

CEAP-FAPE CONFERENCE on K to 12 TRANSITION
Synthesis and Next Steps
January 22, 2013
Yuchengco Auditorium, De La Salle University

A pleasant good afternoon to all of you! I have been given this unenviable task of having to synthesize and summarize our discussions for the past two days and I hope I do justice to this particular assignment given to me as all of our resource persons have shared to us a lot of information as well as updates on our road to K to 12.

Our NBEC and NTEC Chairpersons Msgr. Ely Rafael Fuentes and Br. Ricardo Laguda FSC respectively shared to us inspiring, profound and challenging words from Peter Drucker and Nelson Mandela to welcome all of us in this two-day summit. Msgr. Fuentes recommended to "continue to look for more avenues where we can be informed and also inform, in order to make our decisions valid, reliable and sustainable and to not stop until we find the model best suited and tailored fit to the needs of our clientele." Br. Ricky, on the other hand shared, that with K to 12, "we have the opportunity to change the way we educate the youth of today and the future. This demands a new way of thinking, a new way of teaching, a new way of learning and a new sense of accountability for every peso spent in providing quality education."

Our CEAP Executive Director Ms. Rhodora Angela Ferrer gave the overview of this two-day summit and shared to us the objective to assist administrators/teachers in three (3) areas of concern:

1. the labor and legal implications of the transition,
2. senior high school curriculum and the various pathways and
3. public-private partnership in education particularly for SHS.

DepEd K to 12 program coordinator Mr. Elvin Uy represented Br. Armin Luistro FSC to give us the status report on the K to 12 Program Implementation for SY 2012-2013. Highlights of DepEd's report included:

1. Sharing/reiterating the agency's commitment to zero deficits in classrooms, teachers, textbooks and seats by the end of 2013,
2. That the K to 12 legislation has been approved on its 3rd and final reading in the House of Representatives last month and was approved by the Senate yesterday in its 3rd and final reading (one senator shared that *"This is more than just about expanding basic education by adding two years to a 10-year cycle. This is about the State, the Filipino people as a single policy, fulfilling the solemn duty to educate and nurture its citizens to the best of our collective abilities."*)

3. A review on past presentations about K to 12 curriculum
4. On the possible changes of the College GE curriculum
5. The reiteration of the Philippine Qualifications Framework
6. And building capacity for Senior High School including: a. Qualified non-DepEd schools can offer SHS, b. Financing and Partnership Schemes: DepEd-Fund and Externally-provided SHS and c. SHS Teachers: Qualified graduates, professionals and experts.

The open forum with Mr. Elvin Uy resulted in the following responses:

1. DepEd's commitment for 2013 (SHS curriculum, IRR of the K to 12 legislation, updated manual of regulations and financing and PPP schemes for SHS and K to 12 provision in DepEd's budget by 2014.
2. Financing partnership will be limited to operational financing. DepEd is not yet ready for investment financing (e.g. structures).
3. Modeling to be a limited exercise, limited schools to be involved.
4. There will be qualifying standards from junior to senior high school and that there will achievement exams at the end of grades 3, 6, 10 and 12.
5. That DepEd is initially thinking of giving a support (still through GASTPE) a little higher than the existing support per student.
6. There is an-going study in partnership with the Asian Development Bank on the absorptive capacity of schools to help determine the plans for public schools that will/may open SHS.

CEAP Legal Counsel Atty. Anna Maria Abad, in the afternoon shared to us the "Labor Implications of K to 12 and other Legal Issues."

Highlights of Atty. Abad's presentation included:

1. Atty. Abad gave a brief backgrounder on some of the discussions of the past K to 12 summit highlighting the four (4) concerns (financial capacity of schools to put up the SHS, minimum requirements of the teachers, LET requirement for Grades 11 & 12 teachers, and K to 12 effect on college curriculum) that were raised in the July 2012 summit, also at DLSU.
2. Atty. Abad also discussed six (6) different scenarios for schools to consider depending on the existing academic departments and plans for SHS.
3. With the discussions of the scenarios for consideration, Atty. Abad discussed the various ways of handling human resource and how to better plan the teacher movements in the coming years.
4. Atty. Abad reminded the schools to keep the number of employees as needed by its operations, and that schools are in no obligation to keep the "status quo" of human resource if the number is beyond the need to operate fully.

To cap the day, Ms. Ginny Villa shared the voters' education initiatives of PPCRV for a CHAMP (Clean, Honest, Accurate, Meaningful, Peaceful) 2013 elections. She mentioned that all of their efforts are not only geared towards to the upcoming elections but to extend up until the 2016 Presidential, National and Local elections. Ms. Villa also shared innovative and technology-based activities (mobile games) as part of their voters' education initiatives so that "ang BOTO KO, DANGAL KO, IPAGTATANGGOL KO" will be the battle cry of each Filipino citizen and responsible voter.

Day Two concentrated on the presentations of the "Models of Senior High School for the various pathways"

Sr. Merceditas Ang SPC presented the Performing Arts Track of the Paulinian Curriculum for Grades 11 & 12.

Sr. Marissa Viri, RVM presented the Senior HS Science and Technology, Information Technology Education and Engineering Track/s for the RVM Schools.

Sr. Corazon Manalo DC presented the Daughters of Charity Transition Models for Health & Allied Sciences.

Fr. Onofre Inocencio, SDB presented the Voc-Tech Track for the Don Bosco Schools.

Fr. Gerardo Ma. De Vila OSB presented the Sports Track for San Beda Alabang.

And Dr. Gina Montalban presented Ateneo de Davao's SHS Curriculum Development through Curriculum Vertical Articulation Approach.

For our colleagues not having enough guides to use as their reference in their presentations, our resource speakers this morning presented very comprehensive and detailed plans that all of us can consider in our preparations for the different tracks.

This afternoon, PEAC Education PPP Steering Team Chair Dr. Vicente Fabella discussed "Public-Private Partnerships in Education."

Highlights of Dr. Fabella's presentation included:

1. The Department of Education is very serious with Publi-Private Partnerships.
2. Comprehensive discussion on the PPP models for Senior High Schools such as:
 - a. Expansion of the current ESC Program
 - b. Voucher System and;

c. Concessions

When I had been given this task, I really took time in accepting the invitation as the assignment will primarily synthesize and summarize information and discussions, some of which are still "tentative, temporary, as of the moment, work-in-progress" ideas but I am also given an opportunity to share my own ideas and take on this opportunity to be a part of a generation of greatness, at least on the Philippine Educational System. At this year is the YEAR OF FAITH, let me draw inspiration from our Catholic Faith and Tradition in sharing with you the suggested next steps:

The K to 12, as a major educational reform is almost here and is definitely here to stay. While some of us are still not totally sold on it due to the many questions and concerns not yet answered, LET US EMBRACE IT WITH FAITH. Our seminars, conventions and summits for the past years until now have always articulated the benefits of the program. In the same manner, let us not forget that this educational reform has been "reminded" of us by the global community. While government particularly DepEd in coordination with CHED and TESDA are the ones pushing for this (at the forefront), it is the global community that has asked us to plan and implement this. Planning and implementing this better prepares our students, our countrymen to participate in this global community.

As far as I can remember, Br. Armin said that government, public and private schools will have financial challenges and difficulties at the onset of the implementation of the program. Based on the presentation of Mr. Elvin Uy yesterday and past discussions with the DepEd Secretary, the government has remained committed to provide the necessary support to encourage public-private partnership. With careful planning by the private schools, these financial challenges and difficulties can be tempered if not averted. LET US WALK WITH FAITH with our government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, TESDA and other government agencies involved in this major educational reform.

It has also been shared to us that not all schools (public and private) will get into the establishment of the Senior High School due to financial constraints and other considerations. Let us use our future K to 12 seminars, conventions and summits to also talk to one another (especially the schools in our areas) and hear out each other's plans about this. While we don't expect all of us to share all of our cards, our plans with one another, LET US WORK WITH FAITH WITH ONE ANOTHER to make sure our respective areas are K to 12 ready and can accommodate our graduates in all our schools.

As Mr. Elvin Uy has put very transparently and honestly yesterday, the entire picture is not yet complete. Not all of our questions as well as our concerns have

been answered. Let us not allow the “unknown” encourage “inaction” in us. Not knowing all the answers now can be used and be an inspiration for many of us to innovate, to think outside the box, to be trailblazers and be creative in our K to 12 preparations. DepEd, I feel has shown and will continue to show flexibility in initiatives and new ideas for the best way/s (not just one way) in implementing the K to 12 program in the Philippine Educational System. LET US HAVE FAITH IN OURSELVES in planning and preparing for this educational reform.

There are two (2) more summits related to this one that we are about to conclude. With the everyday discussions of government agencies, school associations and other groups, we will get to hear and receive more information and updates (and possible changes to initial discussions) from various places. Let us all keep open minds and hearts because at the end of the day, all of these efforts of careful preparation and planning will be our contribution to a healthier, more meaningful and globally-competitive Philippine Educational System.

Thank you very much and a pleasant good afternoon once again!

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