

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN KOREA AND PHILIPPINES

Public school teachers get ICT training from Koreans

Our Korean friends return the favor this time.

After the English proficiency training was given by Filipino public school teachers to their counterparts in Busan, South Korea in 2008, Korean volunteers are now conducting a two week-training for Filipino teachers on Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the symbiotic exchange of expertise on teaching trends among Asian teachers is very relevant in further strengthening regional cooperation. "This gesture of the Korean people will endow our teachers with relevant skills that will enable them to meet the needs of 21st century teaching," Lapus added.

Lapus said that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is very pleased with this partnership which recognizes our (Philippines') proficiency in English. "We need to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation with Korea especially in the field of education," Lapus quoted President Arroyo as saying.

The Joint E-learning Training and Education Exchange Program – under the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Internet Volunteers Program (AIV) – will be conducted on January 18 to 23, 2009 at different venues in the National Capital Region and Region IV-A.

It will be co-sponsored by the Institute of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Collaborative Education of the Republic of Korea.

AIV aims to support the ICT needs of APEC member-economies by dispatching volunteers from different levels of education. This initiative is in support of DepEd-initiated ICT for Education or ICT4E.

This partnership ensures that Filipino school heads and teachers will be well-versed with e-learning and the Problem-based Learning method or PBL. This is also part of the preparations for the implementation of a full-scale APEC Education Exchange Program later this year.

This program was preceded by the English training of Korean teachers August of last year. Fifty secondary school English teachers had a month-long training that covered communicative language teaching and teaching of reading. This was facilitated by DepEd's National English Proficiency Program.

As part of the bilateral cooperation, some 3,000 units of equipment for machinery, electronics, chemical engineering, automobile and architectural design from Sung-Ji Vocational School in Korea will be incrementally handed over to DepEd, CHED, and TESDA from 2008 to 2011.

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