



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGIONAL OFFICE IX- ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

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RELEASED

February 2, 2021

Regional Advisory
No. 023 s. 2021

To: All Schools Division Superintendent
RO-IX Functional Division Chiefs
All Others Concerned
This Region

**iFIRST (International Conference on Innovative and
Responsive Strategies for Teaching)**

1. This refers to the letter forwarded from **Arvin Christian P. De Los Reyes**, Managing Director – Chain Rinivants Educational Training Center regarding **iFIRST (International Conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching)**.
2. This is an international conference scheduled on **May 21, 22 and 23, 2021** via Zoom Online Learning. This is open to all interested participants with the registration fee of Php 3,000.00 (60 US dollars) which will be used for the professional fee of the international resource speakers, facilitators, certificates and other necessary expenses.
3. For more information and details, attention is invited to the attached letter and program of activities for your guidance and reference.
4. For queries, please feel free to contact **Dr. Marietta R. Anhaw** – Chief-HRDD thru cellphone numbers (09499515714 or 09273943190) with email (marietta.anhaw@deped.gov.ph).
5. Immediate dissemination of this advisory is desired.

DR. ISABELITA M. BORRES, CESO III
Regional Director

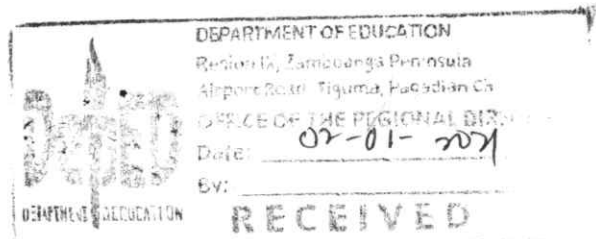
Cc: Schools Division Superintendents
RO-IX Division Chiefs



February 1, 2021

DR. ISABELITA M. BORRES
Director
Region IX, Department of Education

Dear Dr. Borres:



I am personally writing this letter to ask for your support on our upcoming International Conference about Strategies in Teaching. This conference is focused on the recent Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) survey results and the teaching strategies that can help improve it. The PISA survey aims to examine *what students know in reading, mathematics, and science, and what they can do with what they know*. In the Philippines, the assessment was completed by 7,233 students in 187 schools, representing 68% of the total population of 15-year-olds.

One of the key findings that has posed challenges to the policy makers within the education bureaucracy was that *among 79 participating countries, the Philippines scored the lowest in reading* (340 points) and *the second lowest in mathematics* (353 points) and *science* (357 points).

Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center is at one with the department in its effort to globalize the quality of education. Trusting its proven track record and untainted reputation insofar as producing topnotchers in licensure exams is concerned, the center is set to hold an international conference with the keyword iFIRST (*International Conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching*), which will revolve around the theme of transliteracy, interdisciplinarity, and the quest for quality education.

iFIRST is a forum **to be attended by educators in the South-East Asian Region** to discuss the results of the 2018 PISA and examine the implications thereon for globally improving the quality of education as a whole. Further, the initiative of the department known as *Sulong Edukalidad* will be explored against the global trends in education and ASEAN integration measures. Practices along governance, pedagogy, and assessment deemed supportive of the current battle cry will be revisited towards cultivating a community of practice among teachers in the Southeast Asian nations and establishing connectivity of the country's educational system to its ASEAN counterparts.

We have invited renowned educators and researchers abroad in the names of: **Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD, PhD** from the **United States of America**, **Piet Kommers, PhD** from the **Netherlands, Europe** and **Low Ee Ling, PhD of Singapore** to be our resource speakers (See last page for the Bio-note of the Resource Speakers). This 3-day conference will be held via Zoom online learning amidst of the pandemic.

The Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center believes that this international conference will make the teachers serve better in preparing students to a life-long learning. This conference will also credit **15 CPD units** through our tie-up PRC accredited CPD provider, the *International Network For Secondary English Teaching (INSET)* with **PRC-CPD accreditation number 2018-207** that our teachers can use for their PRC license renewal.

On behalf of Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center, may we seek for your office's endorsement to supervisors, principals, department heads, and teachers of public and private schools in the elementary and secondary levels to attend this international conference.

Attached to this letter is our program matrix for your reference. Should you have queries or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me on my personal number 0917-5030-458.

Thank you in anticipation of your favorable consideration and support.

Very truly yours,


Arvin Christian P. De Los Reyes
Managing Director
Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center

The Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center is pleased to announce the conduct of its International Conference on May 21, 22 and 23, 2021 via Zoom online learning platform with the corresponding description, objectives, and participants.

I. Title

iFIRST (International conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching) with the theme: "Transliteracy, Interdisciplinarity, and the quest for quality education"

II. Comprehensive Description

To provide quality basic education and make such education accessible to every Filipino is a constitutional mandate of the Department of Education (DepEd). The outcomes pertaining to access have been achieved so far if gains in enrolment rate, cohort survival rate, and dropout rate from 2016 to 2019 are to be considered. In terms of quality, however, data from national achievement tests as well as international assessments showed that quality outputs are below the standards, the latest of which were the results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 survey. PISA 2018, as the website of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reads, "examines what students know in reading, mathematics, and science, and what they can do with what they know." In the Philippines, the assessment was completed by 7,233 students in 187 schools, representing 68% of the total population of 15-year-olds.

One of the key findings that has posed challenges to the policy makers within the education bureaucracy was that among 79 participating countries, the Philippines scored the lowest in reading (340 points) and the second-lowest in mathematics (353 points) and science (357 points). Cognizant of the need to step up to global standards and strike a balance between its two major thrusts, DepEd has adopted measures to sustain the gains in access and bridge the gaps in quality within the concept of equity and inclusion.

Addressing issues and gaps in attaining the quality of basic education in the Philippines necessitates multidimensional changes. Of particular urgency is reformulating the learning outcomes, revising the enabling inputs (i.e. teaching and learning materials), and introducing new forms of teaching, learning, and assessment vis-à-vis global education initiatives (UNESCO, 2004). On the part of DepEd, the initiative known as *Sulong Edukalidad* was immediately launched in December 2019, following the release of the country's PISA results. *Sulong Edukalidad*, according to a statement on the website of DepEd, will have KITE as its four key reform areas: (1) K to 12 Curriculum review and update; (2) Improvement of learning environment; (3) Teachers' upskilling and reskilling; and (4) Engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration.

As has been the case, the involvement of external stakeholders helped the programs, projects, and activities of the department succeed, which, in fact, substantially contributed to the gains in access indicators in recent years. But in this new pivot program, it is in the area of teacher training where the private sector can be depended upon.

Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center, in particular, is at one with the department in its effort to globalize the quality of education. Trusting its proven track record and untainted reputation insofar as producing topnotchers in licensure exams is concerned, the center is set to hold an international conference with the keyword **iFIRST** (*International Conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching*), which will revolve around the theme of transliteracy, interdisciplinarity, and the quest for quality education.

iFIRST is a forum **to be attended by teachers in the South-East Asian Region** to discuss the results of the 2018 PISA and examine the implications thereon for globally improving the quality of education as a whole. Further, the initiative of the department known as *Sulong Edukalidad* will be explored against the global trends in education and ASEAN integration measures. Practices along governance, pedagogy, and assessment deemed supportive of the current battle cry will be revisited towards cultivating a community of

practice among teachers in the Southeast Asian nations and establishing connectivity of the country's educational system to its ASEAN counterparts.

III. Objectives

By the end of the three-day conference, the participants should be able to:

1. Generate inferences from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 results;
2. Evaluate the soundness of the reforms instituted to improve the quality of basic education in the country against global trends and regional measures;
3. Describe how the department's vision on quality education can be put into practice across learning areas; and
4. Write an action plan vis-à-vis the national reform plan to raise the quality of education.

IV. Target Participants

Education supervisors, education specialist, principals, department heads, and teachers in all subjects of both public and private elementary and secondary schools, college professors and instructors, student teachers, teacher applicants and other interested teachers in the Southeast Asian Countries.

V. Registration Fee

The registration fee is **3,000 pesos** (60 US dollars) which will be used for the professional fee of our International resource speakers, facilitators, learning management platform premium account fees, certificates, and other necessary expenses.

VI. Program of Activities

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
8:00-8:45	Doxology and Energizers		
8:45-9:00	Health Break		
9:00-9:45	Opening Program	On and About: Two Sides of the Story in PISA 2018 Low Ee Ling, PhD Dean, Teacher Education National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore	Framing Critical Inquiry Questions and Tasks Across the Curriculum Piet Kommers, PhD Associate Professor, University of Twente Enschede, the Netherlands
9:45-12:00	Transliteration, Interdisciplinarity, and the Quest for Quality Education Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD PhD Director, Open University Adventist University of Africa		
12:00-12:45	Lunch Break		
1:00-3:15	Transliteration, Interdisciplinarity, and the Quest for Quality Education Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD PhD Director, Open University Adventist University of Africa	On and About: Two Sides of the Story in PISA 2018 Low Ee Ling, EdD PhD Dean, Teacher Education National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore	Teaching Demonstration (Break-out sessions)
3:15-3:30	Health Break		

3:30-4:30	Forum Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD PhD Director, Open University Adventist University of Africa	Forum Low Ee Ling, EdD PhD Dean, Teacher Education National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore	Teaching Demonstration (Break-out sessions)
4:30-5:00			Closing Program

The Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center believes that this international conference will make the teachers serve better in preparing students to a life-long learning. This conference will also credit **15 CPD units** through our tie-up PRC accredited CPD provider, the *International Network For Secondary English Teaching (INSET)* with **PRC-CPD accreditation number 2018-207** that our teachers can use for their PRC license renewal.

On behalf of Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center, may we seek for your office's endorsement to supervisors, principals, department heads, and teachers of public and private schools in the elementary and secondary levels to attend this international conference.

Thank you in anticipation of your favorable consideration and support.

Very truly yours,


Arvin Christian P. De Los Reyes
 Managing Director
 Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center

DepEd ADVISORY No. _____ s. 2021

In compliance with DepEd Order No. 8, 2013

This advisory is issued for the information of DepEd officials and personnel
(visit DepEd website at www.deped.gov.ph)

CHAIN RINIVARTS EDUCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

IFIRST (International conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching)
with the theme: "Transliteracy, Interdisciplinarity, and the quest for quality education"

The Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center is pleased to announce the conduct of its International Conference on the following dates via Zoom online learning platform with the corresponding objectives and participants:

Title	Dates	Objectives	Participants
IFIRST (International conference on Innovative and Responsive Strategies for Teaching) with the theme: "Transliteracy, Interdisciplinarity, and the quest for quality education"	May 21, 22 and 23, 2021 via Zoom Online Learning	By the end of the three-day conference, the participants should be able to: • Generate inferences from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2018 results; • Evaluate the soundness of the reforms instituted to improve the quality of basic education in the country against global trends and regional measures; • Describe how the department's vision on quality education can be put into practice across learning areas; and • Write an action plan vis-à-vis the national reform plan to raise the quality of education.	Education supervisors, education specialist, principals, department heads, and teachers in all subjects of both public and private elementary and secondary schools, college professors and instructors, student teachers, teacher applicants and other interested teachers in the Southeast Asian Countries.

Participation of both public and private schools shall be subject to the no-disruption-of classes policy stipulated in the DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled Instituting Measures to *Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.

More information may be inquired from:

Arvin Christian P. De Los Reyes

Managing Director

Chain Rinivarts Educational Training Center

Mobile Phone Nos.: **0917-503-0458; 0948-567-8868**

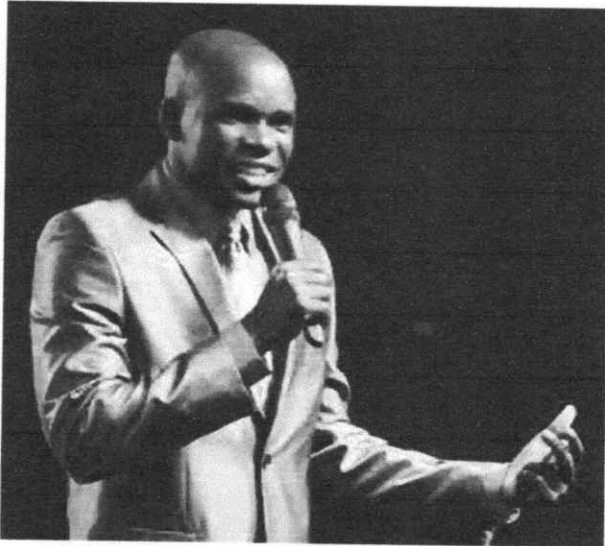
Email Address: chainrinivartstrainings@gmail.com

Bionote of the International Resource Speakers

Day One:

Safary Wa-Mbaleka, EdD, PhD

Adventist University of Africa
Advent Hill, Ongata Rongai, Nairobi, Kenya
Citizenship: American



Dr. Safary is an American educator and researcher from Orlando, Florida, USA. He specializes in the fields of curriculum and instruction, applied linguistics, online education, and qualitative research. He is currently the Director of AUA Online, which is the department of online education for the Adventist University of Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya,

where he also teaches leadership classes and research classes. He has taught at several universities in the USA, Puerto Rico, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines, and now in Kenya.

He has authored and co-authored about 40 journal articles in national and international peer-reviewed journals, and more than 10 books. He has delivered several conference presentations and research seminars around the Philippines, the USA, Portugal, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, the Bahamas, Belize, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Malaysia, Italy, Macau, Singapore, and Thailand.

Dr. Safary holds 2 doctorates and 3 master's degrees, mainly from the USA. He is currently the editor of 1 international peer-reviewed journal in the Philippines. He is a peer reviewer of several national and international journals in the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, and the USA. He is the founding president of the Asian Qualitative Research Association, the only known active qualitative research association in the whole Asia today. He is passionate about research, higher education teaching, writing, language learning and teaching topics, travel and cultural exploration.

Bionote of the International Resource Speakers

Day Two:

Low Ee Ling, PhD

National Institute of Education
Nanyang Technological University
Singapore
Citizenship: Singaporean

Dr. Low Ee Ling is the Dean of Teacher Education at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University (NTU). She is also a Professor of Education (Applied Linguistics and Teacher Learning) at the English Language & Literature Academic Group. She is a member of the NIE Senior Leadership Team and an elected member of the NTU Senate (2014-2018). Her previous appointments include: Chief Planning Officer (2017-2018), Head of Strategic Planning and Academic Quality (2014-2017), Associate Dean for Programme and Student Development at the Office of Teacher Education (2009-2013) and Sub-Dean for Degree Programmes (2004-2009).



She has played a leading role in the conceptualization of the following strategic documents for NIE, Singapore: ***NIE Moving Forward: Towards 2017 Strategic Roadmap and Teacher Education for the 21st Century (TE21): A Blueprint for Teacher Education in Singapore*** (2009).

She obtained her BA (with Direct Honours) from the National University of Singapore (NUS), an M.Phil and a **PhD in Linguistics** (Acoustic Phonetics) from the **University of Cambridge, UK** under the Nanyang Technological University–National Institute of Education Overseas Graduate Scholarship. In her undergraduate years, she was selected for the prestigious Direct Honours Programme for English Language at the National University of Singapore and in her pre-university years, was awarded the Ministry of Education Humanities Scholarship which she pursued at Raffles Junior College. In recognition for her academic merit and leadership potential, Professor Low was awarded the highly competitive **Advanced Fulbright Research Scholarship** in 2008 which she spent at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College.

Professor Low is an internationally renowned expert and has given numerous keynote addresses in both Teacher Education and World Englishes. Her most recent book publications include "Empowered Educators in Singapore: How High-Performing Systems Shape Teaching Quality" (co-authored with Prof Lin A. Goodwin and Prof Linda Darling-Hammond) and "Lee Kuan Yew's Educational Legacy: The Challenges of Success" (co-edited with Prof Tan Oon Seng and Prof David Hung).

She is Singapore's representative on the **Stanford University International Teacher Policy Study** and the **Harvard Graduate School of Education's Global Education Innovation Initiative (GEII)** projects. She is also Singapore's representation on the Education 2030 initiative by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and served as an **international expert** in the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) Initial Teacher Preparation study for Wales and Australia. In 2012, she was awarded the Public Administration (Bronze) Medal.

Bionote of the International Resource Speakers

Day Three:

Piet Kommers, PhD

University of Twente
Enschede, the Netherlands
Citizenship: Dutch



Dr. Piet Kommers is an early pioneer in media for cognitive- and social support. His doctoral research explored methods for hypertext and concept mapping in learning. Since 1982 he developed educational technology for teacher training. His main thesis is that technology is catalytic for human ambition and awareness. His main function is associate professor in the University in Twente, The Netherlands and adjunct/visiting professor in various countries. He taught more than fifteen bachelor-, master- and PhD courses and supervised more than 30 PhD students.

He instigated and coordinated the NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Cognitive Technologies in 1990 and a large series of Joint

European Research Projects in: authoring multimedia, web-based learning, teacher education, virtual 3d worlds, constructivist learning, social media, web-based communities and international student exchange.

UNESCO awarded his work in ICT for Education in Eastern Europe with the title of Honorary Professor. The Capital Normal University in Beijing awarded his work with the title of Honorary Doctor. He is member of advisory boards in ministries of education and academia of sciences in Singapore, Finland and Russia.

Piet Kommers is the initiator of the international journal for web-based communities and overall chair of the IADIS conferences on societal applications of ICT. Since the late nineties he gave more than 40 invited and keynote lectures at main conferences in the fields of education, media and communication.

His books and journal articles address the social and intellectual transformations at each transition from "traditional" into the "new" media. Instead of regarding media as extrapolating, supplanting, vicarious or even disruptive, Piet's view is that new media elicit and seduce both individuals and organizations to reconsider human nature and challenge existential awareness at that very moment.

His workshop templates and experiences have been implemented into the UNESCO IITE reports, policy briefings and Master Course. The books and journal articles of Piet Kommers reach the level of 5012 citations and the h-index of 30.