

Philippine Educators Embark on a Benchmarking and Internationalization Tour in Brunei

From April 13-16, 2024, a delegation of educators from the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) visited Brunei on a benchmarking and internationalization tour, aiming to enhance educational practices through international collaboration and learning.

The group, enthusiastic and optimistic, left the Philippines on a high note, looking forward to gaining new insights and perspectives on education. The itinerary in Brunei will include visits to various educational institutions where they will observe the best practices, engage with local educators, and participate in discussions on educational strategies and improvements.

"This tour is an exceptional opportunity for us to learn from the educational advancements in Brunei and see how these can be adapted to benefit our learners back in the Philippines," mentioned a member of the delegation. The educators are particularly interested in Brunei's approaches to teacher training and student engagement, areas identified as critical to educational reform in the Philippines.

The visit also served as a cultural exchange, with the Filipino educators experiencing

Bruneian hospitality and gaining a deeper understanding of the social and cultural contexts that shape educational policies and practices in the country.

The insights and experiences gained from this trip will be cherished by PAFTE, which will include recommendations for integrating successful practices observed in Brunei into the Philippine educational system. The ultimate goal is to leverage these international



experiences to enrich the teaching and learning environments across schools in the Philippines, fostering an atmosphere of continuous improvement and innovation in education.

PAFTE Members Explore Sustainable Practices in Brunei's Famous Destinations



April 14, 2024 – In an educational tour held today, members of the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) visited the Agar Wood Factory in Brunei, where they learned about the innovative sustainability practices the factory employs in the production of virgin coconut oil and agar wood perfumes.

This visit marked the beginning of a day filled with insightful activities aimed at understanding and appreciating sustainable development in various sectors.

The tour at the Agar Wood Factory highlighted the dual focus on environmental sustainability and premium product quality.



Participants were introduced to the processes that ensure minimal environmental impact, including the efficient use of raw materials and waste reduction techniques.

Following the factory visit, the group proceeded to Eco Ponies Garden to

have lunch and experience the local delicacies of Brunei and where they observed too how the community-led project supports local agriculture and promotes eco-tourism through sustainable farming practices. The garden serves as a testament to how small-scale initiatives can contribute significantly to local economies and environmental conservation.

The next stop was at the Labulicious Farm, renowned for its innovative approach to combining technology with traditional farming methods. The farm is a model of sustainability, featuring an integrated system that supports both agriculture and aquaculture, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity and resource efficiency.

In Tutong District, members enjoyed the natural landscapes and learned about local efforts to maintain the district's ecological balance while promoting tourism and community involvement. The visit to Jerudong Park further showcased Brunei's commitment to creating recreational areas that prioritize ecological health and public well-being.

The day concluded with a visit to The Empire Hotel, a luxury establishment known for its impressive incorporation of sustainable practices. The hotel utilizes energy-efficient technologies and sustainable materials to reduce its environmental impact, providing a perfect example of how luxury and sustainability can coexist.

Today's itinerary was a remarkable opportunity to see firsthand how varied the approaches to sustainability can be across different sectors. Each location offered unique insights that are invaluable for our work as educators committed to teaching about sustainable development.

The educational tour is part of PAFTE's initiative to integrate global sustainability practices into their teaching

curriculums, offering educators practical examples of environmental stewardship and sustainable business practices. The members are looking forward to more educational opportunities in the coming days of their tour.



PAFTE's Second Day in Brunei: A Tour of Culture and Diplomacy



On the second day of the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) educational tour on April 15, 2024, delegates immersed themselves in Brunei's rich cultural heritage and engaged in diplomatic discussions aimed at enhancing educational cooperation.



The day began with a visit to Kampong Ayer, the iconic water village known as the “Venice of the East.” This cultural immersion provided the educators an opportunity to witness the traditional lifestyle of the residents and understand the educational challenges and initiatives within such unique settings.

Following the morning activities, the delegation proceeded to the Regalia Museum. Here, they explored Brunei's regal artifacts and gained insights into the sultanate's history, which plays a crucial role in shaping the nation's educational narratives.

The highlight of the day was the visit to the Philippine Embassy in Brunei, where PAFTE members were warmly welcomed by Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, the Philippine Ambassador to Brunei. During the courtesy visit, discussions focused on forging future partnerships to promote quality education in the region. PAFTE President Dr. Felina P.

Espique led the dialogue, emphasizing the importance of bilateral educational initiatives and sharing best practices in teaching and learning.

Dr. Espique expressed optimism about the potential collaborations, noting, “Our discussions today have laid a strong foundation for future partnerships that will undoubtedly enhance the educational landscape in both countries.”

The day concluded with a commitment from both parties to work closely in developing programs that will benefit educators and students alike.

As the tour continues, the impact of these interactions is expected to resonate across the educational sectors of the Philippines and Brunei, fostering a deeper understanding and cooperation between the two nations.

PAFTE Educational Tour Highlights Innovative and Best Teaching Practices in Brunei



On April 16, 2024, the third day of its educational tour, the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (PAFTE) visited Sekolah Rendah Rimba III in Brunei, a highlight of their ongoing effort to enhance educational strategies through international collaboration. The visit showcased the school's innovative approach to integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across all subjects, preparing students with practical life skills using Scratch and Micro:bit platforms. This program has notably contributed to the school's recognition at the Brunei ICT Awards (BICTA).

Sekolah Rendah Rimba III impressed the Philippine delegates with its robust integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) into its curriculum from an early age. The school also highlighted its successful entrepreneurship program, centered around a hydroponics garden that not only serves as a hands-on educational tool but also as a resource-generation initiative.

The delegation was officials from the Education of Brunei, importance of the visit educational ties countries. Another aspect of Sekolah Rimba III's approach is its engagement with school has developed enhance parental teaching reading, which has contributed to superior student performance in the international PISA assessments.



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In the afternoon, the PAFTE delegation continued its educational exploration at the University of Brunei Darussalam, particularly at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkhiah Institute of Education (SHBIE). The meeting, was facilitated by Dr. Hj Hardima binti Hj Mohd Said, Dean of SHBIE, as represented by Dr. Roslinawati binti Mohd Roslan, Deputy Dean for Research, focused on potential research partnerships and methods to bolster education quality in the Southeast Asian region.

These discussions underscored the shared commitment to educational excellence and innovation, setting the stage for future collaborations that could redefine educational practices in both the Philippines and Brunei.

The educational tour of PAFTE concluded on a high note, allowing all participants to go home with a new perspective that can bring a big impact in the landscape of Teacher Education training in the Philippines.