

INTRODUCTION
PUBLIC BRIEFING & WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER'S
PARTNERSHIP ON THE SUBJECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Dr. Ramona Rodriguez Tan

Teacher's Enrichment and Development Programs on the Team-Teaching Approach which is the umbrella of most continuing education activities is assuming increasing importance in the multi-strata of modern society. The decade, following the EDSA Revolution, gave importance to this type of education and it has increased dramatically. Today, it has become almost axiomatic that continuing education is essential in meeting the needs of our students, the employed sector, entrepreneurs, modern adults and their communities. Given this period of rapid growth, the practice of development programs has been widely experimental and the results have varied broadly. The time has come, however, to start the task of consolidation, to establish disciplines that have both order and consistency and that lead to predictable results. The fact that relatively similar developmental activities bear a wide variety of labels causes a certain amount of confusion.

This briefing-workshop body, "Science and Social Studies Teachers' Partnership on the Subject of Climate Change", will encompass those learning activities that occur in-group settings. This meeting, then, is a group of adults with "learning" as a primary purpose. If we fail to learn then we defeat the purpose for which this briefing-workshop has been planned. If you will all look at your hand-out with the "objectives" title, you will be able to share with us, the planners, the basic, concise and practical guide to the theory and practice of team teaching programs involving all the three levels of society, namely the students, the teachers, and the parents and community members.

My own personal objective for this briefing-workshop is that it be a practical aid for those of you who are part-time parents, part-time professional teachers and part-time community members who are all adults with varied interests but with limited preparation for this kind of involvement. Consequently, I assume no specialized pre-requisite skills on your part, other than the basic human ones that undoubtedly got you the invitation to participate in the first place. In the course of this briefing-workshop, there will be presented a limited number of a systematic approach for using scientific presentation papers, both basic and conclusive based on a technical framework that will easily communicate from our experience to yours. Additionally, there will be periods for presentation of sufficient methods and tools to enable all of us to stand on our own after this affair without further complexities.

My second objective for this briefing-workshop is that it serves as a useful initiation and provides new insights for those of you who are experienced educators. To this end, I present a sequence of activities organized according to task, making it usable in the rush of events. The basic learning materials within this framework provide for easy (and perhaps irreverent) comparisons and explore their application to the practice of high-school based science and social studies courses. I finally, attempted to demystify certain

procedures, level some of the esoteric verbiage, blow through the smoke screens laid down by specialized sects, and in general, hack away at the proliferating underbrush of methods, techniques and approaches by simply demonstrating their commonality, similarity or sameness. In short, we will all attempt to achieve a purity worthy of any time discipline.

Fortunately, in achieving our general objective we achieve the specific ones, since much of what appears complex in science and social studies education is really only confusion resulting from lack of a common language. Our briefing-workshop therefore, will not plumb the depths and agonize over the nuances of team-teaching programs that is really complex, rather this meeting will simply offer itself as a new tool to assist all of you in bringing new beginnings with quality to your workshops in your respective schools. With this commentary, allow me to welcome all of you and certainly I wish you all a chance to renew ties and meet new people whose friendship will prove emotionally and mentally gratifying. “Happy Learning and Sharing” to you.

The ground rules are simple:

- Be here on time.
- Switch off your cellular phones or keep them on silent mode.
- Be willing to listen and pick-up new ideas.
- Be willing to speak when you are called upon.
- Be willing to express your views.
- Be open-minded and share opinions.

No one is a superstar here, and we all agree that any attempts to do this by anyone will be surely sanctioned, with good-natured humor.