

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DepEd spearheads English training of South Korean teachers

Some 50 Korean teachers recently completed the first part of their training on English teaching facilitated by the Department of Education.

The 50 secondary school English teachers -- 20 of whom are also teaching Math and Science -- had a month-long training comprised of five days training on communicative language teaching and the teaching of reading. They also completed three weeks of observation, practice teaching and after class mentoring in eight schools in Metro Manila. The trainings were facilitated by DepEd's National English Proficiency Program.

The English teaching training was part of an agreement with the Busan Metropolitan City of Education where it donated US\$6 million worth of computers for Philippine public high schools, state colleges and universities.

"This partnership has actually given us a new meaning of friendship. Based on our two country's experience, friendship is actually building on each other's strength," said Education Secretary Jesli Lapus as he led the program's closing ceremonies at the DepEd Central Office recently.

The 50 Korean teachers are expected to cascade what they learn to their fellow mentors in their home country. The same group is slated to return in February 2009 for further training based on the evaluation of the first phase of the training.

The Philippines is one of Korea's prioritized partner countries for Official Development Assistance (ODA) since 1990. DepEd reported that Korea's ODA to the Philippines is spent to reduce poverty and achieve economic development.

He added: "In the future, let us further explore areas of cooperation that will bring goodwill to the Filipino and Korean people."

Busan donated over 300 units of Pentium IV computers to DepEd for the basic education sector. Around 3,000 equipment for machinery, electronics, chemical engineering, automobile and architectural design from Sung- Ji Vocational School in Korea will be distributed to DepEd, CHED, and TESDA in increments from 2008 to 2011. The equipment, together with the used computers, cost as much as \$6M worth of donation for Philippine education.

The first batch of shipment is scheduled in September.

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