



Press Release

22 January 2019

**“Adult education as part of life long and life wide personal development will be promoted under the Duterte administration”
– CHED Chairman de Vera**

This was the statement issued by Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman J. Prospero E. de Vera III in his plenary speech at the Education World Forum 2019 held in London, England today.

De Vera discussed the importance of Adult Education as part of the "Life long learning and life wide learning" panel with Germany Education Minister Alexander Lorz, Mexico Secretary of Education Esteban Barragan, and Qatar Foundation Chair Sheikha Hind Al Thani.

The Education World Forum is an annual global summit of education ministers organized to bring government leaders, development partners and experts together to look at trends shaping education and gain valuable insights on how these changes will affect the future.

The gathering of world education leaders included UK Secretary of State Damian Hinds, UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, UNESCO Assistant Director General Stefania Giannini, and ministers of education of the Philippines, Nicaragua, Kenya, Vietnam, Chile, Pakistan, Mexico, Germany, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, El Salvador and Armenia as speakers.

The more than 1,200 participants from 95 countries discussed global trends shaping education, education finance, improving access, artificial intelligence, ending violence in schools, tracking gains on the Social Development Goals, and lifelong learning.

The Duterte administration has increased funding for higher education at levels that no administration has ever done in the past. The Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education law has benefitted some 1.3M students in public universities and more than 100,000 students in private universities.

Private universities like Ateneo de Davao and Miriam College are spearheading the Adult Education initiative by offering evening and weekend classes on cooking, bread and pastry production, food processing, excel for adults, accounting for non-accountants, how to use solar energy for your homes, and how to invest in the stock market.

Other universities are teaching farmers and market vendors literacy and numeracy skills so they can earn a living or not be exploited by traders because they are unable to read and write.

The high economic growth rate in the past years and increased revenues from the TRAIN law have generated revenues for higher education. It is time to expand opportunities beyond universities into Adult Education so Filipinos will be able to re-skill, up-skill, or cross skill.

CHED sent officials from 30 universities to Canada last year to understand Adult Education programs and develop links with their counterparts. The 30 universities recently met with CHED in Davao City to discuss the Roadmap for Adult Education that will be implemented starting this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Prospero E. De Vera III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA
Chairman / Minister
Commission on Higher Education
Philippines