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SPECIAL REPORT...

“The Belt and Road Sino-Philippine U20 University Alliance for Industry-University-Research”

On 10-12 January 2019, Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, President, and Sr. Ma. Vicenta Estrella, SPC, Vice-President for Finance attended the inaugural convention of “The Belt and Road Sino-Philippine U20 University Alliance for Industry-University-Research” or U20 in Qingdao, China.

The U20 Sino-Philippine Deep-Sea University Alliance aims to gather top universities in China and the Philippines to boost cooperation and exchange of personnel and promote the common development between the two countries with the broad objective of being part of the construction of an innovative global economy.

Represented in the convention aside from St. Paul University, Manila were University of the Philippines Manila, De La Salle University Taft, Philippine Women’s University, St. Scholastica’s College, Adamson University, Lyceum of the Philippines, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute, and World Citi Colleges Inc. Natalya Sannikova, PhD, Member of the Russian Union of Composers, was also there to represent the M.I. Glinka Novosibirsk State Conservatory in Russia.

The welcome banquet was hosted by Qingdao government officials, including the City Vice-Mayor Liu Jianjun. Participants included representatives and leaders from Chinese universities and relevant departments.

The second day of the convention featured speeches by the representative of Qingdao Municipal Government, the representative of Philippine universities, the representative of Shandong University, and the representative of Russian universities. Following the speeches was the Seal Affixing Ceremony by U20 members; Presentation of the U20 Declaration; Forum Thematic Report I: Prospects for International Advanced Personnel Education by Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, President of St. Paul University Manila; Forum Thematic Report II: Opportunities and Challenges in the Process of Sino-Philippine Education Exchange by Br. Raymundo B. Suplido, FSC, President of De La Salle University; Forum Thematic Report:U20 Integration Development of Innovative and Practical Advanced Personnel Development and Local Economy by Dr. Dong Quanxian, Secretary-General of U20.

Instead of the symposium in the afternoon, the delegates were brought to a tour of the Laoshan Academy Hotel, which houses a very rich of collection of Chinese cultural heritage.

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Following is the speech delivered by Sr. Evangeline:

Forum Thematic Report 1: Prospects for International Advanced Education

When our plane was about to land, seeing all the buildings with their walls lighted up, I was mesmerized by the aerial view of Qingdao. I said, "This is a very beautiful city." It is not only because of the infrastructures. It is beautiful because the people here have beautiful hearts. Yesterday evening, we had a taste of your hospitality, and we truly had a wonderful time. Thank you very much!

The Vice-Mayor and other officials of Qingdao, Officials and Representatives of the Universities and Colleges of Russia, Finland, and the Philippines, Dr. Dong Quanxian, Secretary-General of U20, and other members of this project, good morning! Congratulations to the organizers of U20.

When Johnson requested me last week to give a speech in this conference, he asked me to just focus on the involvement of SPU Manila in this U20. When I saw the program two days before our departure for China, I was surprised to see that I was expected to give a Forum Thematic Report on the Prospects for International Advanced Personnel Education, which I am not very familiar about. So, at the outset, I would like to stick to what I have prepared, if that is okay with you; and then towards the latter part, I will try to share some information and insights about the Trends in Advanced Personnel Education.

We are proud to say that St. Paul University Manila has been in existence for 106 years now. Rising from its humble beginnings, it has progressively developed and continued to stand tall in the midst of adversities, trials, and difficulties, inculcating among our students and graduates sound and genuine Christian values. St. Paul University has produced alumni who are distinguished in their chosen fields, such as Nursing, Music, Mass Communication, and Business, to name just a few. Having been recognized as a Center for Development in Nursing, we have opened our graduate programs in this field. We are one of the very few universities offering a PhD program in Nursing Education. Being a Center of Excellence in Music, we pioneered a Master's Program in Music Therapy and a Doctorate Program in Musical Arts. To date, we are the only school offering these two programs in music. It was, therefore, not a surprise for us when we received the invitation for an educational partnership in the field of Music Education and Musical Arts.

St. Paul University Manila has consistently served the Filipino youth, providing quality education, initially only to young ladies, but in 2004, we opened our doors to male students. We have likewise catered to children and youth regardless of their economic status, race, age, color, or creed; promoting interculturality as an essential characteristic of our strategies for internationalization.

Upholding an attitude of being open to all, there is nothing that prevents us from exploring the possibility of extending our services to the youth and professionals of Qingdao in particular, and to the citizens of Shandong and China, in general. The initial plan of hosting them in St. Paul University Manila for executive classes in Doctor in Musical Arts is most welcome. In fact, we now have a significant number of Chinese adults who are enrolled in this doctoral program, and we are very happy to have them with us. Johnson also mentioned to us about what the whole idea of U20 is about...the idea of building a University City right here in Qingdao and the plan to invite SPU Manila to administer one of the schools.

Extending our educational services to other nations is not new to us. The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, Philippine Province has accepted invitations from bishops in other countries. We are currently administering a Catholic school in Hawaii and one in Dubai; and soon we will be taking on the administration of another Catholic School in the United Arab Emirates. We also have Sisters serving as administrative staff in Bethlehem University, thanks to the invitation of the La Salle Brothers.

It is actually our first time to be invited to administer a school in a non-Catholic setting. To me, the idea seems to be very challenging. Nevertheless, it is with great delight that we receive your invitation to be part of the U20 Deep Sea Alliance.

What does this participation mean to us?

It means an opportunity to take part in shaping of the future of young people in this part of the globe. It means an opportunity not only in the development of competencies but also in the formation of values, attitudes, philosophies, viewpoints, and other soft skills of students and professionals.

However, our involvement in this project will definitely be not without some conditions. Contiguous or attached to the identity of St. Paul University Manila is its being a Catholic university and its commitment to forming persons into becoming integrated, competent, and compassionate in the service of the ministry and society.

Some questions keep coming back to me now. If we accept the offer to be part of the U20 project, shall we have the freedom to BE what we are? Can we have the freedom to integrate values in the curriculum? Can we have the freedom to form students not only to become competent professionals but more importantly, into becoming values-centered, integrated, compassionate, and responsible individuals who are committed to serving the society and the common good? To find answers to these questions, we need to talk with each other. If we want to have a strong partnership built on trust, we need to start and maintain an honest and open dialogue. That is the beauty of communication...that is the beauty of negotiation...that is the beauty of interchange. In the process, we might find ourselves opening up to greater and brighter possibilities.

I would like to devote a few minutes now to present some points about Trends in International Advanced Personnel Education.

Let me just enumerate some:

- **Inter-Professional and Intra-Professional Education and Practice:** Inter-professional education happens when there is learning among students from different professions while intra-professional education refers to education when two or more disciplines within the same profession are engaged in learning together. Researches have shown that patients receive high quality health care when healthcare professionals work collaboratively as a team. I suppose this is true not only for the medical profession but also in other fields. The greater the diversity of students in a class in the graduate school, the better. Adults learn a lot from their interaction with other professionals in the class.
- **Systemic and Strategic Thinking:** Systems thinking looks at things by looking at the whole. Systems thinking feeds strategic thinking: How do things work and fit together vs. where should you go and how do you get there?
- **Inclusive Education:** At this time when our institutions are becoming more and more internationalized and the classroom environment has become a lot more diverse, there is greater need to foster inclusive education.
- **Soft Skills:** In this age of technology and artificial intelligence, we see the increasing need of students and professionals for more effective soft skills. Hard skills are useless without soft skills. To be truly effective, technical skills alone are not enough.
- **Big Data Analytics:** Big Data tools and techniques are rising in demand due to the use of big data in business operations.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** This is an area of computer science that emphasizes the creation of intelligent machines that work and react like humans. (Example is Speech Recognition Learning)

Other Trends in Advanced Personnel Education are:

- Knowledge Management
- Internet of Things
- Innovation
- Personalized Learning
- Cloud and Connectivity
- Curriculum Mapping and Transformation

You can read about all these in these in the internet.

We can also get some ideas about Advanced Personnel Education if we know the Trends in HR. There are two short video clips that I found in YouTube Which may be useful to us:

- Modern HR for 2025 (2 min)
- 10 inspiring HR Trends in 2019 (7 min)

(Movie Clip Viewing)

There are just three more tips that I would like to share with you:

1. Gone are the days when we just offer any training program or send our people to any course on the basis of want. Nowadays we need to back up our decisions with hard evidences. We need data on training needs analysis of employees before we can develop a relevant training program. We need to do a market analysis before we propose to offer new programs.

2. When offering programs, we do not need to stick to the traditional ones; we can actually innovate. Now we can combine fields together to come up with merged disciplines. For example: Music can be combined with health science. This is actually what we did when we came up with an MA program in Music Therapy in St. Paul Manila. We also combined Mass Communication and IT and came up with a new program on Visual Communication. I am sure many of you have your own version of merged disciplines.

3. In the implementation of programs, we do not have to do it alone especially if we have limited expertise, or if we lack the human or material resources required to run the program. We can enter into a "coopetition" with another university or with an industry partner. Instead of competing with one another, we can cooperate with one another in the offering of programs.

I think U20 is a very good model of cooperation and "coopetition." We are separate and distinct educational institutions but we can take advantage of the strength of each one through this partnership.

The U20 Sino-Philippine Deep-Sea University Alliance marks the beginning of this collaborative effort. Through this partnership, we hope to create stronger relationships through faculty and student exchange, collaborative research, and innovation.

In closing, I would like to borrow the words of George Bernard Shaw, and I quote: "Some men see things as they are and say, why; I dream things that never were and say, why not."

ALUMNAE GATHERING

**High School 1973
Lunch get-together
12 January 2019**



CONDOLENCE

The Paulinian family condoles with the relatives of Tet Alcid (HS 1968).

