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Game Changers meet for the Inaugural CES CiRCLE Forum



A total of eighty-eight (88) Career Executive Service Officers, eligibles and third-level officials gathered last 20 February 2015 at the Grand Ballroom, Diamond Hotel Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila to witness and participate in the inaugural CES CiRCLE Forum for 2015.

The new breed of leader-executives answered the call of the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) to rise to the challenge of transforming the nation's governance and leading it in the era of political, economic and cultural integration through the productive, safe and responsible use of social media in government.

Personalities within and beyond the circle of the CES

Community graced the event, with National Union of Career Executive Service Officers, Inc. (NUCESO) Treasurer and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Assistant Secretary Maria Joji A. Aragon, CESO II, leading the opening ceremony with an invocation.

The 2015 CES CiRCLE Forum series is anchored on the theme: "Transform Tomorrow Today – R U Game 4 Change?" Messages from CESB Presiding Chair and Civil Service Commission (CSC) Commissioner Nieves L. Osorio and NUCESO President and Assistant Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) Tonisito Machiavelli C. Umali, CESO II, reinforced the significance of upholding integrity and credibility among government officials amidst the surge in the use of social media and emphasized the significance of

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CES Club: Making the Workplace Flourish

“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.” – Aristotle

Thirty-nine (39) top government executives had the chance to unwind from the usual paper and pen routine as the Career Executive Service Board (CESB) held the inaugural session of the CES Club entitled “CES Blooms in the Workplace” on February 25, 2015 at the Century Hall, Quezon Memorial Circle.

CESB Executive Director Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones commenced the activity by stating that the workshop, scheduled in line with the celebration of the EDSA People Power, is the contribution of the CES to the commemoration of the revolution which paved way for the democracy of our nation. She stressed that these kinds of experiences foster harmony among different agencies of the government, resulting in better public service.

Workshop facilitator, Ms. Carissa Singson-Mabasa, familiarized the participants with “Ikebana” by briefly discussing its meaning and history. According to her, Ikebana is a traditional Japanese art of flower arrangement that literally means ‘arranged flowers’ in Japanese. It is a decorative art form that uses both flowers and branches in

different symbolic styles, together with a deep spiritual and religious significance, which made this workshop a fitting activity in time with the observance of the Lenten Season. Ikebana is also a form of meditation that places high value on awareness in respect to time, especially the change and passage of seasons.

An Ikebana arrangement has three main components: the *shin* (the longest main stem, at times called *heaven*); the *soe* (the second longest stem which supplements *shin*, at times called *man*); and the *hikae* (the shortest stem or flower, at times called *earth*). There are also subordinate stems called *jusi* and are arranged around each main stem, and they are shorter than the main stems. Each component has specific measurements relative to the container and to each other.

As Ms. Mabasa was thoroughly explaining the procedures and guiding the participants in creating Ikebana arrangements, she was also reminding the importance of art in life. “We are so accustomed in using the left part of our brain (logical part), but we should also exert extra effort in using the right part of it (creative part)”, she said. She ☞ 6



CES grows ‘hope bearers’ pool with 2015 PAGLAUM Kick-off in Central Luzon

The inaugural session of the PAGLAUM Training Workshop for 2015 was held on January 29-30, 2015 at the Oasis Hotel, Angeles City Pampanga with fifty two participants from various government agencies from Central Luzon.

The two-day PAGLAUM workshop followed the “train the trainer” framework wherein the learners are honed as future trainers/ facilitators. It relied on a good balance of experiential and cognitive learning approaches which harnessed a variety of implementation and assessment methodologies to facilitate and ensure the transfer of essential knowledge, skills and technical know-how on mental health and psycho-social support to the participants. Workshop methods included lectures, psychosocial processing activities such as art, music and prayer dance session, simulations, debriefing dialogues, spiritual services and community jamming as closing ritual.

Dr. Violeta V. Bautista of Care and Counsel Wellness and Training Center as well as her associates, Ms. Cristabel Fagela-Tiangco, Mr. Bryan Q. Engay and Ms. Ma. Theresa Duran-Dy collaborated with a team of facilitators from PAGLAUM’s previous batches, DSWD Regional Director

Arnel B. Garcia, CESO II, DILG LGOO, Ms. Salvacion Z. Baccay in managing the workshop sessions.

During the opening program, CESB Executive Director Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones inducted into office the incoming officers of the Central Luzon Association of Regional Offices (CLARO) namely: DILG Regional Director Florida Dijan as President; NEDA Regional Director Severino C. Santos as 1st Vice President for NUCESO Affairs; DOST Regional Director Victor B. Mariano, Jr. as 2nd Vice President for Cooperative; DPWH Regional Director Antonio V. Molano, Jr. as 3rd Vice President for External Affairs; DOLE Regional Director Ana C. Dione as Secretary; CHED Regional Director Caridad Oli-Abuan as Assistant Secretary; DTI Regional Director Judith Angeles as Treasurer; TESDA Regional Director Teodoro M. Gatchalian as Auditor, DA Regional Director Andrew B. Villacorta as Business Manager, PNP’s Police Chief Superintendent Ronald V. Santos as Public Relations Officers; and PIA Regional Director William L. Beltran as Assistant Public Relations Officers. The members of CLARO’s Board of Directors, including DBM Regional Director Elisa Salon, DENR Regional Director Francisco E. Milla, Jr., DOH Regional Director Leonita P. Gorgolon, and

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BLGF Regional Director Luningning R. Llanto also joined the oath-taking ceremony.

In her Inspirational Message, CESB Executive Director Allones shared how PAGLAUM as a flagship training program was conceptualized after the devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. She reiterated that PAGLAUM aims to build a pool of “hope bearers” within the CES who are equipped with the capacity, competence and commitment to provide and facilitate mental health and psychosocial support services to victim-survivors of catastrophes.

Twenty-six participants who completed the full workshop individually gave their personal commitments as a new hope-bearer during the closing program. A new hope bearer Maribel Blanco from DSWD-3 said, *“In general it was light, refreshing and exciting. The methodologies are perfect. I hope I can be of help in the succeeding trainings/activities.”*

The next Paglaum Session will be held in Pampanga (venue to be announced) on April 7 and 8, 2015. 



NEWLY APPOINTED CESO JANUARY 22, 2015

For Original Appointment to CESO Rank

REYNALDO MAYOR BUNGUBUNG, CESO IV
Acting Director III
Department of the Interior and Local Government

2015 CES WRITTEN EXAM SCHEDULE

DATE OF EXAM	TESTING CENTER	DEADLINE FOR FILING
MARCH 1 (Sunday)	Quezon City, Cebu, Davao	February 2
JUNE 7 (Sunday)	Quezon City, Cebu, Davao	May 7
SEPTEMBER 6 (Sunday)	Quezon City, Cebu, Davao	August 6
DECEMBER 6 (Sunday)	Quezon City, Cebu, Davao	November 5

Corpuz tops the December 14, 2014 CES Written Examination

Eighty eight (88) or 29.83% passed the Nationwide CES Written Examination (CES WE), the first examination stage for CES eligibility, held last December 14, 2014 (originally set on December 7, 2014) simultaneously in three testing centers, i.e. UP-NCPAG (Quezon City), University of San Carlos (Cebu City) and San Pedro College (Davao City). A total of 295 officials from different government and private agencies took the hurdle.


Of the 88, 58 (65.91%) took the exam in Quezon City testing center, 17 (19.32%) in Cebu City and 13 (14.77%) in Davao City.

Topping the list is Atty. Ma. Cecille L. Corpuz who obtained a rating of 89.23%. She is a first-time examinee and presently holds the position of Director III at the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (Office of the President). She graduated with a degree in BA Political Science at the University of the Philippines-Manila in 2005. In 2009, she obtained her Juris Doctor Law Degree at Ateneo Law School and passed the Philippine Bar

Examination in the same year. Her fields of specialization/expertise include foreign affairs, law, national security & defense, policy administration/management, research, human rights and international humanitarian law.

The rest of the top 10 examinees include: Padilla, Marc Voltaire A. (88.56%); Ortuoste, Jennifer Rebecca L. (87.96%); Palatino, Benedict T. (86.92%); Sabado, Buenafe E. (86.39%); Oliva, Regal M. (86.02%); Udarbe, Fidel T. (85.85%); Shahani, Lila R. (85.57%); Beronilla, Nikkin L. (85.40%); and, Roa, Corazon P. (85.12%).


The complete list of December 14, 2014 passers is available at the CESB website: www.cesboard.gov.ph.

All successful CES WE examinees may call the Eligibility and Rank Appointment Division (ERAD) at telephone number 9514985 loc. 100 or 832 for the schedule and other details of the Assessment Center, the second examination stage for CES eligibility. 

CES grieves the loss of co-servants in government; offers prayers and works of sacrifice

As the nation observes a day of mourning to grieve the deaths of forty-four members of the elite Special Action Force, CES members pray, and continue to offer works of sacrifice and supplications for the eternal rest of the souls of the departed SAF members.

“This significant loss of our policemen is painful for us, co-warriors in government. And so we know how doubly painful it is for their immediate families and loved ones,” remarked Executive Director Tonette Velasco-Allones as she opened the 5th training session of Project PAGLAUM in Clark, Pampanga yesterday, January 30. She led the participants in praying for the eternal rest of the SAF members who died in the battle field over the weekend in Maguindanao. She also requested the participants to “walk with the bereaved families in this time of great sorrow” and “offer works of sacrifice so that the light of God will dissipate the darkness around us”.

Finally, she urged members of the CES to “unceasingly pray for our leaders in government” especially at this time when the country faces confusion and conflict while at the same time working on the day-to-day running of government. 

“God is not only the God of the sufferers but the God who suffers...through the prism of my tears I have seen a suffering God.”

*-- Nicholas Welterstorff
Lament for a Son*

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added that “immersing ourselves into art develops closeness to nature which provides relaxation for the mind, body, and soul.”

Executives, who are used to the smell of toner and other office equipment as they go about their demanding schedules, enjoyed the more appealing scent of flowers as they reached into their inner artists to express themselves through different and creative flower arrangements.

Director Angelito V. Fontanilla of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that “this workshop is much needed by executives as it serves as a temporal relief from the usual day-to-day challenges that their work poses, and the outputs from this can liven up the mood of every office and its clients.” “This experience was very interesting and stress-

relieving that it brought out the creativity in me”, added Ms. Jacqueline V. Luzon, School Head at the Department of Education (DepEd) Caloocan.

The workshop concluded at around 4:00pm. Producing quality outputs from a very complicated form of art may be challenging, but for the officials who are constantly pounded with difficult challenges at work, it was an opportunity for them to express their selves through art and revitalize their spirits. The participants headed home not only with four hours of training credits, but also with renewed energy and outlook.

Certainly, government offices are going to bloom a little more than it used to. 

ASSESSMENT CENTER SCHEDULE FOR 2015

ASSESSMENT CENTER SCHEDULES	ASSESSMENT CENTER SCHEDULES
JANUARY 24 (Saturday) JANUARY 25 (Sunday)	JUNE 20 (Saturday) JUNE 21 (Sunday)
FEBRUARY 21 (Saturday) FEBRUARY 22 (Sunday)	JULY 18 (Saturday) JULY 19 (Sunday)
MARCH 21 (Saturday) MARCH 22 (Sunday)	AUGUST 15 (Saturday) AUGUST 16 (Sunday)
APRIL 18 (Saturday) APRIL 19 (Sunday)	SEPTEMBER 19 (Saturday) SEPTMBER 20 (Sunday)
MAY 9 (Saturday) MAY 10 (Sunday)	OCTOBER 17 (Saturday) OCTOBER 18 (Sunday)
MAY 30 (Saturday) MAY 31 (Sunday)	NOVEMBER 14 (Saturday) NOVEMBER 15 (Sunday)

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ethics as a cornerstone in today's digital age.

Commissioner Osorio said, "I hope that we will bring change where it is needed; change that comes within us; one that understands what our fellow Filipinos need. We don't have the luxury of time. It has to be today."

ASec Umali, on the other hand, called for *"Mabuti pong serbisyo ngayon, hindi po bukas. Makabuluhang programa ngayon, hindi po bukas. Pagbabago ngayon, hindi po bukas."*

The inaugural forum with the sub-theme: *Leveling Up Philippine Competitiveness in the Context of Regional Integration – Social Media in Government* jump-started the leader-executives in charting the future direction of information-communication-technology (ICT) in social media in their respective agencies to achieve performance accountability, inclusive governance and competitiveness.

Professor Emmanuel "Bhoying" Lallana, Chief Executive of IdeaCorp presented "Social Media in Government: Towards a Policy for Productive and Safe Use of Social Media" for the Plenary Session where he discussed, among others, the role of social media in governance, the five steps to a social media strategy, the top five things to remember when using social and digital media at work or in a personal capacity, and the key issues that government agencies must address on the use of social media by the agencies themselves and their personnel.

The afternoon session for simultaneous workshops on "Formulating a Relevant Policy to Promote a Productive and Safe Use of Social Media in Government" was made fun, lively and interactive by Mr. Alexander "Valong" Arevalo, the workshop's Forum Chair.


The participants were grouped together and made to draft

their respective policies on social media in the government; define measures to facilitate the implementation and institutionalization of the policies; and identify actual and potential risks, threats, issues, as well as challenges, measures and initiatives to mitigate, neutralize and/or resolve such risks, threats and issues.

In his synthesis, Mr. Arevalo observed that government agencies are apprehensive in using social media primarily because of lack of understanding and fear of the perceived and real unknowns that come with its use.

Mr. Arevalo continued, "Instead of fearing the seemingly complicated hi-tech 'monster' called social media, we need to train this 'technological dragon' and utilize it to transform governance in the Philippines for ours to be at par with those not just in the region, but among the best in the world."

One of the participants in the inaugural CES CiRCLE Forum, Mr. Andre B. Atega, PARO II of the Department of Agrarian Reform – Butuan City, gave the following feedback: "More of relevant topics which CESB is so good at doing!"

The next CES CiRCLE Forum will be held in Bohol on 30 March 2015. 

***"Mabuti pong serbisyo ngayon, hindi po bukas.
Makabuluhang programa ngayon, hindi po bukas.
Pagbabago ngayon, hindi po bukas."***

-Asec Toni Umali

