New Times, New Thinking for Education

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Philippine Education is under different times and therefore requires different thinking. It is time to do a systematic approach where the parameters and parts, and how they interact with each other are well define. One way of doing a systematic approach is use the goals of basic education as the guide, and identify the kind of interventions needed in all parts of Department of Education from the policy makers, designers to implementers. This could probably produce desired results.

However, there is a chance that the parts do not total to a desired sum. We may have good administrators and teachers but somewhere along the way, something is overlooked that in the end, we still do not produce a good student. Another way of doing a system’s approach is to use the student as a guide. As in manufacturing process, the student is the product and given the requirements of that product, we then look at processes, inputs of values desired to support the processes.

The product of education is the student. The focus on the students would be on benchmarking, of comparing the quality of our students against other students from developed countries. We use developed countries as the barometer because with their monopoly over technologies, they will be the one dictating the direction and pace of development in the 21st century.

Our students must be able to compete with the best, brightest and fastest around the world. The curriculum serves as the process for “manufacturing” the student. Again the concern over curriculum would be on benchmarking. We need to constantly measure our curriculum against that of developed countries. In some developed countries exposure to technology, computer and hands-on exercises in commercial ventures start at an early age.

Our curriculum must also prepare the students to add value to our unique resources. Take advantage of the creativity that our teachers have. The call of the times is a paradigm shift to maximize the benefits of making improvements.