



**WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE
4th SYNERGEIA RETREAT**

YC James Yen Center
IIRR, Silang, Cavite
21-23 January 2005

A Synergeia Retreat and Planning Workshop were held at the IIRR, Silang, Cavite on 21-23 January 2005 with the theme "Growing Together in Vision and Action." Synergeia members and partners met to have a review of the previous year's activities of educational programs and come up with a work program for the year 2005.

Order of Activities

1. Workshop 1

During the first day of the workshop, the participants were divided according to five groups wherein each group was assigned to discuss a particular theme --- *Working Together as a Team, Training and Working with Teachers, Working with LGU and School Officials, Building a Parent-Support System and Monitoring and Evaluating Impact of Programs*. The groups were then asked to share their experiences, best lessons and mistakes encountered in relation to themes they have discussed.

2. Workshop 2

Focusing on the same themes, each group reflected on the specific major problems they encountered and the strategies they employed in dealing with the problems.

3. Benchmarking the Programs

The participants engaged in a benchmarking workshop facilitated by Dr. Milwida Guevara. A sample benchmark for education reform programs were used using performance indicators such as the students' and teachers' performance, governance in schools, community participation, and performance of local school boards.

4. Workshop 3

The second day of the retreat started with a workshop where each group was asked to discuss doable measures and strategies that can be employed with regards to reinventing the local school boards and improvement of Special Education Fund (SEF) tax administration. The workshop likewise focused on the plans for program preparation and sustainability that will be undertaken by the members of the Project Management Team (PMTs).

5. Plenary Session

- Burning Passions
Mr. Washington Sycip, a member of the Synergeia Board of Trustees, presented an inspirational talk

6. Workshop 4 – How it All Came About

The fourth workshop served as a venue for the Local Chief Executives (LCEs), project heads and assistants for further sharing of experiences in managing their respective programs. At the end of the workshop, the participants determined and defined the theory of change they followed on the course of implementing their programs as well as processes and factors that promoted change.

7. Workshop 5 – Reaching Beyond my World to a Wider Community

The participants have identified the opportunities in re-creating Synergeia, the doable measures in influencing other persons, institutions, communities in doing basic education reforms and the roles to be played in Synergeia recreation.

8. Doing Education Reforms Together for Mindanao Children

Synergeia members pooled ideas together for the up coming Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) project.

9. Workshop 6 – The Road Ahead

The last workshop was conducted on the third day of the retreat. It focused on the structuring of thematic workshops on Governance, Reading, Building a Parent Support System, and Affirmative Action. The participants likewise came up with planning outputs for this year's Tipanan Event.

10. Election of Board of Trustees

A plenary session followed after which Elections of the BOT by members and by Cluster.