

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Outstanding teachers off to Brunei conference

When it rains it pours --- that's what two outstanding public school teachers found out when they were recently chosen to attend the Teachers' Conference in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam on October 21-23. The news came on the heels of their bagging the highly coveted Search for Outstanding Teachers of the Metrobank Foundation.

Jesusa Antiquiera, an English teacher of P. Gomez Elementary School in Sta. Cruz Manila and Rowena Hibanada, a Social Studies teacher in Pedro E Diaz High School in Alabang, Muntinlupa were chosen by the Department of Education to represent the country after receiving invitation from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam.

"Giving our teachers a chance to meet their peers from other parts of the world is one way of rewarding the outstanding performances of our teachers," Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

Teresita Inciong, Assistant Secretary for Programs and Projects and Metrobank Chair of Preliminary Board of Judges, Elementary Level, the two Metrobank awardees will join discussions on teachers' professional standard, teaching for the 21st century, special education, technical and vocational education, ICT, co-curriculum education and counseling.

Lapus and Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Alan Peter Cayetano co-chaired the Final Board of Judges for this year's Search.

Antiquiera and Hibanada joined other outstanding teachers who were presented by George S.K. Ty, Metrobank founder and group chairman, to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in ceremonies held in Malacañang.

Other awardees were: (elementary level) Lynn Padillo of Naga Central School in Naga City; Maydelyn Antioquia of President Manuel Roxas Memorial School North in Roxas City; and Marie Theresse Bagas of West City Central School in Cagayan de Oro City; (secondary level) Ermie Rabara of Midsayap-Dilangalen National High School in Midsayap, Cotabato; Jeanette Dials of Mariano Marcos State University Laboratory High School in Laoag City; and Noemi Obcena of Cagayan National High School in Tuguegarao City.

Awardees from the higher education level were Dr. Irma Makalinao of the University of the Philippines-Manila and Dr. Virginia Cuevas of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

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The winners were selected from more than 150 nominees coming from various public and private educational institutions in the Philippines. Each outstanding teacher received a trophy and a cash prize of P300,000 during the awarding ceremonies held at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium during Metrobank's 46th anniversary celebrations.

"Over the last two-and-a-half decades, the Metrobank search has established benchmarks in excellence and achievement among our teachers. The award has become a measure of performance and contributions, representing a pinnacle of sorts that any teacher can aspire for," George S.K. Ty said.

This year's winners joined the rank of 266 outstanding teachers, who have been honored by the Foundation for the last 24 years. They automatically become members of the Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators or NOTED.

NOTED is an honor society of outstanding teachers committed to nurturing a culture of excellence and service among educators.

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