

In addition to these, there are others which may be proclaimed by the President from time to time as local or national holidays. Most business affairs are suspended on legal or specially declared holidays.

The day designated by law for holding a general election, national referendum or plebiscite is also a statutory holiday, as may be the day before and the day after an election or referendum. In addition, during typhoon season in Luzon and the Visayas, it is not uncommon for offices to remain closed for one or more days until the typhoon has passed.

MEASURES. The Philippines uses the metric system.

ELECTRICITY. Electricity is generally supplied at 220 volts, 60 cycles, AC; however, 110 volt outlets are not uncommon. For light industrial purposes, three-phase 460/320 volt, 60 cycle, AC power outlets are used. Two-prong, North American-type plugs are normally used for 220 volt outlets, although European style plugs are also used.

POST, TELEX, TELEPHONE. Air mail from Canada to the Philippines usually takes 10 to 14 days. Surface mail can take several months. Telegram, facsimile and telex facilities are available and are efficient. International telephone service is also available 24 hours a day.

Business Practices

Philippine time is **12** hours ahead of Canadian Eastern Standard Time. All of the islands fall within the same time zone.

BUSINESS HOURS. Commercial and business offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break. Government offices are open Mondays through Fridays while some offices in the private sector are also open on Saturdays. Banking hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekdays.

DRESS. Business dress is more relaxed than in many other countries. Local businessmen and expatriates working in the Philippines typically wear an embroidered shirt, the Barong Tagalog, that is very comfortable in the heat. Safari suits are acceptable, as are standard business suits, although frequently a jacket is not worn except on formal occasions.