

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

NO. _____

TO : All Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, ARMM Regional Governor, DILG Regional Directors and Others Concerned

SUBJECT : Guidelines on Website Design for Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the National Computer Center (NCC) issued Joint Circular No. 1, series of 2010 on June 29, 2010 that provided the guidelines on website design for accessibility of persons with disabilities (PWDs). This Circular is in "compliance to **Article 9, Section 2, paragraph (g) and (h) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** which the Philippines ratified on April 15, 2008. The provisions declare, "***(g) promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet; and (h) promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.***" Said provisions were directly derived from the "Manila Declaration on Accessible ICT" which recognizes the importance of promoting the implementation of the "Manila ICT Design Recommendations" that sets the minimum threshold of accessibility with reasonable accommodation for websites access to eliminate web-based information barriers.

The Philippine Web Accessibility Group (PWAG), a non-profit, government registered, association of web designers and advocates of web accessibility based in the Philippines, is willing to assist the local government units (LGUs) in making their websites PWD-friendly. The making of a PWD-friendly website is inexpensive and easy. Should you require PWAG's assistance, please feel free to contact MR. JOJO ESPOSA, JR., President, Philippine Web Accessibility Group (PWAG) thru email at jojomccid@yahoo.com or mobile phone +639204656138 and/or MR. JULIUS CHARLES SERRANO, Member, Philippine Web Accessibility Group (PWAG) thru email at julius_serrano@gmail.com or mobile phone +639332763962 or you may access the PWAG website at <http://www.pwag.org> for more information on web accessibility.

In this connection, all local chief executives are encouraged to adopt and implement the technical standards in the design of their websites as prescribed in the attached joint circular.

All DILG Regional Directors are directed to cause the immediate dissemination of this circular within their respective areas of assignments.

For compliance and appropriate action of all concerned.

JESSE M. ROBREDO
Secretary