Philippines is the only country in Asia and the three remaining countries in the world that uses a 10-year basic education cycle until October 2010 when Department of Education discussed to enhance the basic education program of the country. And finally on June 2012, students entering the first grade of elementary and those entering the first year high school will follow the new K to 12 Curriculum.

The students in elementary grade will have 12 years instead of 10 years of basic education and the students in high school will have junior high school and senior high school. Junior high school includes grade 7 to grade 10 and senior high school includes grade 11 and 12. But the students have an option of taking two years of voluntary senior high school.

The K to 12 Curriculum will follow spiral progression approach in teaching the students. It means learners have to discover what the teachers want them to learn just giving information for a certain lesson. The teachers only facilitate learning not to teach them what should be learned. It is a process of revisiting basic ideas endlessly in every chapter of the lesson.

How did the different sectors in society accept the program?

The K to 12 program aroused mixed reactions and comments from different sectors. Supporters strongly believed that this is the answer for the Filipino children to have quality education. Critics, on the other hand, questioned the relationship of length of education to quality of education.

Is it really important to add two more years?

The Briefer on the Enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program posted some reasons why add two more years.
1. To decongest and enhance the basic education curriculum.
2. To provide better quality education.
3. Studies in the Philippines have shown that an additional years of schooling increases earnings by 7.5%.
4. Minus 2 instead of plus 2 for those family who cannot afford a college education but still wish to have their children find a good paying job.
5. To inspire a shift in attitude that completion of high school education is more than just preparation for college but can be sufficient for a gainful employment.
6. Studies validate that improvements in education will increase GDP growth by 2% to 2.2%.

Though many said that the implementation of K to 12 is an impulsive act from the government but the society anticipates acceleration in economic growth, improvements in the quality of education and hopes for sound and solid foundation for long term socio-economic development.

References:
www.k12educationsystem.com/k-12-reviews-educational-system-philippines/