

## NAVIGATING THE ACADEMIC ABYSS: UNVEILING THE CHALLENGES AS THE PHILIPPINES SEEKS TO RISE FROM GLOBAL EDUCATIONAL PROWESS SHADOWS

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The OECD has recently released a report on PISA 2022 rankings that assesses the proficiency of 15-year-old learners from 81 countries in reading, mathematics, and science. The latest rankings highlight that the Philippines is ranked 77th among those countries. Although the Philippines' score in reading proficiency has slightly improved from PISA 2018, it still falls below the global average reading score of 476 points, indicating that many students in the Philippines continue to face challenges with reading and literacy skills.

The mean science performance of the Philippines was significantly lower than the OECD average. It ranked third to last globally in terms of mean science performance. The poor grasp of science concepts and skills among Filipino students implies that they are not at par with their counterparts in other countries.

A report from the Organization has shed light on the Philippine education system. It emphasizes the importance of policymakers and educators learning from countries with outstanding educational systems, and the first step is to address its weaknesses. The DepEd sector should prioritize imparting young Filipinos with the necessary knowledge and skills to be competitive on an international level. This can be achieved by adopting effective policies and practices that have been successful in other countries. Benchmarking from neighboring countries that have excellent educational systems may also help our countries in filling the gaps.

With the right approach and commitment, the Philippines can elevate its educational system and equip its youth with the tools they require to excel globally. It also notes that there are significant differences in educational standards between the Philippines and other countries worldwide – a big challenge for the education sector and officials.

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