



LOADS OF APPRECIATION, TONS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

5th SYNERGEIA RETREAT

YC James Yen Center
IIRR, Silang, Cavite
26-27 January 2006

Summary Proceedings

The 5th Synergeia Retreat was held at the IIRR, Silang, Cavite on 26-27 January 2006, Synergeia members and partners from all over the country come together to once again celebrate efforts, passion, achievements, and fellowship in education reforms. Delegates from the different NGOs, and LGUs from Cagayan, Nueva Viscaya, Pampanga, Bulacan, Manila, Batangas, Bicol, Negros, Iloilo, GenSan, Maguindanao, Marawi, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi were given the chance to reflect on values and practices that have characterized the Synergeia programs. There is a need to consolidate ideas and strategies towards building institutions and making education reforms sustainable for the entire Synergeia family to rejuvenate and regenerate our dedication and dreams for the Filipino child. Putting these ideas and plans into action requires tons of patience and hard work on the part of the Synergeia affiliates.

Accounts of the various highlights of the events for the two-day conference are as follows:

Day 1: January 26, 2006-Thursday

Building People, Building Institutions by Prof. E. Garilao

Education governance means influencing LCEs to embrace the provision of quality basic education as core of their governance agenda; making LGUs accountable on how the Special Education Fund Tax is spent; making schools accountable to parents and the community; collaborative and inclusive planning and implementation; and, empowering stakeholders to improve equitable access of children to quality education. A systemic reform of the learning system through teachers' training, development of instructional materials, parent support system, participative management, regular benchmarking, enrichment programs, remedial reading, and feeding program.

The Things we do for Love

Dr. Nina Yuson chaired the plenary for this workshop wherein each group representative gave a report of what transpired during the group discussion. Being part of the Synergeia family is the most meaningful win for everybody.

A Message and a Journey from Trustee John

A powerpoint presentation of the Philippines' art and culture touched everyone in attendance. Not only was it eye-catching but also uplift the audience's spirits. It takes us on a journey as to our ancestors' customs and traditions as expressed in their art.

We have Only Just Begun / Creative Plenary-Fr. Michael

The workshop aims to identify the core values of Synergeia, anybody among the participants is free to share his/her thoughts about the organization. This is necessary, given that these responses would be a factor in determining Synergeia's core values.

Fellowship

Everyone enjoyed the games and activities supervised by the Museong Pambata duo, Curt and Chee. Both the young and not so young participants had a great time ending the day the right way, with lots of fun and a yummy variety of finger foods to nibble.

Day 2: January 27, 2006-Friday

How Deep is your Love?

Plenary chair is Harvey. This workshop aims to identify the various plans for sustainability being incorporated in each Synergeia partners. Continued project existence, to be achievable, entails the involvement of all stakeholders. Financial grants are essential but it is not the only thing, the people endowed with talents and competencies are considered big factors in attaining sustainability. Creativity in dealing with the LGUs, DepEd, SKs, Parents, Teachers is an add on.

Synergeia in 2005

A presentation what Synergeia has done and accomplished in 2005. One of the reasons to celebrate is the coalition with thirteen new communities from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Synergeia bags Best Website and Contents award at the Public Education Annual Conference last November 15, 2005 in Washington, DC. Synergeia was also certified by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification in June 2005.

Love is a Many Splendored Thing

Plenary chair Pilar Habito draws the linkage between the propose programs and activities among the members and what Synergeia is doing.

Evaluation, Summary and Closing Ceremonies

Mr. Ed de la Torre emphasized Synergeia's sustainable success means a sense of wholeness, direction, and movement. There is a need to consolidate the many diversified stakeholders to expand. The system structures have to be documented so that training and developing people for succession will be done efficiently and effectively.

Everyone goes home armed with renewed passion of becoming champions of education reforms.