

INTERNATIONALIZING PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION

by:

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Teachers in the Philippines have witnessed the transformative journey of the country's education system toward internationalization. The Department of Education and other agencies continuously strive to maximize available resources to ensure global competitiveness. However, achieving international standards in education is a long and complex process that requires commitment, innovation, and collaboration (Robiños, 2023). This path embraces diversity, fosters cultural understanding, and enhances global competencies.

Participating in international competitions, seminars, and training programs empowers both teachers and students by refining their skills, broadening their global exposure, and unlocking opportunities that enhance the quality of education. These experiences foster innovation, cultivate a competitive spirit, and contribute to the advancement of education on a global scale. Internationalization extends beyond academic programs; it creates meaningful opportunities for students and faculty to engage with global communities. Student mobility programs, for instance, allow learners to experience different educational systems and cultures, broadening their perspectives and enhancing adaptability. Likewise, international partnerships enable institutions to collaborate on research projects and share best practices, fostering a more robust and diverse learning environment.

Despite these advancements in our education system, the pursuit of internationalization faces significant challenges. Limited financial support, insufficient exposure to international teaching practices, and inadequate facilities hinder continuous

progress. Competitive infrastructure and state-of-the-art equipment, which are essential for international benchmarks, remain inaccessible to many schools. However, these challenges also present opportunities for growth—addressing these gaps can enhance teacher preparedness, strengthen institutional capacity, and ultimately benefit students and the broader community (Mananay et al.,2024)

In order to enable Filipino students to successfully traverse intercultural situations, the present Philippine curriculum incorporates global perspectives and competencies (Cajilog & Pabalan, 2023). Essential 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and creativity, are emphasized in this curriculum because they are important for learners to thrive in a varied and internationally interconnected world. Additionally, while supporting sector analysis and capacity building, the Department of Education (DepEd) cultivates international alliances, including partnerships with UNICEF, to improve the education sector. These collaborations are essential to bringing Philippine education into line with global standards and best practices and guaranteeing that students are equipped to take advantage of opportunities and challenges around the world.

Thus, as educators, we must commit to this journey despite its dynamic and evolving nature. The road to internationalization may be challenging, but it is essential to ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and global perspectives needed to thrive in an interconnected world. Filipino teachers are known to be resilient in facing various adversities, maximizing available resources, and fostering an environment of excellence are just a few initiatives that we are doing in empowering our students to become globally competitive and socially responsible individuals who contribute to a more connected and progressive society.

References:

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