

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9401



Introduced by Representative Rodante D. Marcoleta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Dr. Sooyeon Hwang.

Section 1, Article IV of the 1987 Constitution identifies who are citizens of the Philippines. Foreign nationals who wish to acquire Filipino citizenship may do so through naturalization in accordance with law, which includes naturalization by direct act of Congress.

Dr. Sooyeon Hwang is a Korean national born on May 28, 1960 in Seoul, South Korea. He is the founder and member of the Board of Trustees of the Pacific InterContinental College – Philippines, Chairperson of the Pacific InterContinental College Global Foundation, and Chairperson of the Pacific InterContinental College – USA. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Sebastien Montessori, Inc. and Monte Cristo Research and Educational Institute, Inc., which are both located in Cavite.

Dr. Hwang first visited the Philippines in 2000 and started to learn about the culture and status of the Philippine education system. Since then, he envisioned to provide education to more Filipinos that face physical challenges in going to school to be educated. In 2006, he founded the Pacific InterContinental College, Philippine branch located in Las Piñas City and introduced distance learning to Filipino students through online mode of education degree programs. To further promote the education of physically challenged Filipinos, he provides home schooling for the elementary and high school students through Monte Cristo Research and Educational Institute, Inc. The distance learning and home schooling were introduced by Dr. Hwang long before the COVID-19 pandemic.

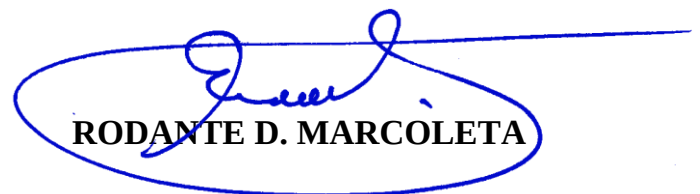
Dr. Hwang envisions to make the Philippines as a “*world teacher nation*” and contributes in developing the country as a “*nation of teachers in the world*” by

preparing a center for English education in the country and providing scholarship grants to thousands of aspiring public school teachers to obtain master's and doctoral degree. Since 2015, the Pacific InterContinental College has provided scholarship grants to public school teachers comprising of twelve (12) students in the undergraduate degree program, four thousand seven hundred thirty-three (4,733) students in the master's degree program and five hundred ninety-three (593) students in the doctoral degree program. A total of five thousand three hundred thirty-eight (5,338) public school teachers benefited from the scholarship grants.

With the Philippines as the center of the Pacific InterContinental College educational efforts, Dr. Hwang aims to provide education to more Filipino students. He purchased four (4) private schools that offer elementary and high school programs. Two of the four (4) private schools, Sebastien Montessori, Inc. and Monte Cristo Research and Educational Institute, Inc., are already operating. He wanted to become a Filipino citizen in order to do more for the country's education system. Being a Filipino citizen will enable him to contribute more to the country's development and progress through his efforts to innovate the education system with distance learning and home schooling.

Dr. Hwang sees the Philippines as the country where he wants to spend the rest of his life and he is looking forward to educating more Filipinos across the country. With all the notable contributions of Dr. Hwang for the Philippines, particularly in education, granting him citizenship will greatly benefit the country.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is respectfully sought.



RODANTE D. MARCOLETA

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AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO DR. SOOYEON HWANG

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Dr. Sooyeon Hwang is hereby granted Philippine Citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto, under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Dr. Sooyeon Hwang shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Dr. Sooyeon Hwang who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,