

Quality education can solve the country's woes

BAGUIO CITY A top performing school in this mountain resort city said there is still hope in solving the country's widespread poverty situation, corruption and incompetence, on condition that students will cooperate and commit themselves to institutional standards towards quality education.

This was guaranteed by the University of the Cordilleras, an acknowledged top performing school outside of Manila, as it welcomes new and transfer students to the institution for the first trimester of the school year.

Management and staff of UC assures old and new students that the school will provide equal access and continuing quality education to prepare future leaders in solving the country's woes.

"The transformation of students to become productive citizens and catalyst to development all starts here", says public relations officer Eric Fier.

Even Dr. Rolando R. Dizon, former Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education admitted last month that widespread poverty can not be solved alone by economists, planners and management experts but by competitive schools and their new breed of graduates like the University of the Cordilleras.

"The reason for the country's widespread poverty is blamed on the government's failure to have enough moral and competent leaders both in the national and local

government", Dr. Dizon said before graduating students and parents as he acknowledge the role of UC in providing a good training ground for moral and competent leaders in the Cordillera region and the country.

UC Research Director Dr. Alfred Jose Herbolario cited studies which show that corruption and incompetence are the root causes of widespread poverty but he said the antidote to poverty is quality education which breeds good governance through production of moral and competent leaders. "Over the years, UC has proven quality education both in licensure examination and in actual practice", he said.

Known for its "Mastery and Academic Excellence", UC was conferred by legal authorities as one of the country's top performing school in Criminology, Law, and Engineering and Architecture based on performance in licensure examinations.

Likewise, graduates in other courses such as Teacher Education, Arts and Science, Information and Computing sciences, Accountancy, Business Administration and Hotel and Restaurant/Tourism

management as well as Graduate school equally excel in intercampus competition and good performance of graduates practicing their profession. Graduates are occupying responsible and high ranking positions in both private and public service.

But UC Management Board chair Jesus Salvosa does not only intend to sustain the school's performance but moves on further to attain world class levels while maintaining access to poor but capable students in the region.

Recently, UC management invested on a state of the art 36-classroom nine-storey school building now used by the College of Nursing and College of Law. The top floor was designed for a chapel and student center consistent with the institution's molding of good leaders with good morals.

The thrust of changing communities by transforming lives of students is integral in the school's program.

As chairman Jesus Salvosa puts it, "Our Paramount Duty is to endow the lives of our students... with the guidance of a moral compass".

Cleanest and Greenest Campus marches for mother earth

If others would only take the cudgels of environmental preservation the way the University of the Cordilleras does, then Filipinos may very well breathe cleaner and fresher air in the future.

As the cleanest and greenest school campus in the city, UC reaffirmed its commitment to protect the environment as it marched alongside the people of Baguio last June 3 in support of the Global Campaign on the Protection of the Environment.

Even before the cleanest and greenest campus recognition award in 2003, UC has been conscious of the worsening conditions of the environment. As a matter of fact, it sent the largest delegation from the academic sector in another strong show of commitment by the university to the local, national, and international communities.

The "Walk for the Environment" kicked off Tree Festival 2006, which culminated in a tree-planting activity at the Athletic Bowl.

"Students should be their own advocates;

they should be at the forefront of promoting a sustainable environment because it is their future at stake," said Mrs. Edna Tabanda, UC Consultant for Community Extension Services as she stressed the role of students in environmental advocacy.

Consistently recognized as Baguio's "Cleanest and Greenest Campus," UC has constantly implemented various environment-friendly programs and policies aimed at preserving and protecting the environment. Ongoing programs implemented by the university include the Solid Waste Management program and the No-Smoking policy. UC also produces trichoderma, which helps turn garbage into compost.

To further intensify the university's environmental advocacy, UC has established the UC Environment Task Force (UC-ETF), to formulate, analyze, improve and implement environmental projects. The task force composed of teaching and non-teaching personnel will also rely on student support and participation in its bid to protect and preserve the environment.

Academe joins clean air network

At least 15 academic institutions led by UC organized themselves into the Energy and Clean Air Network of Academic Institutions (ECADEME) to conceptualize and implement sustainable energy and clean air work plans starting within metro Baguio areas.

Representatives from the government, together with delegates from USAID-ECAP (Energy and Clean Air Project) served as resource speakers in helping the 15 participating institutions in establishing the ECADEME.

To bolster the ECADEME program, the organizers conducted an organizational and planning workshop aimed at increasing membership and refining workplans.

This was attended by

various schools in the Cordillera region. Organizers expressed optimism that the ECADEME endeavor will ultimately become a rousing success in collaboration work and advocacy.

Community Extension Consultant Edna C. Tabanda underscored the crucial role of the academe in environmental concerns as she helped coordinate the series of workshops together with the USAID-ECAP brass.

USAID-ECAP Chief of Party Ray Goco meanwhile, lauded the creation of ECADEME as the first organized academic grouping in the region advocating for environmental preservation and protection.

UC's active role in the ECADEME is part of the university's unwavering commitment to environmental advocacy, aimed at preserving and protecting the world's deteriorating environment.



The Sangguniang Bayan session hall of Tuba, Benguet suddenly became a war room last month as department heads and SB members engage in problem analysis of the standard services prior to the establishments of performance indicators facilitated by Director Alfred Jose Herbolario of the UC-Based Cordillera Local Government Department and Research Center (CLGDRC).



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