

Promoting the Institutionalization of Peace Through Education

- Education As A Tool For Peace -

Dr. Ronald L. Admat

Commissioner of Commission on Higher Education of the Philippines, Philippines

Introduction

In my song composition Education Builds the Future, I have said: “Education is everyone's concern, that all peoples should acquire as a weapon to change the world, for us all to live in peace with prosperity...”

Yes, education is an instrument where ideas, schemes, and designs are forged, shaped, and built in order to address various issues that affect human development and well-being.

I believe that we in the education sector could really make education “the” weapon that will not only “wipe out” illiteracy or “flatten” poverty, but one that will “pulverize” un-peace, wars, hostilities, violence, and discord, and one that will usher in world peace, understanding, harmony and unity.

I am here before this big international gathering of peace advocates, to deliver a message of peace: Peace that will be achieved through education. Peace that will be strengthened and sustained by way of our respective, unique educational systems.

But I will not be here with you without the blessings and invitation of our dear Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light Chairman Man Hee Lee, who I consider the father of world peace whose vision is to bring peace to all countries and peoples of the world.

And I'd like us to give a very, very resounding applause to Chairman Man Hee Lee! Thank you!

Work for Peace

I am inspired to work hard for peace, especially in the higher education sector where I serve as Commissioner of the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and I want to enjoin all of you to involve yourselves in peace-making and peace-building initiatives in your respective communities and countries.

This is to be a reminder for all of us that the absence of peace remains the main reason why wars and hostilities between and among nations and peoples around the world occur.

And so, I condemn in the strongest possible terms the killings and destructions brought about by all wars and hostilities happening around us today, and I also condemn the pain and hurt that these have brought upon many peoples of the world. Thus, I call for all nations to support the DPCW or the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of Wars.

Now, allow me to share with you my insights on how education can play a major role in international peacemaking and in achieving world peace.

Role of Education in World Peace

I remember in 2016 when I told myself that I will be the voice of Peace in the Philippine Commission on Higher Education and I will work for the integration of Peace Studies into the higher education curricula.

And true enough, in 2019, we approved the issuance of a mandate directing all higher education institutions in the country to adopt the integration of Peace Studies into the higher education curricula.) Thus, the role of education (or higher education) as an effective tool for peace.

I'd like to impress upon all of you today the motivation and the reason, or shall I say, the "inspiration" why Peace Studies in higher education was adopted.

The reason is to ensure that our country's educational institutions can become effective instruments for the propagation of world peace, therefore, all Filipino students shall enroll themselves in peace subjects or courses that carry key peace themes and perspectives.

- How I wish that all peoples around the world, through the collaboration and guidance of the HWPL under our dear Chairman Man Hee Lee, will be educated, trained, and inculcated the values of peace, respect, harmony, and solidarity with all peoples and humankind.

- As my quote goes, "Investing in peace is investing for the future". How I wish that all governments around the world will invest more in peace and adopt the DPCW (Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War) and emphasize the role of nation-states and civil society in achieving peace.

- How I wish we will all make education as an instrument for the realization and sustainability of world peace, understanding, harmony and unity.

Challenge

Further, in relation to education as tool for peace, and being the only Filipino awardee of the prestigious Mahatma MK Gandhi Prize for Non-Violent Peace Award for 2020 (Thanks so much to HWPL thru Chair Man Hee Lee for the nomination), I am more committed to peace work and more peace work, especially in raising the call among all of you and all peoples of the world to volunteer for peace by becoming International Volunteer Individuals for Peace(I-VIP) and HWPL who will work for world peace, understanding, harmony and unity. This is the primary objective of our peace organizations: The Volunteer Individuals for Peace (VIP), and HWPL.

Now, I'd like to conclude by saying that in the Philippines, we are tirelessly engaged in various peace-related activities and extracurricular programs via our government's peace education programs like:

- The establishment of Volunteer Individuals for Peace (VIP) in partnership with Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) Peace Monuments and Peace Markers in state universities and colleges; and a resolution no. 262-2023 passed by CHED enjoining all Philippine Higher Education Institutions and CHED Central and Regional Offices to permanently designate in their libraries "Peace Corners" That will be devoted solely for the Promotion of Peace;
- Establishment of VIP-HWPL (Volunteer Individuals for Peace-Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light) Student Peace Clubs in state universities and colleges;
- Organizing of on-the-spot painting contest for peace, peace music fests in state universities and colleges to highlight the relevance of peace in nation-building and youth development;
- Organizing peace literary competition, peace essay writing competition, peace songwriting like "We Are One."
- Publication of the books on peace and indigenous peoples' rights.
- Film promotion in state universities and colleges of the values-packed, historical-cultural, and peace-themed movies.

- Declaration of National Peace Day (January 24) of every year in the Philippines.

Lastly, to our dear HWPL Chairman Man Hee Lee, friends and fellow international peace advocates I'd say: All of these initiatives are envisioned to increase and sustain peace among peoples and nations of the world, through education!

Finally, I leave with you 2 of my quotes: "Let's declare peace as pandemic, infect people not to rest in peace, but to live in peace." And, "Education is a way to peace and a stairway to a better future."

Thank you very much.

