

State of the Association

(Excerpts from the President's Report at the 2012 PACU General Assembly)

Since its inception in 1932, the Association, the first educational organization established in the country, constantly sustained and defended its principles of academic freedom and quality education.

In spite of challenges to private education, including constrained budgets and heightened scrutiny, PACU has been quick to respond to and remained vigilant for potentially detrimental repercussions and regulatory proposals. PACU has worked diligently to protect the interests of students, personnel and institutions by supporting the passage of landmark legislations and the amendment and repeal of government policies deemed unfavorable to the growth and freedom of private education.

With the shifting sands of government policy and a parade of proposed regulations often keeping leaders of private colleges and universities wondering what will come around the bend, PACU has drawn up its legislative and administrative agenda encompassing the exercise of academic freedom in higher education, operationalization of curricular autonomy of tertiary level institutions, leveling of the playing field in education, the K-12 basic education program, tax exemptions and the modernization of the Professional Regulation Commission.

PACU aided in the in-depth examination of all levels of education in the public and private sectors and participated in the first and second revision of the Manual of Regulations for Private Schools, in amending the Revised Manual of Regulations for Private

Schools in Basic Education, and in the drafting of the Manual of Regulations for Private Higher Education Institutions.

In addition to influencing public policy through advocacy, research and program initiatives, PACU provides leadership and management programs to strengthen the talent pool for the next generation of private education leaders; develop the capacity of private colleges and universities to innovate and adapt in challenging environments; and enhance the vitality and well-being of private education institutions. It conducted a seminar-series called "E3" or the "Emerging Education Executives" and the Academic Management Seminar Series I and II for HEIs which offered "Leadership Practices for Higher Education," "The Art and the Practice of Deanship," "From Admission to Graduation: Policies & Procedures," and "Enhancing Graduate Education & Research."

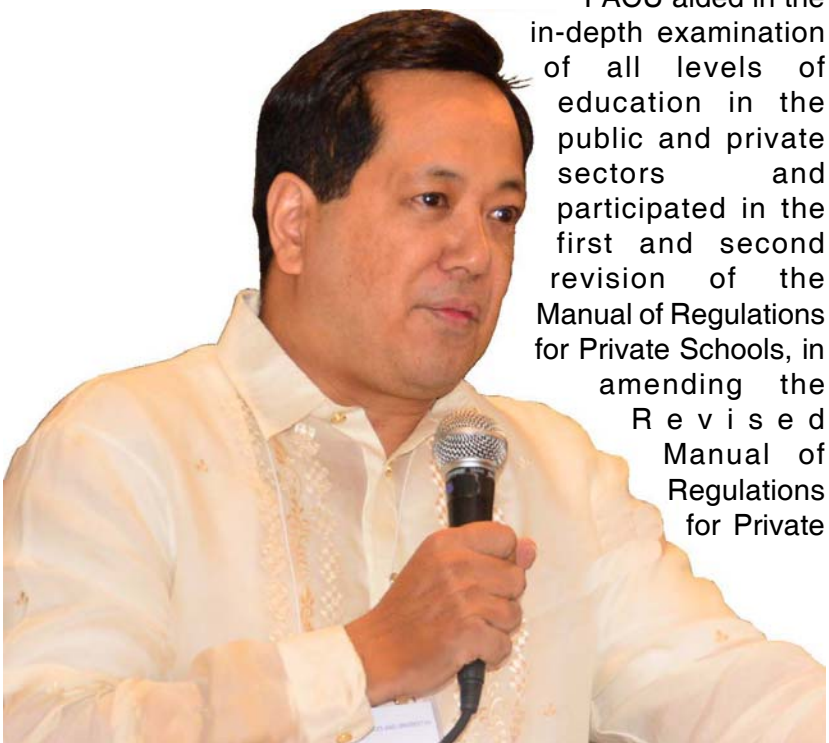
With the world continuing to shrink and the geographic boundaries becoming less defined than ever before, PACU reached out to its members with two-venue seminars on "Education Transformation in the Global Economy: Understanding International

Agreements and Methodologies" and "Outcomes-Based Education and Accreditation." PACU recently addressed "Challenges of Internationalization," the K-12 basic education program and ASEAN 2015.

To improve communication and interaction among its members and to enhance its services, PACU designed and created its website: pacu.org.ph. The PACU web offers, among other things, conference and seminar proceedings, publications and monographs, such as (1) The Revised Rules and Regulations to Implement the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 on Campus and in the Workplace; (2) Drug-Free Campus and Workplace Programs; and (3) Smoke-Free Campus and Workplace Programs.

PACU is in motion: the officers, the board of trustees and our committees have been working systematically to confront the broad scope of today's challenges by providing the membership with timely and relevant information, programs and projects, and services. And with the unceasing cooperation and support of its members, PACU will maintain this work pace in the coming fiscal years.

In the 80 years of its existence as a champion of private education, PACU has proven to be a staunch guardian not only of its member institutions but also of the entire Philippine education system.



Peter P. Laurel



PACU Peter P. Laurel presides over the general meeting.



Patricia Bustos-Lagunda



Caroline S. Enriquez



Alicia S. Bustos
2012 PACU Person of the Year

PACU Celebrates 80th Anniversary

While there was intense debate in the halls of the U.S. Congress on the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Bill, a measure promising Philippine independence after 10 years, but reserving several military and naval bases for the United States, as well as imposing tariffs and quotas on Philippine exports, a group of Filipino college and university presidents meeting in a luncheon tendered by Mariano V. de los Santos at his home in Balintawak decided, at the suggestion of Jose Abad Santos and Conrado Benitez, to form the Association of Filipino Private Universities and Colleges (AFPUC). Among the leaders present were Camilo Osiyas of National University, Nicanor Reyes, Sr. of Far Eastern University, Jorge Bocobo of the University of the Philippines, Francisca Tirona-Benitez of Philippine Women's University, Tomas Mapua of Mapua Institute of technology, and Vicente Fabella of Jose Rizal University. That was 1932.

As enacted, the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, required ratification by the Philippine Senate. But upon urgings of Manuel L. Quezon, the Philippine Senate rejected the law.

The Tydings-McDuffie Act (officially the Philippine Independence Act), a U.S. law which was a slightly revised version of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, provided for

Philippine independence and was ratified by the Philippine Legislature. The recognition of Philippine independence took place on July 4, 1946. Following these events, AFPUC saw fit to change its name to the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU). The change was motioned by Jose Laurel and made final by a unanimous vote in a meeting at National Teachers College.

That was 1947.

2012 marked the 80th Anniversary of PACU, the oldest educational association in the Philippines. The celebration took place at Oakwood Premier in Pasig City led by PACU President Peter Laurel. The event featured a national conference on "The Challenges of Internationalization," a video presentation on PACU history and its membership by Dr. Caroline Marian Enriquez, launching of the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Book by Dr. Patricia Bustos-Lagunda, and the 2012 PACU Person of the Year Award.

The conference speakers were: Ken Vine, senior education adviser, AusAid, and Lydia Tansinsin, professorial lecturer at the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School DepEd Secretary Armin A. Luistro, Past PACU presidents, Reinaldo C. Bautista (1988-90), Virgilio

C. Bautista (2002-04) and Teresita U. Quirino (2004-06), PACU-COA president Rosita L. Navarro and PERAA president Bernadette M. Nepomuceno graced the occasion.

The anniversary celebration was followed by a general meeting of the membership and election to the 2012-2014 board of trustees.

