

A life spent making mistakes is not only more adorable but more useful than a life doing nothing. - **George Bernard Shaw**

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DESIGN UNDERSTANDING

‘Understanding should not be by chance’, this is the basis of the ushering in of the novel learning approach now popularly known as Understanding by Design (UbD). Going through the theory and mechanics of the UbD, the advocacy is indeed a welcomed awakening from the overdue slumber within the realm of Teaching-Studying, a millennia-old relationship which, has outlived its effectiveness and, has for several decades been irresponsive to the needs of contemporary society and education. This is particularly true in the IT age. In a world where information, and knowledge at that, may all be available at the finger tips of an eager learner, *teaching* is nothing but passé. Educators face the challenge of leaving their comfort zone in order to assume their imperative role as *facilitators* who perceive learning as a flow leading to understanding thru series of linkages such as remembering, analyzing, applying, and evaluating the accumulated knowledge, and ultimately turning knowledge into creative power of the learners. Understanding, therefore, should be achieved by a conscious design. Undeniably, though a firm grasps of basic knowledge and skills are extremely important, it is certainly not enough. A step further reaching to the higher order thinking skills (HOTS) is necessary to complete the learning process.

Without a doubt, ISA goes for UbD.

6th APSA Assessment Reveals Elem Sci. Proficiency Goes Up

On 5 February, the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment (APSA) conducted its 6th annual evaluation of the proficiency levels of ISAers from K2 to 4th Year on three subjects: English, Math and Science.

This year 43 K2, 201 elementary, and 97 secondary learners were assessed. The results show that the proficiency levels of the elementary learners on Math and English were ‘stable’: 96% and 93% respectively of the total examinees were rated highly proficient and proficient, compared to last year’s rating of 97% and 89%. On the other hand, 175 elementary learners were rated highly proficient and proficient in Science, representing 87% of the total population. An increased of 15 learners from last year’s 160, or 14 percentage points up from last year’s rate of 73%.

The results in the secondary levels do not change significantly compared to last year’s rating. The percentage of high school ISAers who were highly proficient and proficient in Math was down by 9 percentage points from last year’s 77%, while 93% and 60% were highly proficient and proficient in English and Science respectively, both slightly higher than last year’s 90% and 57%. The above figure shows improvement of ISA high school Math program and instruction is in order.

The ratings of the Kinder-2 children remain remarkable. Of the 43 examinees, only 1 was proficient, the rest were highly proficient. With the exception of English, the outcome that shows ‘elementary fares better than high school, K2 fares better than the elementary’ basically remains unchanged. This is something the school administration has to closely look into.

ISAers Reach All Time High 500 enrolled by Mid of May

“Can we reach 500 in the next school year?” Although the growth rate of the learners population at ISA has been increasing at an average of 14% in the past six years, no one can be so sure if this can still be true faced with the pin-down effects caused by multiple restrictive factors such as high tuition fee, economic downturn and the proliferation of schools in the community. For private schools to maintain, let alone expand, its learner population is a grim possibility in most instances. Nevertheless, during the regular monthly board meeting in February, the body set 500 learners as the minimum target for school year 2010-2011, and if possible one-third of whom should be in the preschool. By any standard, this poses a great challenge to the school administration.

In the middle of May, it’s the turn of the administration to finally heaved a sigh of relief when number of enrollees hit 500. Consequently, aside from adding one section to Grade 5 (Chekov) as planned, another section was hurriedly added to First Year (Li Bai) to accommodate the unexpected influx of transferees. The downside of this supposedly happy event is the slashing of 40% of the area in the laboratory, 60% of the P. E. area to be converted into classrooms. More likely, this knotty scenario can only be resolved once ISA moves to the new campus in the second semester of SY 2010-2011.

Data : Number of ISA Learners

Sch. Yr.	ISAers	Sch. Yr.	ISAers
2004-05	263	2007-08	401
2005-06	297	2008-09	443
2006-07	352	2009-10	460

3rd Batch English Class Valedictorian Receives 3 Outstanding Student Titles



ISA Third batch high school English graduating class valedictorian, Karl Francis Chan, who is also the Chinese graduating class salutatorian, and president of the ISA Student Council SY2009-2010, was conferred the title of ‘Most Outstanding Student of Iloilo’ for SY2009-10 by three groups of educational and civic associations: the Outstanding Students Circle of Iloilo, the JCI-ABS-CBN, and the Department of Education-Private School Administrators Association of the Philippine. The awarding ceremonies were respectively held at the Division Office of the DepED Region 6 on 19 March, SM City Iloilo on 21 March, and Sarabia Manor Hotel on 6 May.

The citation was made on the basis of the recipient’s exemplary academic achievements, active involvement in social services, and impressive performance in various inter-school competitions. There are five to ten high school students cited annually by these organizations chosen from among the best students of public and private high schools in the city and province of Iloilo.

Exec-Dir at 5th World Congress of Chinese Community Leaders, Beijing

Accepting the invitation of the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the State Council of China, Executive Director Mr. Peter M. Chan was in Beijing and Shanghai on 6-11 May. Mr. Chan was among the nearly 600 Chinese-descent business and community leaders, educators, entrepreneurs who came from 120 countries attending the 5th World Congress of Chinese Community Leaders held at Jingxi Hotel, Beijing.

Besides engaging in social exchanges, the guests attended cultural and economic symposia given by prominent professors and leaders in China Mainland. As part of the itinerary arranged by the Chinese hosts, the guests spent a day visiting the different pavilions at the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.



Filipino artists impressed the audience with melodious classic folk songs and graceful ethnic dance steps at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, Philippine Pavilion.

Activating Chinese Reading Program: Timely or Premature?



Despite of its flaws and letdowns, Chinese education in the Philippines definitely deserves a standing ovation, even just for its sheer will to survive, against all odds. For the past four decades – or even longer – Philippine Chinese Education has been fighting an uphill battle, or better still, it is like a boat drifting in the middle of an uncharted ocean. Against this backdrop, any attempt to initiate a Chinese reading program may then seem quixotic, nay outrageous.

Luckily, the above view is true only when seen from one angle. Objectively, it is more difficult to learn Chinese than English in the Philippines. Empirical data clearly show the English proficiency of the learners in Chinese-Filipino schools is generally far better than that in Chinese. ISA is no exception. The contrast is particularly glaring in reading and comprehension. Faced with this tight spot, ISA either respects the status quo and rides with the tide, or goes against convention and finds its way out. ISA *has chosen* the latter course.

Indisputably, this is easier said than done. But what we learn from history is that when something is difficult, then it can simply be done, though with great effort and determination. The truth is, ISA has started the reading program on pilot basis during the 4th quarter of last school year. Though still quite far away from our goal, but we know we are steadily heading to it.