



Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines

January 7, 2011

My Dear Colleagues in CEAP,

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom 15:13)

The Year 2010 has been a year of hope for our nation. The electoral process early last year and its subsequent result buoyed the enthusiasm of our nation for a genuine transformative development. The new administration has exhibited enthusiasm and willingness to dialogue with the private educational sector in policy formulation. With our partners in COCOPEA, we have initiated regional dialogues and other avenues for discussion. The process is still ongoing and we anticipate that this engagement will result to better management of the private educational system.

As we welcome 2011, we anticipate obstacles that need to be hurdled. The CEAP is ever growing and with this growth comes various challenges. A great number of our members are struggling small mission schools. Our association is instituting programs to reach out to them.

The National Board would like to thank you for the overwhelming vote of confidence and trust you have bestowed on us during the general assembly. You have allowed us to continue on the unfinished task of re-founding our association by amending the CEAP By-laws. In the next few months, this task will be completed and the result will be sent to you. We are hoping that the revisions that we have made will be acceptable to you. The desire of our heart is to make our organization more vibrant and more responsive to the needs of the regions. Regionalization is now enshrined in our By-laws. Let's make it work in practice.

The National Board is glad to note that the various Commissions and Committees are actively working to pursue the resolution of our associations' various concerns. Following the Strategic Planning of the Board on January 10-11, 2011, the Regional Directors will be doing consultative and organizational work to en flesh and contextualize the strategic directions and plans to best serve their constituencies.

As we gather again in September 2011, we shall be focusing on '*Building a Culture of Peace*' as our main theme. This is also in line with the direction set by Pope Benedict XVI as he enjoined humanity to reflect on Peace and Religious Freedom. On his New Year's message this year (2011), he said,

"Peace is a gift of God and at the same time a task which is never fully completed. A society reconciled with God is closer to peace, which is not the mere absence of war or the result of military or economic supremacy, much less deceptive ploys or clever manipulation. Rather, peace is the result of a process of purification and of cultural, moral and spiritual elevation involving each individual and people, a process in which human dignity is fully respected". (January 1, 2011 paragraph 15, 2nd sentence)

Lest we forget too, on February 2, 2011, CEAP turns 70 years old. This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved so far and what our directions should be in the coming years. As Catholic educators, we continue to pray and make ourselves instruments of transformation. We live as we believe, on the ancient proclamation of the prophet Isaiah, "*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7)*

Sincerely yours,


Fr. GREGORIO L BANAGA, Jr. CM
President