

CEAP UPDATES

For the past few months since November 2008, Msgr. Gerry reported that the Office of the CEAP President and Acting Executive Director, Sr. Tess Bayona, SPC, have been on top in addressing critical issues and concerns affecting CEAP. This was effectively done with the active participation of majority of the members of the CEAP Board.

1. Membership

Application for membership has been devolved to the Regions with the Regional Director at the helm. However, uniform guidelines shall be adopted. A review of the guidelines shall be included in the review of the CEAP Constitution and By-Laws by a Committee.

The Board approved the following schools for Membership in the CEAP:

1. Blessed Elena Kindergarten, Alicia, Bohol
2. Mother Serafina Learning Center, Mandaue City
3. Holy family of Nazareth School, Tubigon, Bohol
4. Sacred Heart Learning Center, Ubay, Bohol
5. Dominican School of Cebu, Consolacion, Cebu
6. Jesus Son of Mary Academy, Inc., Dasmariñas, Cavite
7. University of Perpetual Help –JONELTA, Biñan, Laguna
8. University of Perpetual Help –DALTA, Calamba, Laguna

2. ACCCRE National Assembly

A national assembly of the Association of Catechetical Centers and Colleges with Religious Education (ACCCRE) had been held in Zamboanga City on January 14-16, 2009 focusing on “Inculturated Religious Education”. Speakers were Fr. Joel Miranda from University of San Carlos Cebu City and Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, SJ, DD of Cgayan de Oro. The output was a template on an inculturated type of catechesis in the Philippines because RelEd is strongly westernized.

3. Pope Benedict XVI Summer Festival of Catechesis and Christian Formation

The festival will be held on May 20-22, 2009 at the DLSU with concurrent sessions on topics on religious education.

4. Youth Camp

The Youth Camp piloted by CEAP-NCR with the theme BIDA BIDA Be the CHANGE, held on November 14-15, 2008 at the La Salle Greenhills was a success. Some CEAP regions like Regions II, III, IV and XI were represented. The second youth camp will be held on November 29-30, 2009 with nation-wide participation.

5. Catholic Education Week

January 24-31 has been declared Catholic Education Week in honor of the patron Saints of Catholic education like St. Francis de Sales, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. John Bosco.

6. Certificate in Catholic Schools Leadership Program (CCSLP)

The CCSLP to be conducted by CEAP NCR will be held at St. Joseph's College, Quezon City on April 15-30, 2009.

7. 2009 CEAP NATIONAL CONVENTION

The CEAP National Convention shall be on September 16 -18, 2009 at the Tent City of Manila Hotel. Breakup group discussions shall be done in the function rooms of the Manila Hotel. September 14-15, 2009 shall be the Superintendents Commission Assembly; September 15 shall be for the Retirement Assembly; and September 18 P.M. for the MTF.

7.1 Participation of the Local Church/Bishops

Based on the results of the evaluation of the 2008 National Convention in Davao City, there was a clamor for a stronger partnership between the local Church and CEAP.

During the Davao Assembly, it was also suggested that the Bishops be invited to join the Convention so that CEAP schools will become more aware of the concerns of the local Church and vice-versa. This shall be an opportune time for the CEAP National Convention as the Bishops will end the Asian Marian Congress in Lipa City with a Mass at the Manila Cathedral on September 16, 2009. In this case it will also be the Mass that will usher the opening of the CEAP National Convention.

7.2 National Candidates to be invited

The national candidates for the 2010 National Elections will be invited to present their platforms and legislative agenda especially on education during the Convention.

In preparation for this activity universities like De La Salle shall search on the profiles of candidates to be shared to CEAP as part of voters' education.

A committee will prepare the guidelines or talking points for the candidate-speakers since this is not an ordinary forum. The talks should be aligned with Catholic education.

7.3 Holding of Regional Assemblies

Regional assemblies shall be held before the national convention in order that the regions' programs and issues may be presented in the convention.

8. Philippine Task Force on Education (PTFE)

The final report of the Philippine Task Force on Education has been submitted to President Gloria Arroyo on December 9, 2008. However, some concerns were raised such as the following:

- **That the consultation process** has to be much larger than the consultation PTFE had initiated. While PTFE's effort of calling school presidents is much appreciated, such is not sufficient and may not be efficient when talking about educational reforms. Many of the reforms were designed toward the acceptability of graduates of colleges and universities in the job market.
- **The question on adding another year.** If another year is added to the high school system, as covered by the Constitution, the government should sufficiently provide funding. If added to the tertiary system which is mostly covered by private schools, this will be an additional burden to the private sector.
- **No legislative proposals.** CEAP must push for the legislation on the regulation of government standards, one of which is bringing basic education, technical-vocational and tertiary education in one house or department. A TEACHER be tapped for this with some lawyers to work on the preliminaries. CEAP has to realize that educational institutions need policy stability to properly develop programs.

The 1200 CEAP member schools will be a force to reckon with. We should be able to put our position together, advocate for a department of education, and push for the creation of a commission to guarantee the standards of education that is insulated from politics.

9. RH Bill

The CEAP has joined the clamor of the CBCP and some lay groups in scrapping the present RH Bill filed in Congress. In fact, CEAP has published its position on the RH Bill, CHACHA and CARPER in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on December 10, 2008.

With the assistance of Fr. Joel Tabora, an Alternative RH Bill was drafted by Atty. Rose Sergio of the Ateneo de Naga University. The CEAP document follows the framework of Fr. Genilo's paper that would push for a "Catholic" perspective but a highly ecumenical and interfaith bill.

There will also be a dialogue between three bishops; namely, Bp. Soc Villegas, Bp. Luis Antonio Tagle and Bp. Broderick Pabillo with the group of Hon. Lagman.

10. MANUAL OF REGULATIONS

The Manuel of Regulations for Private Higher Education Schools has been out of the press.

It is requested that legal luminaries like Atty. Atty. Sarmiento and Atty. Padilla, Jr. do extensive work in bringing it down to the regions and schools.

11. WITHDRAWAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CMO # 5, s. 2008

As a result of the meeting between the CEAP and COCOPEA officers led by Msgr. Gerry Santos and the CHED Chairman, Dr. Emmanuel Angeles, CHED Memorandum Order # 1, s. 2009 withdrawing the implementation of CMO # 5, s. 2008 effective end of School Year 2008-2009 was issued.

In the same meeting, Dr. Angeles also presented a framework to review the whole set-up of education, particularly higher education.

CEAP will set four (4) meetings with the CHED to which the CHED Chairman is open. Msgr. Gerry proposed quarterly meetings not only with CHED but also DepEd, TESDA, Congressional Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, FAPE and PRC.

12. TEXTBOOK ISSUE

This pertains to errors in textbooks. CEAP should take part in the review of textbooks being purchased by schools and actively participate in the pursuit of excellent education. The Superintendents Commission has been tasked the task of textbook review.

13. SOLEMNITY OF THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 8)

A CEAP NCR concept paper gathered from different sources has been prepared regarding the observance of the Solemnity of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8).

Traditionally, it has been a holiday but in recent past, students hardly go to Mass on December 8.

Msgr. Gerry Santos has written CBCP through Archbishop Lagdameo to make December 8 a non-academic school day in order that students celebrate Mass and engage in Marian activities and to endorse its implementation in all Catholic schools in the country.

14. PPCRV/NAMFREL – CEAP/COCOPEA MOA Signing

In line with CEAP's advocacy on engaged citizenship that provides a framework of partnership with lay associations committed to 2010 National Elections, a MOA signing was held in the afternoon of January 12, 2009 between PPCRV-NAMFREL headed by Ambassador. Tita de Villa and CEAP President and COCOPEA Chairman, Msgr. Gerry Santos. The MOA was also signed by CBCP Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace, Bishop Broderick Pabillo, and Commissioner Rene Sarmiento of the Commission on Elections as witnesses.

The 2010 elections shall be supported not only by CEAP but also by the other four (4) national private educational associations namely: ACSCU, PACU, PAPSCU and TEVSAPHIL. The MOA will bring these associations into the mainstream of transforming Philippine culture through engaged citizenship. The MOA pushes for the following major agreements:

- Voters' education
- Automation of the elections
- Registration for first time voters and cleansing of voters' lists

The implementing guidelines will be drafted by an adhoc committee composed of representatives of the Boards of COCOPEA, CEAP and PPCRV-NAMFREL.

15. On the Mindanao Situation

15.1 Memorandum of Agreement

A paper is being finalized, the objective of which is to find out what the different sectors think about the present situation in Mindanao. The Church, Ulama and non-Catholic sectors will make the consultations and work together. The MOA will be presented to Malacañang in January 19.

15.2 History of Mindanao

Prof. Rodie Rodil is writing on the History of Mindanao reflective of the real situation in Mindanao. This will be the mother volume since there is also an effort to write the history of other parts of Mindanao like Davao.

15.3 Meeting with the Mindanao Bishops

Msgr. Gerry informed the body that in a meeting with Bishop Capalla and other bishops, some good actions have surfaced:

- Openness of schools to join the peace process;
- The insertion of Catholic schools in the peace process of the local Church;
- CEAP's participation in the peace process through consultation and research to bring dialogue into a more formal, scientific discussion and coordinated move.

A resolution was made to let the Mindanao group work on awareness/ conscientization modules on the proper history of Mindanao to be included in the textbooks to change nationwide biases and prejudices on Muslim Mindanao.

16. COCOPEA Matters

- CEAP through Msgr. Gerry Santos took on the leadership of COCOPEA. He spearheaded a COCOPEA Strategic Planning held in ADMU on January 9-10, 2009.
- It was proposed that with the number of schools under COCOPEA, teachers, staff, students and parents should be able to bring 2 more representatives of A TEACHER Party List to Congress. It also suggested that COCOPEA meets regularly with the trifocal sectors of education and commissions a competent Committee to look into the advocacy for educational reforms.