

## **Education agencies ensure smooth transition to K-12 Program**

During the K to 12 Pre-Summit Conference conducted at the Pavilion, DepED ECOTECH Center, Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City on December 7, 2011, the Department of Education (DepED), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) joined efforts in communicating a strategy that ensures the smooth transition from the existing 10-year education cycle to the K to 12 basic education cycle.

Four (4) major aspects were communicated. They are as follows: physical infrastructure, manpower, organizational, and structural changes. Two (2) specific strategies were mentioned, such as: (a) Public-private partnerships with higher education institutions (HEIs) and private schools have been explored to manage the SY 2016-2018 period wherein there will be low enrolment for HEIs; and (b) Modeling for senior high school will also be implemented in selected schools to stimulate the transition process and provide concrete data for the transition plan. The modeling activity is expected to generate insights on potential needed changes in the organizational structure of DepED as well as other affected agencies like CHED and TESDA.

There were 371 participants from Regions 6, 7, 8, and 9 convened at the Pavilion, and expressed their commitment to support the K to 12 Implementation. They represented from different sectors, like other government agencies, House of Representatives, Local Government Units (LGUs), private sectors, civil society organizations, associations of private-public schools, Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs), teacher organizations, student organizations, and other individuals.

DepED Secretary Armin A. Luistro emphasized that social and individual benefits of K to 12 program will surely outweigh its costs. Among others, Secretary Luistro assured the stakeholders, who were in attendance, that the cost to households of the additional two years in high school will be lower compared to a two-year college education. Luistro reiterated the great contribution that K to 12 will bring out to economic growth. Several studies have shown that improvement in the quality of education will increase GDP growth by as much as 2%.

Ms. Milagros Dawa-Hernandez, Director General of TESDA, and Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, Chairperson of CHED, gave their all-out support to DepED through Secretary Luistro in the implementation of K to 12 program.

In his keynote speech, House Representative Mariano Piamonte, a Teacher Partylist and member of K to 12 Steering Committee, shared his positive note on the effects of the K-12 program to the lives of our children. He showed his confidence and said that the program will improve the quality of life that each K-12 graduate is expected to enjoy”.

Hon. Mayor Michael Rama, on the other hand, enjoined all stakeholders to fully support the implementation of K to 12. He challenged the stakeholders to join hands together to make this educational reform meaningful to children.

DepED 7 Regional Director (RD) Recaredo G. Borghonia assisted by Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Carmelita T. Dulangon facilitated the success of the K to 12 Pre-Summit Conference in Region VII.

Media partners from Television (TV), Print and Radio broadcasts were present also to support the program.