

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

September – December 2011

INTRODUCTION

The 2011 CEAP National Convention themed “*Building a Culture of Peace: Shaping the Vision, Living the Dream*” showed success in several fronts. Aside from meeting the objectives of the convention, the attendance of 2,994 delegates, from the 1345 member-schools of the association was a clear indication and promise that we are moving together towards a clear vision of Catholic education in the Philippines. With the attendance of the leaders of the Catholic Church led by the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), His Excellency, Most Reverend Nereo P. Odchimar, DD and His Excellency Most Reverend Socrates B. Villegas, DD, Chairperson of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE) and the leaders in government, academe and industry who are at the forefront of peace-building efforts in the country, the 2011 CEAP convention also served as the venue for the milestone event in launching CEAP 75.

During this convention, the CEAP National Board renewed the mandate of its officers for another year. Thus, Fr. Gregg L. Bañaga, CM, Fr. Antonio F. Moreno, SJ, S. Merceditas O. Ang, SPC and Br. Narciso S. Erguiza, FSC were reelected as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

In the Organizational Meeting last 22 September 2011 of the newly-elected CEAP National Board, the Commissions and Committees were constituted to allow for the continuity of plans and programs of these national bodies. The mandate and composition of these bodies have been clarified in the amended CEAP By-laws and it is expected that all the regional units of CEAP will constitute their regional committees. The chairpersons of the different commissions and committees are as follows:

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|----|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | National Religious Education Commission (NREC) | - | Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos |
| 2. | National Tertiary Education Commission (NTEC) | - | Br. Narciso S. Erguiza, FSC |
| 3. | National Basic Education Commission (NBEC) | - | Fr. Teodulfo B. Baria |
| 4. | National Advocacy Commission (NAC) | - | Fr. Joel E. Tabora, SJ |
| 5. | Superintendents’ Commission (SupCom) | - | Fr. Paquito G. Gallego |
| 6. | Programs Committee (ProgCom) | - | Fr. Antonio F. Moreno, SJ |
| 7. | Membership and Awards Committee (MAC) | - | Fr. Rufo Ramil H. Cruz |
| 8. | Finance and Personnel Committee (FinCom) | - | Br. Narciso S. Erguiza, FSC |
| 9. | Legal Committee (LegCom) | - | Atty. Ada D. Abad |

Representing CEAP in the COCOPEA are Fr. Gregg L. Bañaga, CM, Fr. Antonio F. Moreno, SJ, Fr. Joel E. Tabora, SJ, Fr. Dionisio M. Miranda, SVD and Fr. Paquito G. Gallego. Fr. Danny C. Montaña, RCJ also joins the COCOPEA Board as head of COCOPEA Mindanao.

It is noteworthy to mention that Abp. Soc B. Villegas attended the said meeting. As Chairperson of ECCCE, Abp. Villegas is an ex-officio member of the CEAP National Board.

Ateneo de Davao University and CEAP-XI led by the Davao Association of Colleges and Schools should be lauded for graciously hosting and supporting this convention. The same should be said of the partners and exhibitors of CEAP who have generously supported CEAP all these years.

Convention delegates also witnessed the launch of CEAP 75. CEAP will turn 75 in 2016 and the next five years have been designated as years of **Remembering with Gratitude, Renewing with Fervor and Setting forth with Faith** as CEAP reaches out to the youth and their families, the poor and the marginalized and the rest of Philippine society as it continues with good zeal its mission of evangelization.

REPORTS FROM THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMISSION (NREC)

- **4th Pope Benedict Summer Festival for Catechesis and Christian Formation (The National Conference on Religious Education)
24 – 26 April, 2012**

The 4th Pope Benedict Festival will be held on 24-26 April, 2012 at the Sienna College. The NREC will be playing a pivotal role this year as it prepares to spearhead the event next year (2013) at the University of Santo Tomas. Last year, more than 1,200 participants attended the festival at the Nazarene Catholic School. The theme last year was ***“To Make Jesus Known and Loved Today”***.

- **2nd ECCCE-CEAP Summit held in Cebu**

The 2nd Joint Summit of the Episcopal Commission on Catechetical and Catholic Education (ECCCE) and the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines-NREC (CEAP-NREC) was held at the Talavera House of Prayer in Cebu City last 30 November – 2 December 2, 2011. The summit was attended by more than 50 participants from across the country representing CEAP regions and catechetical centers. The delegates agreed on a number of resolutions that will improve catechetical instruction both in the private and public schools in the country. Foremost among the agreements were the adoption of the Human Sexuality series, ***Alive to the World*** developed by the Alliance for Families (AFF) and reprinted with permission by REX Bookstore in the Philippines. CEAP was instrumental in forging the tripartite partnership in this project among CEAP, AFF and Rex.

- **Galilee Day**

The CEAP-NCR Religious Education Commission organized the first CEAP Galilee Day at the National Capital Region. This is an ongoing formation for Catechists and Christian Living Teachers focused on the tenets of the faith. Almost 300 teachers from 66 schools of the region attended the event held in three campuses of San Beda College - Mendiola, Taytay and Alabang.

The Galilee Day intends to cater to the needs of the Religious Educators for continuous formation and deepening of experience of the presence of Jesus. The Scripture has consistently shown that Jesus has used his Galilee walks as a way to refresh and recharge before embarking into his ministry, His service to the Father. It is organized especially for the Religious Education Heads, Campus, and Pastoral Coordinators, and Religion Teachers, who are all considered Catechists. For the San Beda Alabang Cluster, **Fr. Manny Gabriel** was the resource person. For the Mendiola group, **Fr. Emmanuel Cruz** gave the talk. Finally, for the Taytay cluster, **Mr. Erickson Javier** of Pasig Catholic College facilitated the session.

As agreed upon during the last summit, the regions will adopt the Galilee Day program.

- **NREC Capability Building Program (NREC-CBP) in CARAGA**

CEAP-CARAGA conducted the first Religious Education Training Seminar for teachers last 25-28 October 2011 at the San Lorenzo Pastoral Formation Center in Ampayon, Butuan City.

The activity was conceptualized by the region’s Religious Education Committee in response to the need to focus on teaching Religion as core of the curriculum. Sr. Helen S. Makiling, MSM, CEAP CARAGA Regional Coordinator on Religious Education, chaired the said training in coordination with Msgr. Florio R. Falcon, DCT, CEAP Caraga Trustee. Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos, CEAP-NREC Chairperson served as the resource person.

The 4-day training program was attended by 72 teachers from 26 Diocesan schools of TADICSA (Tandag Diocesan Catholic Schools Association); SACS (Surigao Association of Catholic Schools); and ACEA (Agusan Catholic Educational Association). Four other congregational schools also attended.

NATIONAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (NBEC)

- **National Basic Education Summit
12 January 2012**

The CEAP National Basic Education Commission is convening all schools with basic education departments to a summit on 12 January 2012 to be held at the Marian Auditorium of the Miriam College in Katipunan, Quezon City.

The summit aims to update private schools with basic education departments on the K to 12 program and provide a platform for sharing and discussion among schools on the issues of transition, monetary costs, curriculum, among others. It will also be a venue for sharing actions and strategies towards the transition to K to 12 and hopes to identify issues, concerns and recommendations that may be addressed by CEAP as a national association and by its regional units.

The line up for the sharing of transition actions and strategies include educational leaders from CEAP schools. From the Department of Education, Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC, Dr. Yolanda S. Quijano, Usec. Francis M. Varela, and Asec. Tonisito M. C. Umali will be giving updates on the program.

- **NBEC's Content Upgrading Program for Basic Education teachers in Region X and Caraga**

Continuing with the implementation of the NBEC-CBP, which had initial runs in CAR and Region 6 in October 2010 and April 2011 respectively, the Content Upgrading Program for Basic Education teachers, which was developed in order to provide teacher-training courses for small, mission schools in underserved regions in four content areas: High School Physics, High School Chemistry, High School Math and High School English, continued this year in Region X and Caraga. Content experts from selected CEAP schools such as Miriam College, De La Salle University and University of Santo Tomas were tapped as resource persons/facilitators for this program. This partnership among CEAP schools exemplifies the spirit of solidarity among the bigger and more established schools and the small, mission schools.

The Caraga run was held at St. Paul's University in Surigao City last 11 – 15 October 2011 while the Region X run was held at St. Lourdes College in Cagayan de Oro City last 25 – 29 October 2011. A total of about 250 teachers participated in these training courses.

NATIONAL TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION (NTEC)

The National Tertiary Education Commission (NTEC) has been busy working on its three priority concerns: 1) K to 12 initiative, 2) twinning and other assistance to small schools, and 3) quality assurance. For the first issue, members of the NTEC has been representing CEAP in the different Technical Working Groups for K to 12. They have also taken active participation in the DepEd Pre-Summit Conferences for K to 12 in the different regions.

For the second priority concern, the NTEC is getting ready to launch the **CBtSSS – Capability-Building towards the Sustainability of Small Schools** program. Forms of capacity-building projects included in this program are: a) consulting and supervision, b) manpower development and exchanges, and c) resource sharing and emergency assistance. The CEAP Board, during its December 6 meeting, approved a start-up fund of P500,000 for this program. The Commission is finalizing the implementing guidelines of the CBtSSS.

Following the release of the report of the CHED Task Force on Quality Assurance which has for its major recommendations: a) the shift to outcomes-based quality assurance, b) the adoption of horizontal typologies for HEIs, and 3) the adoption of vertical typologies for each type, the NTEC Committee on Quality Assurance will be convening in January to discuss the CEAP stand on this issue.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY COMMISSION (NAC)

The National Advocacy Commission meets regularly every first Monday of the month, with its 15th meeting conducted on 5 December 2011. The Commission is composed of representatives from various member- schools who lead in the different advocacies. The policy groups of the commission are based on the major policy issues outlined in the CEAP Advocacy Framework. CEAP is also the lead association of COCOPEA in the area of Advocacy and Public Policy Development.

The following are the updates on the recent efforts and initiatives of the Commission:

1. Education Reform

On the Anti-No Permit, No-Exam Policy. Following the passage of House Bill 4791 (*An Act Penalizing the Imposition of a "No Permit, No Exam Policy" or Any Such Policy that Prohibits Students of Post-Secondary and Higher Education from Taking their Midterm or Final Examinations Due to Unpaid Tuition and Other School Fees*) in the Lower House, a bill with same intent, Senate Bill 2992, was filed in the Senate sponsored by Senator Manny Villar. Filed on 12 October 2011, SB 2992 is now pending in the committee. COCOPEA, supported by the CEAP-NAC, has written the members of the Senate Education, Culture, and Arts Committee regarding its position to set meetings with each member of the committee to further elucidate our position.

As of December 2011, COCOPEA was able to sit down with Sen. Edgardo Angara, Sen. Koko Pimental and Sen. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. who expressed support for the COCOPEA/CEAP position. In the ensuing meeting with Sen. Villar, COCOPEA/CEAP received assurance that the author of SB 2992 will look into the positions presented and refer them to his legal team to see if there is a need for review and further study.

On the Students' Rights and Welfare (STRAW) Bill. During the September 2011 NAC monthly meeting, House Bill 2190 (and its other House and Senate counterparts) was discussed as another vital issue relative to basic education. The bill has been perceived as a moderate version of the earlier proposed Magna Carta for Students Bill. Although the NAC has already submitted its position on the issue of the proposed Magna Carta for Students, CEAP-NAC also drafted its position on the STRAW Bill which has been submitted to the Board for its deliberation and approval. Upon approval, the position paper can be released to member schools through the CEAP website and bulletin.

On the K to 12 program. The NAC, through its Chairperson, actively participates in the discussions of the Technical Working Group relative the K to 12 program. In principle, the CEAP is supportive of K to 12. There may be reservations as to government's readiness to implement the same, however, the proposal to shift to this new education cycle is one that will benefit the students in the long run. As such, the NAC advances the position that private schools (i.e. CEAP member schools) can take the lead by innovating their own K to 12 models. Some member schools have expressed their willingness to model K to 12, which means implementing a Senior High School program prior to the national roll-out of grade 11 in 2016.

2. Peace

On the proper implementation of R.A. 8369, otherwise known as the Family Courts Act. The NAC supports the position that the proper implementation of the Family Courts Act can bring about competent, fair and just disposal of family law-related cases and thereby prevent the rising

incidents of irreparable breakdowns of families as well as children in conflict with the law (CICL). These social realities are perceived to be detrimental to the peace issue. As such, the CEAP has written letters to the President, Senate, House of Representatives, and the Judiciary calling for the proper implementation of RA 8369 as well as providing appropriation for the same.

To date, CEAP-NAC received a response from the Supreme Court *en banc*, Office of the President, as well as from the House of Representatives that the letter appealing for the proper implementation of the Family Courts Act has been referred to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for its appropriate action on the matter. The NAC, however, believes that follow-up activities on this issue need to be undertaken next year in order that the issue can be more thoroughly addressed.

Integrating Peace Education in the Curriculum. At the close of the September 2011 CEAP National Convention, several significant resolutions have been submitted by the participants, foremost of which is the call for the integration of Peace Education in the Curriculum of all member schools, in support of the legal mandate enshrined in Executive Order 570 regarding the institutionalization of peace education in basic education and teacher's education.

3. Environment

On the issue of Mining in the Philippines and the Minerals Management Bill. Since July 2011, the NAC has initiated efforts to consolidate a group of experts tasked to undertake an academic study addressing two key questions, namely: (1) what is responsible mining? And (2) What does "rehabilitation" mean within the purview of the post-mining operation process?

At the initial consultation held last 16 September, it was agreed that the mining technologies currently being used are not fit for the Philippine setting and the safeguards stipulated in the present law (Mining Act of 1995) may not be enough to protect the interests of the Filipino people. To that end, the NAC also commits to monitor the progress of the study/discussions undertaken by the various experts of our member schools in aid of its advocacy for the passage of the Minerals Management Bill.

Related efforts towards clarifying these questions are Ateneo de Manila University's academic conference entitled "The Future of Mining" on 22 November 2011 and CEAP's partnership with Ateneo de Davao University in organizing the International Conference on Mining in Mindanao. Dubbed "Mina para sa Nasudnong Interes sa Katawhang Pilipino," the conference will be held on 26-27 January 2012. CEAP also continues to network and support the Save Palawan Movement of ABS-CBN foundation and other environment advocacy organizations.

CEAP AND COCOPEA STATEMENTS AND POSITION PAPERS

- a. CEAP reiterated its stand on the issue of former Pres. Marcos' burial on Oct. 3 and lauded PNoy's stand on the matter.
- b. CEAP drafted position papers mirroring COCOPEA's position on the "**Anti- No Permit no Exam Bill**". To recall, CEAP and the COCOPEA have already come up with a position paper, generally assailing the proposed "No Exam-No Permit" bill for being unconstitutional, as well as being redundant considering that the Manual of Regulations for Private Higher Education (MORPHE) already has an existing policy on prohibiting the exclusion of students from taking final examinations on account of failure to pay tuition and other school fees. That is already enough.

In any event, the CEAP has maintained that the Bill encourages the impairment of obligations, insofar as it allows the students to renege on their contractual obligations to pay tuition fees for the educational services to be rendered by the Schools. Moreover, considering that most schools have only their tuition fees as their main source of income,

then the passage of this bill into law may very well signal the death knell of private education in the country.

- c. ***Let Him Have Not Have Died in Vain***, a statement of the death of Fr. Pops Tentorio, published on October 2011, Philippine Daily Inquirer. The statement could not have come at a more opportune time considering that there are indications which point to pro-mining companies as the possible culprit for Fr. Tentorio's death, after the fact-finding mission conducted by some private, church based and NGOs.
- d. ***Peace Please, Peace with Justice***, a statement on peace in Mindanao concerns, published on October 2011, Philippine Daily Inquirer in response to the tragic fire in Mindanao which claimed the lives of 19 soldiers, nine rebels and some civilians in the midst of the on-going peace talks by the Government with the MILF. The statement was well appreciated as it categorically backs up the process of peace negotiation instead of the call for an all out war by some political leaders.
- e. COCOPEA submitted its position on the *three-year probationary period of academic employees*, as requested by the Department of Labor and Employment's Education Industry Tripartite Council and on Sen. Pia Cayetano's proposed amendment to Republic Act 9211 (An Act Regulating the Packaging, Use, Sale, Distribution, and Advertisements of Tobacco Products and for Other Purposes).

CEAP SUPERINTENDENTS' COMMISSION

- **SUPCOM finalizes plans for 2012 Midyear Assembly**

To be highlighted by the presentation and workshops on the 2011 - 2014 CEAP Superintendents' Commission Strategic Plan and a discussion of the K to 12 program and important legal updates, the CEAP **SUPCOM's Mid-Year Assembly will be on 7 - 9 February 2012** at The Lighthouse Marina Resort, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The Strategic Plan contains the plans for the much-anticipated CEAP Superintendents' Academy which aims to provide training for superintendents in the areas of organizational management, supervision of academic program, stewardship of financial resources, formation of human resources, management of information resources and networking and advocacy. The Academy is also envisioned to offer consultancy services and other programs and activities including benchmarking and establishing international linkages. The SUPCOM intends to link with the Chief Administrators of Catholic Educators (CASE), a subsidiary of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

The planning for the mid-year assembly and the preparatory work for the Strategic Plan was completed in Lighthouse Marina Resort on 21-22 November 2011 and facilitated by Dr. Belen B. De Jesus, CEAP SUPCOM Consultant and Fr. Pax G. Gallego, Chairperson of the CEAP SUPCOM. Also in attendance were Fr. Eduardo O. Ventic, Fr. Mike I. Veneracion, Fr. Ely D. Fuentes, Fr. Danny C. Montana, RCJ, Fr. Ramil H. Cruz, Sr. Marissa R. Viri, RVM, Sr. Maria Fe B. Lagarto, RVM, Ms. Doris F. Ferrer, Ms. Malou C. De Guzman, Ms. Lilian dR. Rivera and Mr. Dino R. Aquino.

The CEAP Superintendents' Academy is the first-ever of its kind in the country and is CEAP SUPCOM's contribution to CEAP 75. It will be formally launched in the evening of 8 February 2012. For inquiries please contact Ms. Lilian dR. Rivera at rivali_cdsc@yahoo.com or (02) 651-0032 during office hours.

RETIREMENT COMMISSION

▪ Fund Performance Report – May 2011 to November 2011

Highlights of the report are as follows:

1. Net assets as of November 30, 2011 stood at P 4.088 B, posting a positive growth of P 166.063 M or 4.23% from April 30, 2011 level of P 3.922 B, mainly from realized income of P 188.423 M.
 2. Contributions by participating employers amounted to P 157.161 M while benefit payments reached P 154.853 M. Additional death and total disability benefits accounted for P 3.150 M.
 3. Investment profile, P 611.764 M or 14.97% are short-term; P 1.046 B or 25.59% are medium-term; P 2.429 B or 59.44% are long-term.
 4. The Fund posted realized and unrealized earnings of P 163.455 M broken down as follows: realized gains of P 188.423 M and unrealized losses of P 24.968 M. ROI for the period stood at 4.18% or 7.13% on an annualized basis.
 5. Income distributed to Plan members totaled P 188.423 M, based on the earnings provisions of the Plan. Unrealized gains or unrealized losses will be set aside in a reserve account and members will be entitled to their proportionate share when they separate or retire from their participating employers.
 6. Reduction of trust fees effective November 2011: Bank of the Philippine Islands (TBG and ING) @ 0.20% p.a.; Banco de Oro @ 0.20% p.a. for liquid investments and 0.15% p.a. for real estate; Deutsche Bank AG Manila @ 0.35% p.a.; MetroBank @ 0.30% p.a. for the first P 1.0 B and 0.20% p.a. in excess of P 1.0 B, excluding investments in FAMI.
- The Investment Guidelines of the CEAP Retirement Commission were reviewed by the Investment Committee in 18 August 2011. The revisions were approved by the Commission on 1 September 2011. Some of the important revisions were: (1) monthly financial reports are to be submitted to the Retirement Office within 7 calendar days; (2) on the selection of an external fund manager (EFM). Qualifications: should have a minimum of P 25 Billion pesos in assets under its management, a proven record of profitability as well as a strong relative performance against established benchmarks; (3) Domestic fixed income benchmark will be set against the HSBC Local Bond Index while domestic equities with that of the Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi).

REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Programs Committee had its JEEPGY Writeshop on 8-9 December 2011 in Miriam College attended by the chairpersons and representatives of the different subcommittees. The objectives of the Writeshop were: a) to develop a framework based on the framework of Transformative Education; b) to situate the pillar programs in the strategic initiatives of the organization; and c) to develop the Strategic Plans of each Sub-Committee.

Fr. Percy Bacani, MJ gave a lecture on Transformative Education which served as main input for crafting the JEEPGY Framework. The resulting framework of JEEPGY Pillar Programs anchored on the framework of Transformative Education is guided by the values of Stewardship, Human Dignity, Integrity, Equity, Love, Dialogue, Solidarity and Spirituality, among others. The identified means to achieve the goals of Justice and Peace, Ecological Integrity, Engaged Citizenship, Poverty Reduction, Gender Equality and Youth Empowerment through education are: a) curriculum development which recognizes the significant role that media education plays, b) programs for capacity building, c) programs for networking and partnership – building, and d) the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation. The Writeshop also provided the venue to clarify the role of the champion institutions in their engagement with CEAP. Before the end of the Writeshop, the group was able to determine the Key Result Areas (KRAs) that the Programs Committee need to work on in the next 5 years.

From September to December, the different subcommittees have the following updates:

Justice and Peace Subcommittee worked on the design of the 2011 National Convention as well as the endorsements of: 1) Interfaith Peace Declaration in relation to Arms Trade, 2) One Million Voices for Peace in the Philippines (OMVP) campaign, and 3) Faith-based Congress Against Immoral Debts (FCAID) advocacy training. It will be looking into issues, concerns and recommendations of the 2011 National Convention and the Justice and Peace Series on different issues on Social Justice which include the issues of farmers of Hacienda Luisita and coco levy, among others.

The **Subcommittee on Environment** worked on encouraging the different schools to celebrate Sierra Madre Day on September 26 and the Environment Week. Plans to roll-out the GREENIN' PHILIPPINES reforestation program of RAFI throughout the country have also been put in place.

KAISA-CEAP Bulacan and Adamson University, Champions of the **Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation**, led relief operations for the victims of typhoons Pedring and Quiel in Northville 9, Calumpit, Bulacan - the adopted community of the pilot program on Cultural Entrepreneurship. Other CEAP schools were also encouraged to help the other typhoon victims in Regions 2 and 3 through efforts done in coordination with Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan and Caritas.

The **Subcommittee on Gender and Development** in coordination with the offices of the Regional Trustees and the Philippine Catholic HIV-AIDS Network (PhilCHAN) conducted Pastoral Trainers' Training on HIV-AIDS funded by the UNICEF in Cebu City on 7 – 9 September 2011 and in Davao City on 9 – 11 November 2011. The last training for the year will be conducted on 7 – 9 December 2011 in Tagaytay City for Region 4 schools. The 19 pilot schools from CEAP-NCR also led in organizing the celebration of the first ever National AIDS Sunday on 4 December 2011 at the UST grounds.

The **Subcommittee on Youth Empowerment** conducted several BIDA trainings in different regions: 1) *BIDA Formators' Workshop for the Manila Archdiocesan Parochial Schools' Association (MAPSA)* on 15 October 2011; 2) *BIDA -Region 5 for Ateneo de Naga University student leaders* on 20-21 October 2011; 3) *BIDA-Western Mindanao III: Facilitators' Training Workshop* on 24-25 October 2011 and actual *Bidahan* run on 25-27 October 2011; 4) *BIDA - Region 1 Mentors and Facilitators Training Workshop* on 18 – 19 November 2011. *BIDA for student leaders in Region 1* will be held on 12-13 January 2012 in Dagupan for CEAP schools in Pangasinan and on 17 – 18 February 2012 in Vigan for CEAP schools in the Ilocos provinces; and 5) A special half-day *Bidahan* workshop was also conducted for the Philippine Association of Campus Student Advisers (PACSA) held in Baguio City on 28 November 2011.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

▪ **Increased Subsidy for Regions, Commissions and Committees**

Effective May 2011, all regions, commissions and committees received a 50 % increase in their subsidies. It is expected that the regions, commissions and committees implement projects and activities in line with the strategic goals identified by the association for the period 2011 – 2014 in the areas of regionalization, assistance to small schools and partnerships and linkages in order to ensure the delivery transformative education.

- **CEAP National Headquarters**

The Finance and Personnel Committee, headed by Br. Jun S. Erguiza, FSC, after several meetings, awarded the project management of the CEAP National Headquarters to Asian Technicon Management and Consultants, Inc. The old building has been demolished and the construction is expected to commence this January. The design approved by the CEAP National Board was made by Architect Yolly D. Reyes, former Dean of the College of Architecture of the University of Santo Tomas.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the CEAP National Headquarters shall be on 7 February 2012, as CEAP marks its 71st year. Its expected completion shall be on 31 May 2012.

- **CEAP 75 Fund-Raising Campaign**

To raise funds for the CEAP National Headquarters, a fund-raising committee was constituted. The Committee is co-chaired by S. Felicitas Bernardo, SPC, Chairperson of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 CEAP National Convention Committee on Sponsorships and Ms. Doris F. Ferrer, CEAP Executive Director, the other members of the committee are Ms. Gloria S. De Leon, CEAP Controller, Ms. Vicky M. Dayao, Assistant Chancellor of DLS-College of St. Benilde, Ms. Des Agcaoili and Ms. Ines M. Basaen.

As seed money for the CEAP National Headquarters, the CEAP National Board approved that the income from the 2011 CEAP National Convention be used.

- **PCNC Certification**

The unit finalized and submitted all the documents needed to apply for a certification from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) on 21 December 2011. A PCNC certification gives CEAP a donee institution status. RA 8424 or the Tax Reform Act of 1997, Chapter VII, Section 34 (H) provides that contributions or gifts actually paid or made to donee institutions shall be allowed as business deductions for income tax purposes.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

- **SEC approval of Amended CEAP Articles and By-Laws**

The SEC Certificate approving the amendments to the Articles and By-laws of CEAP was finally received by the CEAP National Office on 4 January 2012. The Committee had to review and work on the reportorial requirements and settle penalties incurred on account of lapses in reportorial requirements in the past years.

- **Proposal to endorse the Comprehensive Tax Exemption Bill for Education**

One of the very first bills that had been proposed and presented by Dean Emerson Aquende of Aquinas University during the First Advocacy Summit held in 2010, was a comprehensive tax exemption bill for education. This is a direct take-off from the position endorsed by Bro. Armin Luistro before his appointment as Secretary of Education. This had gone through a couple of revisions, but was mainly prepared by Dean Cesar Villanueva of Ateneo College of Law.

At present, the BIR imposes income tax on the basis of the source of income. So therefore, if the school had earned income from an activity which is solely educational in purpose, then this is considered exempt. On the other hand, if the income is earned from a purely commercial activity, then this is an activity not actually, directly and exclusively for educational purposes, and hence, taxed.

The position of the CEAP Advocacy Tax Committee is that all income and/or earnings of the non-stock non-profit educational institution from any and all sources should be exempt from tax. This must be so because any and all income or profit derived from any activity is never distributed to any member, but is required to be plowed back into the general fund of the educational institution for the furtherance of its purposes.

Considering that the State is hardly in a position to provide for government subsidies to private education, then it becomes all the more necessary to think of creative mechanisms to address the problems of private education. Moreover, if the State is truly committed to education as the best weapon against poverty and accelerate social progress, then it may consider the creation of additional incentives (such as expanded tax exemptions) to educational institutions as the Government's counterpart investment (or subsidy) in its drive to make quality education accessible to all. There is a need to clarify and further augment the tax exemptions granted to educational institutions in order to achieve the constitutional precepts.

The bill therefore seeks to achieve the following objectives:

First, to clarify and make **absolute** the following constitutional exemptions:

- (a) from income tax, capital gains tax, and all other internal revenue taxes, as the case may be, all income, receipts and earnings of educational institutions realized or arising from pursuing their educational objectives;
- (b) from tariffs and duties all properties of educational institutions imported from abroad, which are to be used and employed in pursuing their educational objectives, and that in the event of subsequent sale or disposition of said properties, the same would also be exempt from all income tax, capital gains tax, and all other internal revenue taxes, as the case may be;
- (c) from real property taxes all the real properties and improvements therein used or intended for use, if idle, in the pursuit of their educational objectives, including the grant of scholarships to poor and deserving students.

Second, to expand such exemptions as follows:

- (a) to exempt from income tax, capital gains, tax, and all other internal revenue taxes, as the case may be, all income receipts and earnings of educational institutions realized or arising from pursuing ancillary or allied undertakings which are incidental to, necessary or supportive of meeting their educational objectives, such as the operation of cafeterias, canteens, bookstores, parking facilities, business processing outlets, internet cafes, printing and publishing outlets, etc., provided, the income, receipts or earnings are devoted in pursuits of the educational objectives of the educational institution;
- (b) to exempt from tariff or duties all properties of educational institutions which they import from abroad to be used for such ancillary undertakings, and that in the event of subsequent sale or disposition of said properties, the same would also be exempt from all income tax, capital gains tax, and all other internal revenue taxes, as the case may be;
- (c) to exempt from all forms of real property taxes all real properties and improvements therein of educational institutions which are used in the pursuit of ancillary or allied services, provided that the profits or earnings therefrom are devoted exclusively for the pursuit of educational objectives, particularly the grant of scholarships to poor and deserving students; and

(d) to exempt from income tax, withholding tax, capital gains tax, value added tax and all other forms of internal revenue taxes, as the case may be, the sale, exchange, transfer or disposition of such real properties and improvements therein.

- **CHED-proposed CMO-14 S.2011 on Guidelines for Consultation on Miscellaneous and other School Fees**

Culling from the extensive discussions during meetings held by the Multi-Sectoral Committee on Miscellaneous fees, the CHED has held public hearings last 28 September and 13 October 2011 outside the NCR. The comments gathered from said hearings and those submitted by the CHEDROs and other higher educational institutions during said hearings were consolidated and forwarded for study. CEAP has agreed to the position taken by the COCOPEA allowing for the consultation of miscellaneous and other school fees, in conformity with the principles of transparency and accountability.

UPDATES FROM THE CEAP NATIONAL OFFICE

- **17th World Congress of Catholic Schools (18-21 October 2011)
18th OIEC General Assembly (22-24 October 2011)**

The CEAP Executive Director represented CEAP in the 17th World Congress of Catholic Schools and the 18th OIEC General Assembly which were both held in Zaragoza, Spain. The International Catholic Education Office (OIEC) is organized in five world regions: Africa, America, Europe, Asia and Middle East and North Africa. OIEC groups more than 44 million students all over the world, a total of 210,000 schools, over 102 Constituent members (Countries), 18 associate members (religious congregations) and 13 collaborating members (institutions). CEAP is a constituent member of the OIEC. The 17th World Congress had for its theme “*The School, a place of hope for Human Rights*”.

- **CEAP Bulletin and CEAP Directory**

The CEAP Bulletin was released quarterly this year. The 2011 CEAP Bulletin for the 4th quarter will be released soon. Likewise, the National Secretariat is now working on an updated CEAP Directory of members for Academic Year 2011-12. All schools are reminded to submit their accomplished School Information Surveys which were released in March.

- **CEAP Main Website and Social Networks**

Since October 2011, ongoing improvements have been made on the CEAP main website. The aim is to upload fresh and updated content so that the member schools and the public are updated on CEAP programs and initiatives.

In the last quarter of 2011, the website has been visited 8,994 times—66% more traffic compared to the same period of last year. 64.80% of the total views came from new visitors. Also, the visits came 88 countries with the Philippines, United States, Canada, Japan, Cote d’Ivoire, India, Singapore, Spain, and Brazil leading the pack.

Connecting with CEAP is now much easier and faster as CEAP is now present in social networking sites. You are invited to join the conversations by:

Liking the *CEAP page* on Facebook.com
Following *@CatholicEdPH* on Twitter.com
Subscribing to *Catholic Ed PH channel* on YouTube.com

CONCLUDING REMARKS

CEAP turned 70 on 2 February 2011. A significant milestone indeed as the role Catholic education has played in this country is without doubt one that calls for gratitude. In this year's convention, we start the road to remembering with gratitude what our forerunners have accomplished with much toil and sacrifice while renewing ourselves and reflecting on our next steps. **CEAP 75.** Together, we continue writing the history of CEAP.

We are excited about CEAP 75 but there is much to do. But as one body we will remember with gratitude, renew with fervor and set forth with faith so that in all things God may be glorified!