

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd holds an ALS Fair to Remember

“We should protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality basic education – formal and non-formal education,” said Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

Optimistic of meeting its Education for All (EFA) target by 2015, the Department of Education continues to strengthen one of its most successful programs, the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

DepEd has been strengthening its ALS program to be able to address the learning needs of the marginalized groups of the population including the deprived, depressed and underserved citizens, particularly the out-of-school youths and adults.

“Part of the Philippine government’s commitment to meet the EFA goal by 2015 is to give educational opportunities to those marginalized groups that are deprived of education because of poverty, disability, and geographical location. EFA means education for all with greatest equity and accessibility regardless of who you are, where you are, and how you are,” Luistro said.

ALS’ goal is to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction, encompassing both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

Based on DepEd Memorandum 471, series of 2010, DepEd, through the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS), in collaboration with Philippine Association of Non-formal Educators, Inc. (PANFEI), will hold the National Conference for Non-formal Educators on December 12-16, 2010.

With the theme “*An ALS Fair to Remember*,” (Introducing Informal Education, ALS Trends and ALS Policies), the objective of the conference is to disseminate ALS policies and standards developed within the context of Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA). It also aims to share and recognize best practices in Non-formal Education (NfED) and Informal Education (InfED) that exemplify its philosophy and principles and to promote better understanding and appreciation of the ALS policies, standards, and practices as its contributions to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the EFA goals.

“The event will allow the participants to explore different ways on which they can be more effective deliverer of education to people and areas in dire need,” noted Luistro.

BESRA is a widely-accepted reform initiative which recognizes that schools, as the key providers of education, should continuously improve by being empowered to make informed and localized decisions based on their own unique needs.

PRESS RELEASE

“We should not stop making education accessible so that we can achieve our EFA goal 100%. We should expand access to educational opportunities for citizens of different interests, capabilities, demographic characteristics and socio-economic origins and status. We should continue to enhance skills development activities to ensure continuing employability, efficiency, and productivity. More importantly, we should help our citizens unfold their maximum potentials,” emphasized Luistro.

Participants to this conference are: Bureau, Center and Regional Directors; Schools Division / City Superintendents; Bureau, Regional Chiefs (Elementary, Secondary, ALS); Education Supervisors (Elementary, Secondary, ALS); Public Schools District Supervisors; School heads/Principals (Elementary and Secondary, Private and Public); Teachers (ALS Mobile Teachers, District ALS Coordinators); and Planning and Finance Officers.

Non-DepEd partners and implementors such as AGAP, Peer Educators, Instructional Managers, Facilitators, Local Government Officials, Service Providers; Other Government Organizations (GOs) / Non-Government Organizations (NGO) Partners, and Academicians are also invited to attend.

END

For more information, please contact the ALS Division Chiefs in the Regional Offices and the BALS Office at telephone numbers: (02) 635-5188; (02) 635-4694; or (02) 635-5193.

PRESS RELEASE