

Inclusive Growth Through Quality TechVoc

Secretary Joel Villanueva

His Excellency **Benigno S. Aquino III**, DOLE Secretary **Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz**, NEDA Secretary **Arsenio M. Balisacan**, DA Secretary **Proceso J. Alcala**, DTI USec. **Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr.**, NAPC Usec. **Jude H. Esguerra**, Office of Tourism Standards and Regulations Dir. **Ma. Rica C. Bueno**, TEVSAPHIL Chairman **Col. Alejandro T. Escano**, TESDA DDGs **Irene Isaac and Ted Pascua**, Representatives from the Business Community, Tech-Voc providers, our friends from the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sa nagdaang tatlong taon, napatunayan po natin na ang tech-voc ay isang **“swiss army knife” laban sa kahirapan**. Malinaw at may basehan po tayo, na sa bawat training at kurso, may magaganda at garantisadong trabaho na naghihintay.

Our tech-voc is a tool that we can take everywhere. Through our “training cum production” program, we helped the victims of Typhoon “Pablo” and the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit Visayas two weeks ago re-build their homes. Through our “Skills Training and Emergency Employment towards Recovery of Bohol” o STEER Bohol, TESDA provides Boholanos with trainings on carpentry, electrical installation, masonry, and plumbing. We believe that this “earn-while-you-learn” approach can speed up the rehabilitation of Bohol.

Tech-voc is inherently inclusive because it can be widely diffused through innovative programs – the TESDA Online Program has now 130,000 registered users while the TESDA Mobile Training has recorded more than 10,000 graduates nationwide. I am proud to say that these outside-the-box programs have made a real difference in the lives of countless young Filipinos. Tech-voc helps our people earn and improve the quality of their lives.

It is on record and this is backed by hard, undisputable figures – we have achieved 62% employment rate, **the highest in the history of TESDA**, based on the 2012 Impact Evaluation Survey or IES. Employer satisfaction was at an **all-time high** when it comes to work performance of tech-voc graduates. In a recent Employer Satisfaction Survey or ESS, a total of 5,451 public and private establishments that employed tech-voc graduates were polled. Majority of them or 86.1 percent said that satisfied with the work and performance of tech-voc graduates. As I always say, **“if the employers are happy, then our graduates must be really good!”**

Let me state that the IES and the ESS are scientific studies, which passed the rigorous assessment of the National Statistical Coordination Board or NSCB. So, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our partners, 4,500 training institutions implementing almost 20,000 programs all over the Philippines, for a job well done!

Mr. President, let me reiterate our **commitment that by 2016**, we would have trained a critical mass equipped with skills that perfectly fit the needs of a 21st century job market. It will be the techvoc sector’s contribution on making the country demographic sweet spot “sweeter”.

The tech-voc sector is behind you in fulfilling our dream **of making the Philippines a “magnet for new jobs”**. We are inspired to walk the extra mile because of your support to education and training. With your leadership and political will, the radical but much needed education reforms became a reality. The biggest among them are the K-12 Program and the Philippine Qualifications Framework or PQF.

Sa kauna-unahang TechVoc Congress sa kasaysayan ng TESDA noong isang taon, policy proposals pa lang ang K-12 at PQF. Mr. President, through your efforts to harmonize the education and training sector, we are now implementing the K-12 and the PQF. Ang TESDA po ang nangunguna sa pagbuo ng mga curriculum guides at iba pang mga learning materials para sa tech-voc track ng K-12 at nagtataguyod ng “qualifications register” para naman sa PQF.

Madali na rin po natin mahaharap ang mabigat na hamon ng ASEAN 2015 at ang compliance natin sa mga Mutual Recognition Arrangements o MRAs.

Having said that, I would like to point out that our ***minimum goal for our tech-voc graduates is to meet the competency requirements according to industry standards***. At ginagawa natin ito sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng maayos at relevant na training programs, assessments at certification process. (alam ko pong alam na ninyo ito!) But beyond that, our target is to ensure that our graduates are employable, that they are earning decent incomes and that we increase their social mobility. At makakamit natin ang “target” na iyan through “**quality and relevant**” techvoc. We are counting on our ISO 9001:2008 Certification and your full compliance to TESDA’s requirements to pursue our “quality assurance policy” in tech-voc.

Sa takbo ng mundo ngayon, talagang napakahalaga po ng tech-voc. Maging si President Barack Obama ay nanawagan to “*a national commitment to train two million Americans with skills that will lead directly to jobs*”. Ito rin po siguro ang dahilan kung bakit kasama sa itinerary ng naudlot na pagbisita ni US Secretary of State John Kerry sa Pilipinas ang pagdalaw sa TESDA.

I will reiterate this: Mr. President, because of your support to the techvoc sector, a Filipino specialist is ready to move up into the world, if not amaze the world with his skills. The changed paradigms brought by the K-12, PQF, and the ASEAN 2015 have worked perfectly well for us. These reform initiatives will ensure that our skilled Filipino workers are globally competitive.

Sana po ay mapaingting pang lalo ng **National TechVoc Congress na ito, na naisakatuparan natin sa ikalawang pagkakataon pagkatapos ng mahabang panahong hindi nagkakausap o nagkikita man lamang ang mga kinatawan ng sektor na ito**, ang pag-asa ng ating mga kababayan upang hindi nila bitawan ang kanilang mga pangarap. Let’s continue to work together for a quality and world-class techvoc and help Filipinos take their place at the top of the global work force.

Thank you and God bless!