

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd to enhance Math teachers' competencies

True to its commitment of giving teachers full support in delivering quality basic education, the Department of Education has partnered with the Mathematics Trainers' Guild (MTG), Philippines in the conduct of 2010 International Mathematics Educators Convention with special emphasis on Understanding by Design (UbD).

"Teaching and learning for understanding requires a big shift. We recognize that changing the paradigm of teaching cannot happen overnight. That is why we need to give our teachers enough time to adjust and transition to the current models of teaching and learning," said Education Chief Br. Armin Luistro FSC.

In line with this, DepEd has released Memorandum 356, series of 2010, to encourage mathematics coordinators/department heads, supervisors, and teachers of elementary and secondary public and private schools nationwide to participate in 2010 International Mathematics Educators Convention on October 21-24 at the Royale Tagaytay Club, E. Aguinaldo Highway, Buck Estate, Alfonso, Cavite.

Luistro sees the activity as a venue that puts special focus on mathematics as an important tool in creating a progressive society. "I think the greater challenge for us all is how to make mathematics education more interesting to our young learners and how it can be used to build industries and generate more economic activities."

Inspired by the theme, "*Making Sense: Teaching and Learning Math by Understanding*," the convention aims to acquaint the mathematical community on the latest trends in mathematics teaching with special emphasis on UbD. It also seeks to enrich teachers with innovative strategies for meaningful and fun-filled mathematics class.

"Teaching and learning for understanding is a transformative but very systematic approach to 21st century mathematics education which many of our math teachers and students will surely welcome. It will provide our students a solid foundation and a strong transition from school to work and from school to life," Luistro stressed.

As a matter of practice, DepEd revises its curriculum every ten years to make it more responsive to emerging changes of the learners in particular and society in general. This is why the department has been conducting seminars to integrate UbD in the lessons as part of the refinement of the curriculum.

"By integrating UbD in math subjects, we can address the difficulty in understanding math every Juan Dela Cruz in our country experiences. Moreover, the UbD curriculum will integrate local culture, indigenous technology and joyful math teaching and learning for our students to have a better appreciation and easier learning of mathematics and its concepts," explained Luistro.

Mathematical communities from other Asian countries such as China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hongkong, and Singapore are also expected to participate in the convention.

“Through this, our local teachers can also have the chance to exchange experiences and discuss issues arising from international mathematics education with foreign delegates,” Luistro added.

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