

**Whole Person Education Academy (WPEA):  
A Professional Development Program**  
United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia with  
Ateneo Teacher Center, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

**Concept Note**

**Background**

Educational reforms are sweeping through Southeast Asia. These are related to the national reforms in some countries and the establishment of the ASEAN Community in December 2015. In view of this, many higher education institutions in Southeast Asia are feeling an urgent need to improve in the three functions of knowledge creation [*research*], knowledge application [*service*], and knowledge dissemination [*teaching/instruction*]. Added to this is the desire to comply with accreditation requirements.

The tendency of many higher education institutions is to carry out these functions separately rather than integrally, usually highlighting one over the others. The traditional concern of many faculty members to promote their individual disciplines has often led to competition rather than cooperation among disciplines. The traditional emphasis on intellectual/cognitive development over other areas of development (e.g. emotional, spiritual, ethical) has missed to take the totality of human development.

The United Board's vision is to develop the whole person intellectually, spiritually, and ethically. Hence, this **Whole Person Education Academy (WPEA)** seeks to model an education that is holistic, addressing the needs of the whole person. It will address the functions of education in an integrated or holistic way while regarding the person as a whole being in community with others. At the same time, it aims to address the following needs of higher education teachers and administrators: (1) development of research skills specifically in methodology, data analysis and research ethics; (2) improvement of pedagogical skills related to particular disciplines and the development of generic teaching strategies; (3) preparation as technology leaders; and (4) acquisition of skills and techniques of outreach and service.

**Description of the Program**

This Whole Person Education Academy is designed for middle level administrators from various higher educational institutions (HEI) in Southeast Asia. It consists of three phases.

**Phase 1** is the two-week intensive training on September 17-30, 2017. It will consist of ten learning sessions including fundamentals and theories of education, curriculum, instruction, assessment and evaluation, classroom dynamics, research, media & technology applications, and service learning. The values of Whole Person Education, encompassing intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and ethical development, will permeate the sessions in an integral way. In addition, a one-day cultural trip/city tour will be included to make the participants familiar with Filipino/ASEAN culture.

**Phase 2** will be the echo training in the home institutions/countries and follow-up visits by resource persons to find how the program is being cascaded or implemented back home.

**Phase 3** will be a harvest seminar, bringing together the trainers to share their experiences, best practices, lessons gained, evaluation, etc.

## **Learning Outcomes**

The primary goal of the professional development program is to equip the participants with the foundational knowledge and skills so they will be able to:

- Demonstrate ethical behavior in the practice of their profession as administrators/educators;
- Design a safe learning environment that maximizes instructional time and increases student engagement;
- Manage and supervise instructional programs;
- Review assessment in the classroom, assess curricular programs and formulate action plans for improvement;
- Apply pedagogical knowledge and instructional methods to attain target student learning outcomes;
- Model the adoption and integration of technology in the learning-teaching process;
- Conduct action research to inform and improve practice.

## **Expected Participants:**

Participants from institutions in Southeast Asia will be chosen on the basis of their commitment and capacity to serve as trainers when they return to their institutions and countries. The following are criteria for selection:

1. Full-time faculty member for at least 3 years of an institution in Southeast Asia that has been related to the United Board.
2. Can communicate in English (with the 4 skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in English). The training will be conducted in English and participants are expected to do presentations and demonstrations in English. An interview will be conducted to ascertain the English proficiency level.
3. Holds a strategic position, preferably in the Teaching-Learning Center of the institution; position strategic enough to influence the other faculty members or conduct echo training.
4. Committed to participate in all 3 phases of the program, including echo-training in his/her home institution and with other neighboring institutions in the country after returning from the training.
5. Must be nominated/ endorsed by the head of the institution known to the United Board. Institution head must indicate support (psychological, moral, etc.) for the nominee to schedule an echo-training at the home institution or with other institutions that would request for it.
6. Must submit a completed application form by July 31, 2017.

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