

First Southeast Asian Conference of Teachers and Teacher Educators Elevates ASEAN Education Standards

The First Southeast Asian Conference of Teachers and Teacher Educators, hosted by the Republic of the Philippines' Professional Regulation Commission in partnership with the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) Inc, was a resounding success, showcasing a remarkable convergence of leading educators and professionals from the ASEAN region. Held on December 7-8, 2022, at the prestigious Manila Marriot Hotel, Manila, Philippines, the event exemplified a collective effort to enhance teaching practices and pre-service teacher education across Southeast Asia.

Distinguished educators and esteemed guests from Southeast Asian countries took center stage during the conference. Hon. Charito A. Zamora, Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission, captivated the audience with her keynote address, underscoring the significance of elevating educational standards to benefit ASEAN's collective growth.



A pivotal focus of the conference was the endeavor to establish Mutual Recognition Agreements among ASEAN nations. Hon. Jose Y. Cueto, Jr. MD, the Commissioner of the Professional Regulation Commission, delivered an insightful talk on *"Paving the Way to Mutual Recognition Agreements among the ASEAN Countries,"* elucidating the fundamental concepts and mechanisms required to achieve harmonized educational credentials across borders.

Each country showcased its best practices in teacher education, with distinguished speakers and reactors from various ASEAN countries, presenting and engaging in discussions and discourse. Notably, the diverse perspectives fostered an enriching exchange of ideas and approaches to the field of education.

Representing Indonesia were Rev. Fr. Carolus Patampang, Ph.D., from Sekolah Tinggi Kateletik Dan, Pastoral Rantepao (Stikpar) Toraja, and Rev. Fr. Yohanis John Salama from Catechetical and Pastoral College, Toraja, South Sulawesi. Both speakers offered profound insights into teacher education and development.

Dr. Natthaphon Santhi, Assistant to the President of Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, eloquently delivered Thailand's perspectives as the resource speaker. Reacting to the discourse was Dr. Nadrudee Chitrangsan, Principal of Sujipuli School Chachoengsao.

Dr. Roslinawati Binti Mohd Roslan, Deputy Dean of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, represented Brunei as the resource speaker. The reactors, Dr. Juraidah Binti Musa, Assistant Professor, and Program Leader in School Partnership, and Dr. Nor Azura Binti Abdullah, Lecturer, both from Sultan Hassanah Bolkuah Institute of Education, offered thoughtful responses.

Dr. Mai Khanh Hoang, Dean, Faculty Education of the University of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University, showcased Vietnam's perspectives, while the reactors, Dr. Tran Cao Boi Ngoc, Head Division of Academic Affairs and Testing, and Dr. Tran Thanh Huong, Department Head of the University of Human Sciences and Humanities, added depth to the discussion.



Dr. Poh Soon Koh, Lecturer of the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, represented Singapore as the resource speaker. Reactor Dr. Ng Chiew Hong from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, offered her insights.

Host country, Philippines was represented by Dr. Brenda B. Corpuz, Dean, College of Education, Technological Institute of the Philippines, and PAFTE National Adviser, who captivated the audience as the resource speaker. Reactors Dr. Filomena T. Dayagbil, PAFTE National Vice President for Visayas; Dr. Amor Q. de Torres, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Capitol University; and Dr. Paz I. Lucido, Vice Chairperson, Professional Regulatory Board for Professional Teachers, added valuable perspectives.

Dr. Dy Samsideth, Deputy Director General of Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, served as the resource speaker for Cambodia. Reactors Dr. Chhit LienGieng from the Teacher Education College, Battambang, and Mr. Mao Saroeun of the National Institute of Education enriched the discussions.

And representing Lao PDR, Dr. Lamphoune Luangxay, Deputy Director General of the Institute of Education Administration Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, offered profound insights as the resource speaker. Reactors Mr. Tavanh Khounbolay, Deputy - Pre-service Division, Ministry of Education and Sports, and Dr. Somxay Thepsombath, Director of Pakse Teacher Training College, Ministry of Education and Sports, Chapasok Province, contributed significantly to the discourse.



In addition to the intellectual exchanges, the conference embraced the vibrant cultural heritage of the Philippines with a captivating performance by the Centro Escolar University Folk Dance Troupe. Delegates had the privilege of exploring Manila's iconic landmarks during a night city tour, establishing meaningful connections and laying the foundation for fostering networking and cultural exchange among the participants.

As the event culminated, the passion and determination to elevate education standards across ASEAN were palpable. The conference proved to be a vital stepping stone towards a unified ASEAN community. By advancing mutual recognition and collaboration, the region aspires to uplift the standards of living for all its people, celebrating education as a powerful agent of positive change.

The conference marked a groundbreaking chapter in the collective pursuit of educational excellence. The participants departed by the shared vision of a prosperous ASEAN region, where knowledge, innovation, and collaboration flourish for the betterment of all.

As the sun sets on this momentous occasion, the spirit of ASEAN solidarity shines the path for a brighter future.

Mabuhay, ASEAN! Together, we rise.

