



EDITORIAL

ICT for national progress

DIFFERENT personalities and institutions have given their support for the enhanced use of Information and Communication Technology in the country. Does it mean ICT is the solution for the problems that our country faces?

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has recommended teachers to use ICT for the delivery of quality education. The Department of Education is making its efforts to give the needed equipment in the schools. Affordable laptops for teachers, additional computer units and internet subscription are only few of the department's goals.

Senator Edgardo Angara has emphasized that ICT is a tool that will boost the country's competitiveness in the midst of global financial crisis which caused recession to world economies. ICT will help improve the production processes in industries, accelerate national development and give people access to sources of information.

The Commission on Information and Communication Technology and Microsoft Philippines have launched BizSpark Program that will give opportunities to small and medium scale enterprises to become competitive organizations. This partnership between the government and private sector aims to accelerate the success of entrepreneurs and business starters. ICT is also an instrument to attract foreign investors and create jobs to boost the local economies.

The use of this technology has been recommended to the COMELEC for the 2010 elections. Voters can vote directly by the use of machines with touch screen or touch pads and votes will be counted electronically. It is very far from the traditional paper ballots that are counted manually. The electoral results from provinces will be sent online making the process fast. The use of technology will secure a free, honest and clean 2010 election.

Information Technology is doing a lot of things in the computer age. ICT promises a better living of the people and the progress of the country. It should be used for the welfare of everyone, and not only for selfish motives.



SPEAKING OUT

Anthony N. Manaois

Computer addiction: A new pest of society?

DO you consider yourself a computer addict? Computer addiction has been very common to children especially to students. This addiction is similar to drug or alcohol addiction for it creeps up on a person without knowing about it so it should be dealt with properly.

Computer addiction is a new term pertaining to one's dependency on computers. It is not only limited to the use of personal computers but also to video games and Internet usage. It affects a person's life in different aspects.

The studies of students who become addict to online games have been affected. These students would most likely to cut classes, go to computer shops and spend their time in a virtual world of their own. This situation if not stopped, would result to failing grades and eventually becoming dropouts.

Addiction to computers is also linked to computer gambling. Addicts cannot play

computers without money involved. They lay a bet before playing computer games against their opponents. Sometimes it results to pilfering money from their parents, even saying that the money is for their school projects. The social skills of the computer addicts are also affected. These people prefer to sit in front of the computer and stay there than to meet new friends and involve in activities.

Computers if not properly used, also affect the morals of the users. Children could enter some websites having contents that are for adults only. They are exposed to things that they are not supposed to.

The problem on computer addiction may seem to be hard to solve. But there are many simple steps to treat computer addiction. Limiting the time spent on computers or playing games can make a change in the problem of a computer addict. Computers are helpful in the life of the people but if not used properly, they could ruin one's life.



PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jejomar D. Quiros

Be the change that you want to see in this world

I only have a few months before I step out of this school. But before I finally say goodbye to my Alma Mater, I would like to share my STEP experience. For here, I owe the new me -strong, determined and perseverant.

It was October 4-5, 2007 when hundreds of students around the Division of Pangasinan I actively participated the 7th Division STEP Skills Development Competition at Pangasinan School of Arts and Trades, Lingayenl, Pangasinan. I was seating inside a room together with the other STEP Presidents waiting for the election of the new division president . On the other hand, the other representatives of our school to the STEP competition were already on their respective locations. Inside our room, I felt the tension rise. But, I did not mind the atmosphere. Instead, I gave my best shot and was elected as president.

The Regional level of the said election marked last November 5-8, 2007 at Mangaldan National High School, Mangaldan, Pangasinan. In a battle where everybody wants to excel, one must be prepared. Readiness is a manifestation of perseverance. I really did prepare for this day and fortunately, I won. I would be representing Region I in Davao.

Student Technologists and Entrepreneurs of the Philippines- National Skills Development Competition (STEP-NSDC) was held at Jose Maria College, Davao City last November 19-24, 2007. Elected presidents of the different

regions were gathered inside a conference room. The tension was more intense than in the regional level. I was very nervous. However, I collected all of my remaining self-confidence that was almost melted at that time and shone among them. I was elected as the national president. I was very thankful.

Modernization is fast approaching. It's good that the STEP was established. STEP equipped students to become more creative, more productive, more knowledgeable about technology and entrepreneurship, to have personal discipline, civic-consciousness. I am the living evidence of its efficiency.

STEP had done a great job in honing me and the other students all over the Philippines. It developed my communication skills, technological know-how, entrepreneurial potentials and leadership. Being the president put a great responsibility over my shoulders. But with perseverance and determination, I was able to surpass all the problems and fulfill all what is expected of me. I hope that the next president will also love this organization as I did and do his duties and responsibilities.

Changes in myself do not live alone in me because I'm sharing it to my fellow students. To influence my fellow students to strive more are also my passions because I believe in Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy, "You can be the change you want to see in this world."

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