

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework. - Lily Tomlin

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ISA President, BOT Members Visit Universities in Xiamen, Quanzhou

"It has long been our intention to meet with the administrators of the Chinese tertiary institutions, particularly those which have been sending Chinese volunteer-facilitators to ISA, to personally express our gratitude for helping our school promote Chinese education. Furthermore, we also intend to seek greater opportunities for establishing closer bilateral relations with them." ISA President Mr. Vicente C. Tiu told this writer few days before the 11-member delegations of the ISA Board of Directors, led by the president himself, flew to Xiamen City on 21 May for a three-day official visit of the three Chinese universities, namely, the Jimei University, the Quanzhou Children Development Occupational College, and the Quanzhou Normal University. The ISA delegates arrived Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport at 4:30 p.m. and were welcomed at the airport by Zhuang Bingsheng, a director of Jimei University and a famous Chinese-Filipino philanthropist, together with the Chinese volunteers assigned to teach at ISA. That evening, a dinner was hosted by Mr. Zhuang to formally welcome the party.

At 9 am the next day, the ISA delegation visited Jimei University. They were warmly received by the administrators of the Institute of the Overseas Education and the head of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges. During their conference, the dean of the institute, Mr. Ye Guanghuang, briefly introduced to the Filipino guests the history and the future plans of Jimei University, in general, and the details of the approaches and methodology employed in nurturing future educators in the field of overseas Chinese language learning. Mr. Elpidio Barcarlos, Vice-Chairman of ISA Board of Directors, highly commended the exemplary performance and dedication of the Chinese volunteers since ISA started inviting them to help improve the quality of Chinese education in the school four years ago. "The Chinese volunteers have contributed significantly to the development of the Chinese education in our school in particular, and in the Chinese education in our country in general" concluded Mr. Barcarlos. On his part, Mr. Ye expressed his appreciation for the care and concern accorded to the volunteers by the ISA community.

The delegation visited Quanzhou Development Occupational College and Quanzhou Normal University on 24 May. They were cordially received by the administrators of both institutions. Mr. Vicente Tiu thanks the hosts for their hospitality and for sharing valuable information and insights on how to further develop and promote overseas Chinese education. The delegates returned to Manila on 25 May. The visit has been the first of its kind, and certainly is not the last.

Embracing the Big Idea

There is a need for a change. A catchphrase that became famous to the politicians and now for Iloilo Scholastic Academy. As ISA ushers in a new school year with an end in mind, so is true with its curriculum. The school is ready to implement the Understanding by Design.

This year, aside from anticipating a new ISA campus and a new set of learners' uniform, ISA will integrate UbD in its curriculum. UbD is anchored on this principle: Learner performance is more likely to be successful BY DESIGN than BY CHANCE. This curriculum is to enhance the learner's ability inside the classroom to be more interactive as it is learner-centered.

Living in an ever-changing society, ISA cannot rest on its laurels but must constantly move forward towards academic excellence.

The only question now remains. Can we do it? The answer lies in our hands. It is said facilitators should work together to make UbD work. But the success of the implementation is possible only if we have the support of the parents and the administration as well.

Only then we can say change is possible.

ISA Faci is M.O.



Mr. Rodgen M. Jabor, ISA Makabayan Head Facilitator, was announced Most Outstanding Teacher in the 4th Search for the Most Outstanding Private Secondary School Principal, Teachers, Student Leaders and PTA/PTCA Organizations organized by the Private Secondary Schools Administrators Association of the Philippines (PRISSAAP) in cooperation with the Department of Education Region 6.

This was the first time ISA joined the search. After being nominated by the Executive Director, Mr. Jabor was asked to submit his portfolio for evaluation. The process concluded with a panel interview held in Sarabia Manor Hotel on 25 March 2010. Academic achievements, projects organized, and personal attributes were some of the major criteria for choosing the winner. The search was participated by teachers and students from the PRISSAAP-member schools in region 6.

In his acceptance speech during the awarding on 6 May 2010 at Boracay Hall, Sarabia Manor Hotel, Mr. Jabor said "success comes from hard work". He further emphasized to his fellow educators that whatever challenge that comes along the teaching profession; it must be considered as an opportunity to discover and develop their potentials that would eventually make them grow. Congressman Ulan Sarmiento, A-Teacher party list representative, DepEd Regional and provincial officials, administrators and teachers from private school were present during the awarding.



The paving of the 15 meter wide, 200 meter long ISA Avenue, a concrete boulevard leading to the 4-story school building from the main access road, began in March this year. ISA Avenue is expected to be passable by early September 2010.



Construction of the school building at ISA new site has reached its final phase. Photo shows the structure on the fourth floor where science lab, computer lab, music and physical education rooms are located. Moreover, the multi-purpose gym and the 2-story, 10-room faculty dormitory designed to accommodate 20 persons are also situated on the same floor.

Update: School Building Construction

The latest meeting of members of the construction committee with the contractor, Mr. Benito Uy, and Architect Larry Ng held in May reaffirmed that the entire structure will be due for interior furnishing by end of August, while ground and second floors can be turned over by mid-July. Details, such as electrical, plumbing, and finishing materials, were also discussed. The agreed target date of moving to the new campus on 4 November 2010 (second semester of the current school year) was assessed as technically possible. The tentative plan to move to the new campus and the inauguration of the new school building has also been laid out in the regular monthly meeting of the ISA Board of Directors.

Writing Workshop

In preparation to ISA's long range plan of giving more HOTS (higher order thinking skills) assessment, facilitators attended a two-day writing workshop.

Last 17-18 May at the ISA library, Science, Social Studies, Filipino and English facilitators had a refresher course on essay writing, technical writing and basic journalism in preparation for more essay-type assessment this school year.

This step is in line with the school's gradual shift to the Understanding by Design (UbD) approach as endorsed by Department of Education.

"The writing workshop is a life-changing experience. We discovered that we can write! It gave me more confidence in assigning essay writing to my learners." said Rodgen Jabor, Social Studies head facilitator and first place winner of the workshop's editorial writing competition.

The invited speakers were Prof. Bonna Palma for essay writing, Prof. Eleonara Padilla for technical writing and Ms. Hazel Villa for basic journalism from West Visayas State University. BGV