR continued to develop of modules and conducted trainings for national government agencies and local government units. As shown in the table below, the target number of trained ADR practitioners was exceeded with a total of 1,153 participants in 12 activities.

Activity	No. of Target Participants	No. of Actual Participants
Course on Mediation	70	80
Course on Arbitration	70	76
Course on ADR Mechanisms under the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP)	960	997
Total	1,100	1,153

The activities were all conducted via online platforms due to pandemic-related risks and constraints. Participants were from the justice, agriculture, environment, trade, finance, insurance, labor, housing, education and defense sectors. The KP Course trained the members of Lupong Tagapamayapa in all six (6) Justice Zones under the Justice Sector Convergence Program.

The OADR also assisted in the delivery of similar courses to the cities of Valenzuela and Manila as well as the Local Government Academy. In recognition of OADR's efforts, the Office was awarded with the "CapDev Game Changer Award" on 21 December 2021 by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) among its other partners.

ADR Promotion

The OADR mounted 17 key advocacy activities in 2021, as follows:

Activity	No. of Participants
ADR Orientation Seminar for the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela (PLV)	49
OADR Webinar Series (OWS) Season 2 (10 Episodes)	47,934
Regional ADR Roadshows for Region IV-A	940
ADR Symposium	769
2 nd National ADR Convention	3,478

Except for the PLV seminar, the activities were conducted via online platforms. Collectively, these activities gathered a total of 53,170 participants.

To ensure maximum reach, the OADR made use of its official Facebook page as a live stream platform. All activities of the agency for 2021 reached 1,068,083 viewers in Facebook and 35,700 followers.

To cater to the participants who are non-Facebook users, the OADR created its official YouTube account for the live simulcast of the 2nd NADRC in December. The OADR garnered a total of 493 YouTube subscribers with 3,783 views and reaching up to 67,400 users. These numbers are expected to increase with the official launching of the OADR YouTube channel in 2022.

Accreditation and Compliance Monitoring

The OADR continued to efficiently implement DOJ Circular No. 49, s. 2012, governing the accreditation of ADR providers and training standards for ADR practitioners.

The Office received and completed in 2021 the processing of fifty-seven (57) applications for accreditation within the prescribed periods, which resulted to the following record from 2020 up to the end of 2021:

Accreditations	2021	Total No. of Active Accreditations
Private ADR provider organizations (APO)	4	8
Public ADR program (government agency)	-	1
ADR Practitioners (individual)	24	32
ADR Neutrals (recognized as part of accredited APOs)	42	154

The OADR also reviewed and approved six (6) ADR training programs for government agencies in 2021.

The accredited APOs and approved training programs have been subjected to extensive compliance monitoring in relation to the established quality and program standards. The procedures thereon were developed and established in early 2021. Among the results of such monitoring are policy and process improvements in relation to accreditation and the quality standards.

ADR Policy and Program Oversight/Engagements

The OADR accomplished the following consistent with justice sector strategies and other government policies, programs and initiatives:

- 1) Developed and secured the approval for the implementation of the ADR Policy Framework and Governance Strategy Projects with technical assistance under the Justice Sector Reform Programme: Governance in Justice II (GOJUST II) funded by the European Union, to cover the formulation of legislative/administrative proposals relative to the ADR Act of 2004, and development of a strategic roadmap for ADR in the country; and
- 2) Formulated and issued OADR Advisory No. 2021-1: Guidelines for the Design, Establishment, Implementation, Management and Monitoring of ADR Programs in the Executive Branch, pursuant to Executive Order No. 97, s. 2012, and based on extensive research and monitoring of dispute resolution mechanisms of government agencies.

Upon the request of other agencies concerned, the OADR participated in the following initiatives:

- 1) Securities and Exchange Commission guidelines for arbitration of intra-corporate disputes pursuant to the Revised Corporation Code;
- 2) Lulong Tagapamayapa Incentive Awards of the DILG, with OADR officials as member of the National Board of Judges; and
- 3) Search for Outstanding Labor-Management Cooperation and Grievance Machinery for Industrial Peace of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board.

Institutional Development and Other Key Accomplishments

The OADR continued to implement ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System with the establishment of systems and procedures towards certification by 2022. The initiative started in 2020 with technical assistance from the Development Academy of the Philippines under the Government Quality Management Program.

Six (6) Advisory Council meetings were convened from which valuable inputs on policy and program directions were received from members (appointed by the Justice Secretary) representing the legal sector and ADR stakeholders. Moreover, all referrals/requests for representation, briefings and lectures for various government agencies and domestic/international organizations were attended to. Requests for legal services such as opinions/guidance and appointment of arbitrators were also duly acted upon.

The OADR will continue to carry out its objectives, functions and strategies. The Office will also be commencing its autonomous agency operations as effected in the 2022 General Appropriations Act.