



SDO – BAGUIO



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Cordillera Administrative Region
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BAGUIO CITY

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9 July, 2023

DEPED PRESENTS ROADMAP TO SMART LEARNING COMMUNITIES

The City Schools Division of the Department of Education finalized its roadmap towards achieving smart learning communities by adopting and innovating strategies that worked well under the blended learning scheme during the Covid-19 pandemic. DepEd-Baguio plans on institutionalizing virtual learning by incorporating innovative approaches to address challenges in basic education.

City Schools Division Superintendent Soraya Faculo said by 2026, all schools will be implementing a form of online learning to help strengthen smart learning communities.

Teachers should also have the right motivation and competency with the right technology.

At least P11.3 million will be needed to implement the program with the end goal of virtual learning as a normal way of teaching in the third year given that all learner's homes have Internet connectivity. DepEd Chief Supervisor on Curriculum Implementation Juliet Sannad said virtual learning is not an option anymore but a need.

“Virtual learning does not mean no more face-to-face, there will still be face-to-face but on schedule following the blended learning model,” Sannad said.

DepEd Regional Director Estela Carino supports the program, saying this will solve one of the problems in Baguio on inadequate classrooms and lack of buildable spaces for more classrooms.

“The only solution we see is the institutionalization of online learning through virtual classrooms but this will need support from the local government unit,” Cariño said during the presentation of the program to city officials on July 3.

Presently, more than 60 learners are packed in a classroom that is supposed to be for 35 individuals only as a standard learning environment according to DepEd.

In support of the program, the city council unanimously adopted a resolution penned by Councilor Vladimir Cayabas, chair of the committee on education, culture, creativity and historical research, endorsing the smart learning communities by DepEd Baguio to the office of Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte. – Jessa Mardy P. Samidan



HOME NEWS COLUMNS OPINIONS SPORTS ADVERTISEMENTS ABOUT CONTACT ARCHIVES

DepEd presents roadmap to smart learning communities

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BAGUIO JOINS INQSKWELA AS SCHOOL KIDS' READING SKILLS IMPROVE

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — The summer capital has officially joined the Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) INQskwela project following the approval of the local school board and in line with Baguio's aspirations to become a smart city through the increasing use of digital automation in public services and socioeconomic activities.

Twenty pilot schools are getting free access to the digital edition of the newspaper, using the InquirerPlus app, as part of the Inquirer Foundation's campaign to instill the love of reading among schoolchildren, develop their interest in current events and civic duty, and give them an early start in media literacy.

Baguio is the fifth local government to partner with PDI and the Inquirer Foundation since INQskwela was relaunched last year after the pandemic pause.

Earlier partners included Valenzuela City, Manila, San Manuel town in Tarlac province, and Victorias City in Negros Occidental.

Tomorrow, the local government of Calumpit, Bulacan, is also expected to sign up as a partner.

"I have been speaking to students lately and I realized that they have not been able to grasp the relevance of current events and everything that is happening in the country," said Mayor Benjamin Magalong following the signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the city government and Inquirer Foundation on July 12.

Through class discussions about the day's news and issues, he said, "The students can determine: 'What is our role as young individuals?'" Hopefully, he said, the students would realize that being young should not prevent them from speaking out and doing what they can to help solve Baguio's problems. Information obtained from credible news sources can "empower them and make them better leaders" in the future, Magalong added.

Smart classrooms

Once classes resume on Aug. 27, Baguio teachers may incorporate news reports in InquirerPlus as part of the day's lessons, particularly in social studies, the mayor added.

Representing the Inquirer at the MOA signing was Connie Kalagayan, assistant vice president for corporate affairs and the foundation's executive director.

The INQskwela partnership is expected to complement Baguio's "Smart Learning Communities (SLC)" program, which encourages teachers to use various technological innovations to enhance their students' learning experience, according to Soraya Faculo, Baguio City Schools Division superintendent.

The goal is for the city to have more "smart classrooms," Faculo said, with the training of teachers in 15 pilot elementary and high schools. (The division oversees some 60,000 pupils in 45 grade schools and 21 high schools across Baguio.)

SLC is being implemented from 2023 to 2026, during which the pilot schools are expected to "maximize online learning" in the first school year and generate data that the Department of Education (DepEd) can use to design a "model" smart classroom for Baguio.

The DepEd will then purchase the needed equipment when it applies that model to half of the city's grade schools in the second year of SLC. In the third year, all Baguio schools should be covered by the program.

The city is also acquiring additional internet bandwidth of up to 10 gigabytes from the National Broadband Program to improve connectivity for all schools, Magalong also said.

Reading skills

Like many Filipino children, Baguio pupils initially struggled but have since adapted to blended learning, which became the norm during the pandemic lockdown.

Faculo cited the results of the Philippine Informal Reading Inventory (Phil-IRI) for the school year 2022-2023 showing that 41.78 percent (4,060) of 9,716 Baguio students in Grades 4-6 could read English text "independently," meaning they did not require help from teachers.

Of the 4,563 Grade 7 pupils who were tested, 42.01 percent (1,917) proved to be "independent" readers of English text, the education official said in a recent report to Magalong.

Introduced in 2018 by then Education Secretary Leonor Briones, Phil-IRI is a diagnostic tool that measures pupils' reading skills in English and Filipino before and after a school term.

Given these developments, INQskwela could help in the Baguio schools' transition to a community of smart classrooms, the mayor said.



'SMART' MOVE Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong (second from left) and Schools Division Superintendent Soraya Faculo (fourth) seal an INQskwela partnership with the Inquirer's national sales manager Roy Raul Mendiola and assistant vice president Connie Kalagayan at Baguio City Hall on July 12. —NEIL CLARKONGCHANGCO

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By Vincent Cabreja
@InqNational

BAGUIO CITY—The summer capital has officially joined the Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) INQskwela project following the approval of the local school board and in line with Baguio's aspirations to become a smart city through the increasing use of digital automation in public services and socioeconomic activities.

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DEPED BAGUIO LAUNCHES "TARA, BASA!" PROGRAM FOR GRADE SCHOOLERS

Baguio City is intensifying its reading program with the launch of "Tara, Basa!" tutoring program on Sunday, August 13.

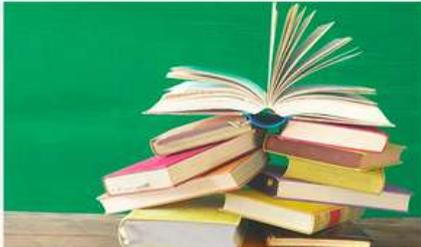
The initiative was launched by the Department of Education-Baguio to recover learning losses in the Summer Capital, especially in the elementary level. According to DepEd, the program is designed to improve the students' foundational reading skills while offering short-term work and learning opportunities for financially challenged college students.

Officer in Charge Schools Division Superintendent Soraya Faculolt noted that the program will run in the city from August 14 to 25 and every Saturday from September 2 to November 11 in designated public schools.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong commended the efforts of the department in bridging the learning gap through the program.

DepEd Baguio launches 'Tara, Basa!' program for grade schoolers

August 14, 2023



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PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE MIND

Editor: Joel V. Nigos

INQSKWELA MAKES LEARNING IN BAGUIO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MORE ENGAGING, EXCITING

The first day of class jitters and the implementation of the Inqskwela project made the Baguio City public schools excited. Access to the digital copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on mobile phone and a classroom where learners are trained to articulate their views on social issues are the target skills of the Inqskwela project of DepEd Baguio, the city government, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

At Dona Aurora National High School, the DepEd Baguio monitoring team observed the engaging learning environment in Grade 12, where 32 students accessed the Inquirer during their class and were actively participating in their English subject.

Additionally, in Grade 10, the 16 students were engrossed in their



Students accessing the digital copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer as teachers are using it as a learning tool in Baguio public schools.



Araling Panlipunan class. The dedication and enthusiasm of both students and teachers were palpable, setting the stage for a fruitful visit.

In a city school which is quite far from the business center, Happy Hollow National High School, the Grade 11 Araling Panlipunan class discussed the topic, "Socio-Political Issues in the Philippines" and "Trends, Networks, and Critical Thinking in the 21st Century Culture." With 40 students actively participating, it was evident that these young minds were not only learning but also engaging critically with the information they gathered from the digital copy of the Inquirer, fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity.

During the monitoring, DepEd Baguio team was deeply impressed

by the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by both students and teachers in accessing the PDI digital copy.

The educators showcased the commitment to the Inqskwela program, eagerly discussing its curriculum and innovative approach. They demonstrated the functionalities of the Inqskwela app and highlighted the anticipated learning outcomes.

On the other hand, Rizal Elem. School and Dona Aurora National High School pioneered the pilot run for the MATATAG Curriculum for Kinder, Grade 1 and Grade 7, respectively, starting on Sept. 4. The two schools of Baguio will conduct transition activities for the next two weeks. It shall be noted that next year will be the implementation of the new curriculum.

11 September, 2023

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At Dona Aurora National High School, the DepEd Baguio monitoring team observed the engaging learning environment in Grade 12, where 32 students accessed the inquirer during their class and were actively participating in their English subject.

Additionally, in Grade 10, the 46 students were engrossed in their Araling Panlipunan class. The dedication and enthusiasm of both students and teachers were palpable, setting the stage for a fruitful visit.

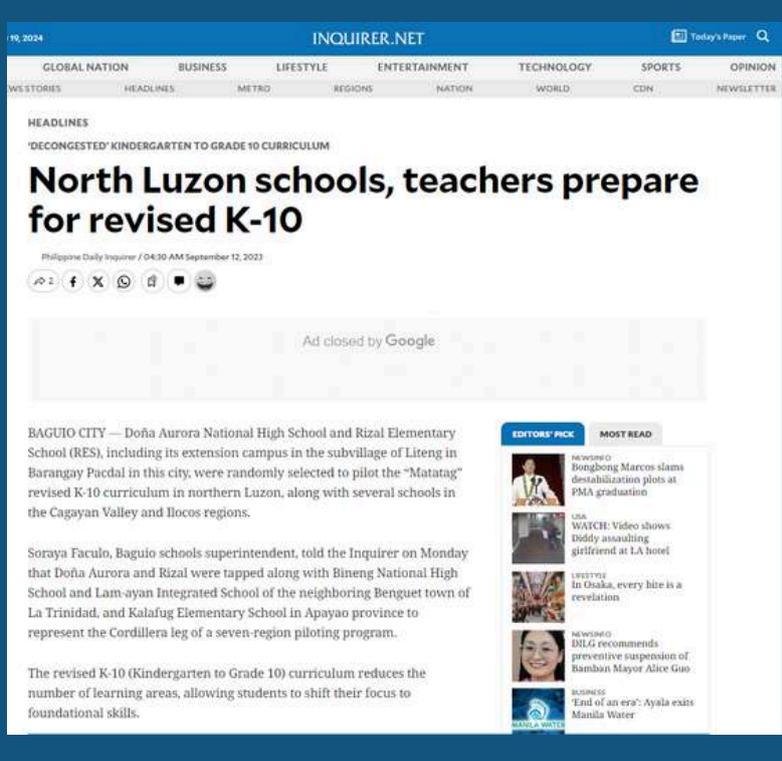
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NORTH LUZON SCHOOLS, TEACHERS PREPARE FOR REVISED K-10

BAGUIO CITY — Doña Aurora National High School and Rizal Elementary School (RES), including its extension campus in the subvillage of Liteng in Barangay Pacdal in this city, were randomly selected to pilot the “Matatag” revised K-10 curriculum in northern Luzon, along with several schools in the Cagayan Valley and Ilocos regions.

To prepare for the Sept. 18 start of the new curriculum, RES teachers had an orientation seminar on Sept. 1 that tackled separate routines for the pilot schools, such as reduced classroom hours and a different day for their weekly flag ceremonies, to separate them from the majority of Cordillera schools that will continue with the existing K-12 curriculum.

Soraya Faculo, Baguio schools superintendent, told the Inquirer on Monday that Doña Aurora and Rizal were tapped along with Bineng National High School and Lam-ayan Integrated School of the neighboring Benguet town of La Trinidad, and Kalafug Elementary School in Apayao province to represent the Cordillera leg of a seven-region piloting program.

The curriculum of the remaining two years of senior high school, which is meant to allow students to land jobs after graduation, is currently being reviewed by the Department of Education (DepEd).

Low enrollment

As of Aug. 29, at least 362,648 children enrolled in public elementary and high schools in the Cordillera for the school year 2023-2024, which was lower than the 445,069 pupils who attended classes in the school year 2022-2023, the DepEd said.

The revised K-10 (Kindergarten to Grade 10) curriculum reduces the number of learning areas, allowing students to shift their focus to foundational skills.

Baguio schools had the largest enrollment, with 43,685 grade school students, 28,308 in junior high school, 18,511 in senior high school, and 335 persons enrolled in the DepEd’s alternative learning system.

Benguet trailed behind with a total of 73,021 enrollees, followed by Abra, which has 51,860 public school students.



Baguio schools post 'ready' mark since Day 1: DepEd

By Liza Agoot
September 19, 2023, 9:02 pm



READINESS. Learners at the Baguio City National High School, the biggest secondary school in the city in terms of student population, listen to their teacher on the first week in this undated photo. The Baguio City Schools Division, in a report dated Sept. 18, 2023, said schools in the city are marked “ready” in terms of chairs and classrooms, based on a Department of Education rating form. (Photo courtesy of Jeanne Campana)

BAGUIO CITY – Public and private schools in Baguio have recorded a “ready” rating in terms of their preparations based on assessments less than a month after the opening of classes on Aug. 29, an official said in a report released Tuesday.

“We have to make sure we are ready by doing remedies that allow us to make the opening day until now smooth for the teachers, especially the students,” Soraya Faculo, officer-in-charge superintendent of the Department of Education (DepEd) - Baguio, said in a report to the city government.

The report said the sufficiency of chairs in both elementary and high school garnered a “ready” mark with 96.4 percent and 97.8 percent ratings, respectively.

Data show 1,238 chairs are needed in the elementary and 633 in the secondary levels.

The rating is based on the school readiness form of the DepEd where a 75 to 100 percent mark is tagged as “ready”; 50 to 74 percent “nearly ready”; and 49 percent and below “not ready.”

For classrooms, the elementary and secondary levels also obtained the ready marks of 94.8 percent and 97.8 percent, respectively.

At least 54 classrooms are lacking in the elementary while 17 more are needed in high school.

Earlier, the DepEd-Baguio welcomed the city government’s plan to use lumber from felled trees during typhoons to make chairs for public school learners. (PNA)



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Editor
Joel V. Nigos

PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE MIND

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN K TO 12 SCHOOLS

By Soraya Faculo

AI is more than ChatGPT. Around the world, AI permeated the educational landscape and coping with these changes affects the way teachers work. Among our K to 12 private schools in Baguio City, AI is used in many ways like it is a teacher's co-pilot where a learning management system allows content creation, gamifying and gathering results from assessments in real time, thus giving more time for teacher and learner to interact in the classroom. That gives an opportunity for teachers to come together and gain insights on different strategies to deliver lessons.

In Baguio City public schools, AI use can be seen in the text-to-speech facility of the Digital Inquirer app. Twenty pilot schools of the INQskwela project with Philippine Daily Inquirer and the city local government unit receive a digital copy of the news-

paper daily and the text-to-speech facility of the digital Inquirer caters to different learning styles such as those with auditory learning style are able to cope. It also serves as read aloud as you can hear how words are pronounced.

Meanwhile, the Edutech Asia conference held in Singapore last Nov. 8-9, discussions on AI across the globe and in different fields were empowering particularly on its use in education. Department of Education-Cordillera Region Director Estela Cariño and team with DepEd Baguio OIC Superintendent Soraya Faculo and team attended the conference, participated in the discussions and networked with organizations and companies who have developed AI tools for teaching literacy, science, math, mental health, among others. Cariño was among the panelists in the topic "AI: Finding a balance between tightening regulations and foster-



Participants in the Edutech Asia conference held in Singapore last Nov. 8-9 where AI in education issues were discussed.

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In this conference, there were products that featured AI-powered software and hardware to help

in school management, measure learners well-being, content creation, progress monitoring, among others. These can be used to lighten the load of teachers giving way to more time for teachers to attend to learners. Learning analytics shows

outcomes. For instance, it can show the progress of each learner and the specific skill or a behavior that a learner needs to improve or in a large-scale level where schools are. AI is here to stay and it is an opportunity to work in collaboration

with different stakeholders to see the advantages.

Moving forward, it is critical that as AI is used in K to 12 schools, educators must be AI literate. The entire school community with its stakeholders must learn AI and develop guidelines on the ethical use and development of AI. It is still critical that the principles of teaching and learning are observed so that learners hone their creative and critical thinking while AI tools enrich their learning. As there are challenges in technology access, the culture of innovation in the school and classroom levels must be reinforced. Filipinos are "wa-is" and on a positive note, teachers will find ways if given the right motivation. School heads and supervisors will have to lead in the use of technology and see that 100 percent of teachers in the school will use technology in delivering lessons on a regular basis.

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9 December, 2023

INQSKWELA BOOSTS NEWS LITERACY, READING SKILLS, PARTNERS SAY

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQskwela project, which provides free access to Inquirer's digital edition (Inquirer Plus or INQPlus), had been integrated into a Baguio City government program called Smart Learning Communities (SLC) and was among the initiatives tackled at the two-day Singapore EDUtech Asia Conference last month. SLC taps digital technology to "make public education relevant and to address learning recovery," said Soraya Faculo, head of the Baguio City Schools Division.

Part of the program is INQskwela, which schools use to teach English and Araling Panlipunan, as well as for student research.

Baguio is among the latest localities to partner with Inquirer for the INQskwela project.

The partnership was sealed on July 12 and was led by Baguio Mayor Benjamin Magalong and Faculo, along with the Inquirer's national sales manager Roy Raul Mendiola and assistant vice president Connie Kalagayan.

Estrela Cariño, Cordillera director of the Department of Education, raised the SLC during a panel discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on modern education, Faculo said.

"INQPlus has text-to-speech features so learners have to either listen to the news or read the news.

Apart from practical reading, its audio feature is great for pupils who learn quicker through auditory learning. It is AI-powered," she said.

Blended learning

Faculo added: "Our goal (for SLC) is to make all 67 Baguio public schools smart schools within three years by exploring several learning options like blended or hyflex learning (hybrid and flexible or a combination of physical classroom lessons with additional teaching online or through radio or TV broadcasts) using AI-aided tools," Faculo told the Inquirer.

She said teachers would be trained to navigate different technologies,

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HEADLINES

INQskwela boosts news literacy, reading skills, partners say

By: Carla Gomez, Carmela Reyes-Estrope, Maria Adelaida Calayag, Vincent Calbreza - @inquirerdotnet
Philippine Daily Inquirer / 06:04 AM December 09, 2023



with equipment support provided by the local government's Special Education Fund. SLC also allows teachers to receive more efficient feedback and data collection mechanisms by holding examinations online, Faculo noted.



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22 January, 2024

BAGUIO LEARNERS' REFLECT ON THE PISA

The 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) examination results were released last December 5 and learners from Baguio City who participated narrated their experience and reflections. The learner-examinees were randomly selected and, in the Cordillera Administrative Region, three divisions were picked: Baguio, Benguet and Apayao. St. Louis School, Inc. (Center), Baguio City, a private school was selected to participate. About 40 examinees were selected.

In an effort to learn from the participants themselves, DepEd Baguio officials engaged in a discussion with St. Louis Center to share their best practices during both the preparation phase and the actual examination. The learners and administrators pointed out five factors that were important to the learners' success.

First, the learners-examinees who are now in their senior year underscored the importance of fostering a harmonious relationship between teachers and learners. Emphasizing the significance of mutual trust in nurturing learners' development, the learners pointed out that the number one factor for their success in their schooling is having a good relationship they have with their teachers. It was explained by Mrs. Annie Caguioa, school principal that each teacher thoroughly follows up the requirements with the learner and the parents. "Also, for learners to feel safe and cared in school, bullying is not tolerated. We address promptly any sign or report on bullying and teachers, learners and parents must come together to address bullying," Caguioa said when asked about incidence of bullying in the school.

Second, the learner-examinees appreciated the effectiveness of exam practices in their school. They said that conducting online examinations since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic proved helpful as it familiarized them with the online format. The learners also conveyed gratitude for the unwavering support provided by the teachers throughout the period, as teachers supplemented their instructional endeavors with various examples and a diverse range of activities to enhance the learners' understanding of the subject matter, all while enjoying overwhelming parental support.



Third, resources are available, and reading is important. Lily Ferrer, school administrator said that there were modules, review materials and mock tests that were done onsite and on online platforms. The school's learning management system (LMS) was helpful in accessing resources, grading the activities and a feedback mechanism. "Reading runs across all subject areas and in their preparation for the PISA I made them use the reading module that I developed", Ferrer explained.

Fourth, the conduct of events by the local government which are done during weekends broadens their experiences. According to the learners these creative programs helped them think in different ways as they are exposed to various cultural and art events where they can participate or simply observe.

Finally, when the learners were asked about the exam's difficulty, a learner-examinee stood up and said, "Sakto lang!". "Sakto lang" is a Filipino expression which means just fine. It was affirmed by the rest of the learners where they responded with confidence that they managed to answer the questions at ease.

DEPED BAGUIO'S FRIDAY TRANSFORMATION

TOP 10 PUBLICATIONS OF UPD COLLEGE OF SCIENCE IN 2023

In only about one to an article published by the Philippine Center for the UP Diliman College of Science in 2023. With a total of 10 articles, the journal ranked the journal as the most cited journal in the Philippines. The journal is published by the Philippine Center for the UP Diliman College of Science in 2023. The journal is published by the Philippine Center for the UP Diliman College of Science in 2023. The journal is published by the Philippine Center for the UP Diliman College of Science in 2023.

DEPED BAGUIO'S FRIDAY TRANSFORMATION



DepEd Baguio has granted 100 Microsoft Teams licenses to its teachers and learners in a lifetime free subscription. These accounts are used to elevate reading literacy, enabling the creation of virtual classrooms and facilitate online reading activities with real-time assessments. One learner expressed, "Sa tingin ko po, ang paggamit namin ng AI Coach sa Microsoft Teams para sa pagbasa ay kapakinabang!" (In my opinion, our use of the AI Coach in Microsoft Teams for reading is beneficial!) The learner's positive experience underscores the AI Coach's significance in improving reading skills.

CEU ALUMNA APPOINTED AS PRC BOARD OF OPTOMETRY CHAIRPERSON



The Commission on Examinations (CE) has appointed a former student of the Philippine College of Optometry as the chairperson of the Board of Optometry. The alumna, who graduated in 2010, was chosen for her extensive experience in the field and her commitment to the profession. She will lead the board in setting standards and overseeing the licensure process for optometrists in the Philippines.

FEU HIGH SCHOOL INKS SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

FEU High School officials inked a partnership agreement with the Philippine Business for Education (PBE) and the Philippine Business for Education (PBE) to support the school's sustainable development initiatives. The agreement includes provisions for providing resources, training, and mentorship to the school's students and faculty. This partnership is expected to enhance the school's educational quality and promote sustainable growth.

13 MAY, 2024

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE MIND

Editor: Joel V. Nigos

BAGUIO CITY SCHOOL LEADERS DEEPEN DATA-DRIVEN SKILLS IN GO AND LEAD TRAINING

From April 24 to 26, 2024, 67 school leaders from Baguio City's public elementary and secondary schools immersed themselves in a comprehensive training module titled "Leading Strategically and Data-Driven Management". This training, the second of five modules in the GO and LEAD (Generate Opportunities & Lead in Education to Accelerate Development) Program, was funded by the Australian government, managed by Philippine Business for Education (PBED), and implemented by National Teachers College (NTC).

The second module aimed to equip participants with essential tools and processes in data analytics to enhance various facets of school management, including instructions, ICT integration, quality assurance, and research. Moreover, it underscored the pivotal role of data-driven decision-making in fostering communities of practice and analyzing transformative schools.

Day one commenced with enlightening sessions led by notable speakers, Joana Chen Delano, CEO of ESKWELABS, delved into the significance of data, while Dr. Edizon A. Fermin, vice president for academic affairs at the



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National Teachers College (NTC), explored the integration of numbers and narratives in leadership. The day concluded with a workshop focused on crafting critical data visual narratives, essential for effective communication and decision-making.

On day two, the focus shifted to data sensing and analysis in education, led by Mary Ann Barcelona, head of APEC's Instructional Design and Development Team. Participants learned practical strategies to extract valuable insights from datasets, enabling informed decision-making and strategic planning.

The final day centered on designing data-driven intervention plans. Paolo Josef Blando, NTC's program and partnership development officer, guided the participants in utilizing street data as basis in planning a multi-tiered system of support or actionable strategies to address challenges and drive positive change within their schools.

This is the 2nd of the five-module course where the participants are expected to finish including the activities in their LinkedIn account. Moreover, SDO Baguio has enrolled these modules for CPD units in the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC).

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INQskwela Quiz Bee goes to Baguio

By Allan Macatuno
@macatunon12

BAGUIO CITY—Hans Dorothy Bolinget, 16, a senior at Pines City National High School, volunteered to represent her campus at the INQskwela Quiz Bee that was recently held here as part of the educational advocacy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI).

With little preparation, Bolinget did not set high expectations for herself going into the contest held May 10 at the Baguio City office of the Department of Education (DepEd).

But drawing confidence from her passion for reading, especially about the news and current events, she aced the easy-level questions in the first round. Later, the advantage of being a wide reader further showed as she piled up points

18-year-old Shanna Mae Baltazar of Baguio City High School, the experience was something she would cherish especially as a campus journalist.

Fear of ignorance

"What I fear is ignorance. If you are not aware of what's happening around you, then you'll be left behind and lose the opportunity to get relevant information that you can use in life," the 12th grader said.

Third-place winner Zhajara Honor, 18, of Pinget National High School, gave credit to her teacher who helped prepare her for the quiz bee by making the class read the news regularly.

"When people are not aware of what's happening around them, it can become problematic. There are issues in our community and we should get involved and help in any way



TEST OF KNOWLEDGE Students from various senior high schools in Baguio City battle it out for the INQskwela Quiz Bee held on May 10 at the Training Hall of the Department of Education Baguio Office. The contest brought together 38 students from 19 schools to test their knowledge on news and current events. —ALLAN MACATUNO

Math and Science in June 2022.

The quiz questions were formulated based on reports published in the Inquirer in the few months prior to the contest. The

4,800 students and 62 teachers enjoy free access to the app.

For classrooms, libraries

"We are more than glad to

ways in which [the students and their teachers] are using this app. Aside from aiding discussions in the classrooms, they are also used in the libraries," Faculo said.

Armi Victoria Fiangaan, the DepEd Baguio education program supervisor, also recognized the importance of the INQskwela partnership.

'Situational awareness'

"Learners should be aware of what's happening around them. They should also know how to filter information. They should know what is real and what is true," Fiangaan said in an interview. "From the partnership, there are so many benefits not only for the learners but also for the teachers."

Drawing content "from the correct channel" is crucial, especially in a classroom setting.

school? What can I give to my community to solve a problem?"

In his speech, Magalong said being aware of social and political issues should go hand in hand with learning math and science. "We give so much focus in algebra, science and biology (but) we don't know what's happening in our surroundings. We should develop situational awareness."

The mayor recalled how he accepted the INQskwela partnership without any hesitation when it was offered to Baguio City last year.

Also addressing the students, Connie Kalagayan, the Inquirer assistant vice president for corporate affairs and executive director of Inquirer Foundation, said: "We hope that, by making reading a daily habit, you are also developing your critical thinking."

INQSKWELA QUIZ BEE GOES TO BAGUIO

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But drawing confidence from her passion for reading, especially about the news and current events, she aced the easy-level questions in the first round. Later, this advantage of being a comprehensive reader further showed as she piled up points in the moderate and challenging categories.

Eventually emerging as champion, she bested 37 other students from 19 high schools in the summer capital. "Being aware of what's happening around us is very important, especially for the youth," she told the Inquirer after the tournament.

For the second placer, 18-year-old Shanna Mae Baltazar of Baguio City High School, she would cherish the experience, especially as a campus journalist.

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"When people are not aware of what's happening around them, it can become problematic. There are issues in our community and we should get involved and help in any way we can," Honor said. "My advice to (fellow students) is for them to read a lot. It not only helps improve your reading comprehension but also develops critical thinking."

The Baguio edition was the third staging of the INQskwela Quiz Bee, with the first two held respectively at the Inquirer office in Makati City in February 2020 and at Valenzuela City School of Math and Science in June 2022.

The quiz questions were formulated based on reports published in the Inquirer a few months before the contest. The contestants came from the partner public schools of INQskwela. In this program, the InquirerPlus app—the newspaper's digital replica—is made available to students and teachers as supplemental learning material to use in class.

Thanks to local government support, the program currently has a total of 20 partner schools in Baguio, where more than 4,800 students and 62 teachers enjoy free access to the app.

For classrooms, libraries

"We are more than glad to know that (the [InquirerPlus app] is one of the resources that learners could readily depend on, especially in the areas of HUMMS (humanities and social sciences) and ABM (accountancy, business and management)," DepEd Baguio Schools superintendent Soraya Faculo said in her welcome remarks before the quiz bee proper.

"We have seen so many ways in which [the students and their teachers] are using this app. Aside from aiding discussions in the classroom, they are also used in the libraries," Faculo said.

Armi Victoria Fiangaan, the DepEd Baguio education program supervisor, also recognized the importance of the INQskwela partnership.

'Situational awareness'

"Learners should be aware of what's happening around them. They should also know how to filter information. They should know what is real and what is true," Fiangaan said in an interview. "From the partnership, there are so many benefits not only for the learners but also for the teachers."

Drawing content "from the correct channel" is crucial, especially in a classroom setting, she added. "We have the internet, but not everything on it is correct information. Teachers can use the (Inquirer) digital articles in different activities."

Also gracing the May 10 event, Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong said students, as they acquire knowledge and develop skills, should start asking themselves: "What can I contribute when I get out (of school)? What can I give to my community to solve a problem?"

In his speech, Magalong said being aware of social and political issues should go hand in hand with learning math and science. "We give so much focus to algebra, science and biology (but) we don't know what's happening in our surroundings. We should develop situational awareness."

The mayor recalled how he willingly accepted the INQskwela partnership when it was offered to Baguio City last year.

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Inquirer reporters Krixia Subingsubing and Dexter Cabalza served as the quiz masters. Also present were other key PDI officers behind the INQskwela program, namely national sales manager Roy Raul Mendiola, corporate affairs officer Bianca Kasilag-Macahilig, marketing director Dheza Paras and business development officer Roland Resuello.