



COCOPEA Statement on Additional Year in Education

January 29, 2009

The Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) is supportive of any proposed reforms to improve the quality of education in the country, including the current proposals to adjust the school years of the education cycle, as long as proper consultations and due diligence are undertaken.

However, the Council does not anticipate any implementation of an additional 1 year this June, given the amount of analysis and preparation CHED and the HEIs will need to do prior to any implementation. Further, there is still no concrete policy on the additional year being recommended by the Presidential Task Force on Education (PTFE).

Recognizing the impact of the current financial crisis on the cost of private education, COCOPEA believes that this matter should be taken with extreme caution. As the voice of the private education sector, COCOPEA is accountable to its students and therefore places their best interest first and foremost.

Hence COCOPEA urges the government to ensure that measures to improve the education system, such as adding another year in the tertiary level, be decided upon with due consideration to the financial burden it entails for students and parents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ben Yngente".

DR. BENJAMIN R. YNGENTE
ACSCU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jose Paulo E. Campos".

DR. JOSE PAULO E. CAMPOS
PAPSCU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Vicente K. Fabella".

DR. VICENTE K. FABELLA
PACU President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Constancio A. Sia".

ENGR. CONSTANCIO A. SIA
TEVSAPHIL President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gerardo O. Santos".

MS. GERARDO O. SANTOS
CEAP President
COCOPEA Chairman