

ASEAN INTEGRATION

by:

Ma. Jhoana D. Bulos

Teacher III, Samal National High School

ASEAN Integration aims to establish development and betterment in three aspects of the region. First, it is way that peace and stability will be promoted all over the region. Also, competitiveness for economic growth and development through closer economic integration will be enhanced as one of the stated pillars of this regional integration. Lastly, human, natural and cultural resources for sustained development in a harmonious and people-centered ASEAN are also targeted to be nurtured. All of this will be done through policies, laws and agreement among the ten countries which are included in the integration. Hence, aiming for one vision through having one identity towards development of every nation as part of one community is the overall target of this Regional Integration in Asia.

With these aims of the ASEAN Integration, as a Filipino I do have high hope that Philippines will be able to benefit from this and be a par with the neighboring countries. Over the years this integration brought opportunities as well as challenges to the Philippines in different aspects as a nation. It can be considered that in facing and battling these challenges, education sector plays a huge part and hold a great responsibility.

In line with this, as my background and knowledge with regards to this discourse level up through the discussion made, realizations came into play. In terms of how ASEAN integration affects the Philippine education system made me understand the moves done by the government which seems to be unclear to me before. One of the actions done by the education sector is the implementation of k-12 which is indeed serves as a challenge more than an opportunity for the people in the sector. I had the idea before

that this action was taken by the previous administration for just the sake of leaving a legacy. It was because we know for a fact that what happen in the implementation of the k-12 curriculum seems to be an abrupt change and the education sector is not really prepare in terms of human resource, facilities and equipment for such implementation. It is the lens that because of the integration, this action was done to be at par and to meet the requirements of the union. Moreover, though there were obstacles in the journey of the new education system, Philippines is on its way to correct the lapses and bridge the gaps in the implementation of such curriculum. Thus, Education is the building block of our nation to be able to adjust, cope up and attain the promises of the Regional Integration in Asia.

As a teacher and one of front liners in achieving the quality of education, a better understanding on degree of significance our role is for the realizations of the benefits that our country and people can get through this integration must be inculcated in our hearts and minds. Hence, uplifting the quality of education is to prepare and gear Filipinos to be eligible to the promises and aims of the union.

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