

# **EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**

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# Introduction

- Iloilo City has very good human resources; graduates of good universities and professionally trained (PCCRP 2005)
- Iloilo City produces more college graduates than Cebu City (City Mayor Treñas)
- Iloilo City is home to 7 universities, more than 20 colleges

**THUS, within Metro Iloilo and Guimaras is a rich human resource which can be tapped for the area's development**

# Nature and Processes of Education for Sustainability

- Regional: that of “learning to think and act like a region”
- Sustainability: links economic objectives, social justice, environmental protection
- Education as a means towards regional sustainability: requires strategic matching between the demands of the region and the curricular programs of HEIs

# Nature and Processes of Education for Sustainability

- Education for sustainability: a lifelong process that leads to an informed and involved citizenry having the creative problem-solving skills, scientific and social literacy, and commitment to engage in responsible individual and cooperative actions
- Components: lifelong learning, interdisciplinary approaches, systems thinking, partnerships, multicultural perspectives, empowerment

# Lifelong Learning

- Learning is a seamless, continuing process that exists in both formal and non-formal educational settings
- There is a need to emphasize the kind of development that meets the needs of the present and future generations
  - Graduate schools and graduate programs consortia in Iloilo provide opportunities for continuing education
  - Stress on the value of lifelong learning is evident in both public and private realm

# Interdisciplinary Approaches

- Education integrates content and issues across disciplines and curricula
- Convergence of resource persons from various fields of knowledge adds value to planning and strategy formulation towards regional sustainability
  - Inclusion of experts from various fields in the creation of task forces, councils, committees and other deliberative or consultative bodies in Iloilo

# Systems Thinking

- Learning about sustainability offers an opportunity to develop and exercise integrated systems
- Information overload makes critical thinking imperative
- Technological advancement has made systems thinking much easier
- Systems thinking also encourages debate, informed opinion-making, profound policy and decision-making

# Partnerships

- Partnerships between educational institutions and the community are key to advancing education for sustainability
- Education for sustainability requires collaboration
  - Interactions with other sectors serve as effective feedback mechanisms for academic institutions
  - The expertise of academics help government, non-government and business organizations, make sense of information available to them

# Multicultural Perspectives

- Achieving sustainability is dependent upon an understanding of diverse cultural perspectives and approaches to problem-solving
- This perspective requires openness to various viewpoints
- University curricula should promote appreciation of, and respect for, diverse cultural perspectives
- Educational programs must be grounded on socio-cultural reality

**Empowerment**

# Opportunities for Action

- **FIRST:** Constant interfacing between academics and practitioners in governance
- **SECOND:** More active participation of universities in consultative bodies
- **THIRD:** Schools to assume a more proactive social role
- **FOURTH:** Universities/schools to make curricular programs relevant to the requisites of the city-region

# CONCLUSION

## Questions to ponder:

1. What more can our education institutions do to help ensure regional sustainability?
2. Who should initiate the needed interaction and collaboration between educational institutions and the other sectors of the region?

# Salamat guid!

