

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd chief commends Metrobank's outstanding teachers

"It is the teachers time to shine now."

Zoilo Pinongcos, Jr. of Leganes National High School in Leganes, Iloilo shared this as he was honored as one of the ten awardees of 2009 Metrobank Foundation's Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT).

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred gold medallions to Pinongcos and the nine other awardees at Malacañang Palace yesterday.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus lauded the annual Search as it institutionalizes the giving of award to the best and brightest in the teaching profession.

He added, "It is a great motivation to the many teachers whose dedication and commitment usually go beyond the call of duty."

This year's awardees for the elementary level are: Lourdes Matan of Mag-Ubay Elementary School in Calbayog City; Gemma Cortez of Dasmariñas Elementary School in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Benjamin Martinez of San Sebastian Elementary School in Tarlac City; and Eva Imingan of Nellie E. Brown Elementary School in Olongapo City.

Aside from Pinongcos, other awardees for the secondary level are: Shena Faith Ganela of Philippine Science High School-Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City; Rochelle Papasin of Philippine Science High School-Southern Mindanao Campus in Davao City; and Ma. Petra Romualdo of Minapan High School in Tulunan, Cotabato.

For the higher education level, the awardees are: Dr. Dina Joana Ocampo of the University of the Philippines-Diliman; and Dr. Ramon Del Fierro of University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

Awardees will be presented with plaques and P300,000 cash each during formal ceremonies at Metrobank Plaza in Makati today. The awarding ceremony serves as the highlight of the 47th anniversary celebration of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company.

Pinongcos is an Intel Teach National Trainers awardee, who has conducted trainings for the Intel Teach Training Program at the national, regional, and division levels. The project helps teachers who have little or no computer experience acquire basic technology literacy skills. He also serves as an ICT trainer for out-of-school youths and barangay officials in the town of Leganes.

Because of the award, he said, many doors have started to open. But he is resolved to continue what he does best --- to shape the mind of the young and boost their morale as well as those of his fellow teachers.

He added that he is sharing the recognition to the school and to Leganes, Iloilo, which received the honor for the first time. In the silver year of the Search, Dasmariñas, Cavite, Olongapo City, Tulunan, and North Cotabato also produced their first awardees in the Search.

Pinongcos encourages other teachers to be open and to be giving with their knowledge and skill to others.

Now on its 25th year, the Search bestows special recognition to teachers who manifest profound commitment to the development of the youth through exemplary competence, remarkable dedication to work, and effective educational leadership.

The Search is supported by the DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education. Since the awarding of the 1<sup>st</sup> batch in 1985, a total of 276 outstanding teachers from elementary, secondary, technical-vocational, and higher education levels have already been recognized.

“The Metrobank Foundation believes that by giving recognition to the outstanding qualities, achievements and contributions of our beloved educators, we promote a sense of pride in and provide inspiration to the teaching profession and to the rest of the society,” said Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto M. Sobrepeña.

“For over 25 years, we have envisioned our awardees to serve as models for continuing excellence in the profession,” he continued.

The winners were selected from 173 nominees coming from various public and private educational institutions in the Philippines.

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*For inquiries on the 2009 Metrobank Foundation’s Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT) please contact Ms. Cherry Bobadilla of the Metrobank Foundation Inc., Corporate Communications at 898 8855 / 816 5656 or [ccbobadilla@metrobank.com.ph](mailto:ccbobadilla@metrobank.com.ph)*

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