

## PHILIPPINE EDUCATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

*by:*

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Upon reviewing few kinds of literature about the internationalization of education, this pursuit can somehow be the key to fully enhancing our education status. As we know, the Philippines is one of the third-world countries in which we view education as a privilege rather than birth right to others who cannot fully support their quest to obtain higher degrees. As a future educational leader, it is very important to learn about the internationalization of education because of the rapid growth of needs in our country.

The battle cry of Filipinos is on how we can be mobilized efficiently in the pursuit of relentless competition in the global market. In the battleground of education, educational leaders must prioritize the importance of a positive network with other countries for benchmarking on how they can assist the learners to cope with their needs and development. However, this track is not an easy path because of language barriers that Filipinos may experience.

Filipino is the first and national language in the Philippines, in which Filipino learners are more capable in communicating and interacting using their native tongue. Thus, learning another language is on the other side of the book if they will not know the real importance of learning English.

According to McKay (2003), English is the international language. Consequently, English language is considered as the lingua franca of the global arena, that whenever there is a communication or even business transaction, both parties are obliged to use English as their mean of communication. Hence, Filipinos must learn and adopt the English language not only for the in-depth understanding and function of the language

but also how they can realistically apply English language in every transaction internationally that they will face.

Now, various international schools housed in the our country apply this kind of mindset. Hence, educational leaders of the Department of Education must also possess this kind of mindset, for the Filipino learners can have a glance about battle in global arena. Integration of international and/or intercultural practices can help to widen the lens of education in our country.

As a future educational leader, we must start the development of our learners not only in the higher level of education but also in the grassroot. Basic education is indeed important. However, educators must incorporate realistic examples in their teaching process that not only focus on the premise of our country but also how students can be internationally oriented for them to understand the larger scale of communication and interaction in the international arena. In that way, our learners can have one step ahead in dealing with different nationalities in various situations. Education must not have boundaries- it must be the key force in reshaping the lives of every learner. Internationalization of Education is very important because it will help the learners of our country to propel themselves to fight in the international battlefield without hesitation and doubt to themselves, because I believe that if we start to internationalize our education from the grassroot we can be capable to accept any opportunity that will be bestowed to us.

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