

Beyond Individual Good Institute

Presented

Community Resiliency for Virtual Learning

2020 International Conference on Quality Education for All UNSDG#4
last April 29, 2020 – Wednesday at 2-4 pm Philippine time UCT+8 via Zoom

Originally, the conference was entitled *Learn in the Time of Corona*. However, a conference whose need is brought about by the worldwide pandemic that educators are currently grappling with deserves more than a trite pun. Instead, we seek to provide much-needed clarity for academic stakeholders. While governments emphasize a new normal for teaching and learning, every student and educator is left with multiple unanswered questions: how does the virtual community expect to learn? Is it enough to know the best practice of a different country context, or should there be local practices that also deserve to be repeated and amplified? Is the local ICT infrastructure sufficient? Are educators equipped with both technical and soft skills? Are students prepared to learn virtually? Do academic institutions have the resources to implement large-scale virtual learning?

Community Resiliency for Virtual Learning was the practical and relevant title for an International Conference that was conducted online from the Philippines to the rest of the world, with special participation from esteemed individuals such as (a) Dr. Loretta Chen, co-founder of Beyond Individual Good Institute, Professor at University of Hawaii-Leeward Community College, a published author, presenter of *Bhutan: A Secret to Happiness* and an award-winning director; and (b) Dr. Agung Wicaksono (past CEO of Transjakarta and formerly COO of MRT Jakarta), from the Center for Policy and Public Management at Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), Indonesia's top science, technology, arts and management university.

The Conference discussed the results of *Levels of Learner Readiness to Online Learning in Business Programs: An Assessment*, by Dr. Joan Camille Ilagan, Assistant Professor at Nexford University, which looked at undergraduate programs at selected Philippine-based universities. The Conference also featured a sample 15-minute presentation of virtual learning on *Gastro-tourism Entrepreneurship Sustainability Mindset* conducted by **Prof. Dr. Eunice Mareth Areola**, HSG (founder of Beyond Individual Good Institute) for the recently concluded UNESCO Hong Kong and Thailand Office for South-South Cooperation's Entrepreneurship Academy International Conference, and a presentation on *Developing the Sustainability Mindset in Corporations* by **Dr. Shirley Yeung of Gratia**

Christian College, Hong Kong.

The Conference was attended by a large number of heads of higher education institutions all over the Philippines and joined by educators from **Indonesia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Macau, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea**. It was hosted by Beyond Individual Good Institute (BIG Institute) as part of its 2020 response for sustainable and quality education for all.

BIG Institute continues to create and curate various platforms for up-scaling educator competencies particularly in under-resourced areas of the Philippines, and the elsewhere in Asia. The Conference is aimed at creating a platform and activating a research-based decision-making process for academic stakeholders. The discussion that followed centered around a) the local status of virtual learning resiliency, b) the policy directions that can spring from it, and c) the key lessons to ensure efficient teaching and learning in this very pronounced volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous (VUCA) new normal.
