

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

The following comments were gathered from the audience towards the end of the Forum.

1. Mr. Henry Freires

- Science and technology/ inventions and innovations developed by Filipinos can make our country globally-competitive/ progress.
- I dream of industrial zones manufacturing Philippine inventions/ innovations for export, not foreign inventions wherein we have no absolute control.
- Urgent area: energy. Fossil fuel is no longer safe to extract underground via seawater injection. It is currently causing earthquakes (SG of water= 1.0; Petroleum= 0.8). The increase of "off-centered" weight of the Earth will cause "pole-shift." Filipino inventors should develop polonium as fuel. Funds and security must be provided by the government.

2. Mr. Ernian Lao

Action Plan:

- The government and private institutions implement programs implemented to help the SMEs but I believe only a few select businesses/ people are able to feel this help. Why? (1) Corruption; (2) the people in position implementing these programs, especially on the provincial/ regional level are biased on which people/ group they would help; and (3) maybe we are missing the big picture and the systems currently in place are ineffective.

To do this:

I think we/ the government should (a) provide an environment in which SMEs will grow and expand not only in the Luzon region but also in the Visayas and Mindanao areas; (b) we should have apprenticeship systems implemented to people who cannot afford formal education so they can learn skills to be able to produce products that they can sell; (c) I think we, as Filipinos, should be more patriotic by patronizing products that we create instead of thinking that these products are low class/ poorly made.

3. Participant

- We should have more manufacturing industries. It was said that manufacturing industry isn't focused due to the expensive cost of electricity. Why not invest on powerplants (renewable ones)? If most towns have renewable energy sources, the cost of electricity won't be much of a problem. Though the electricity produced from renewable sources aren't that much compared to the conventional ones, there are still other options.

Also, the OTOP should be mandated all over the country. The program seems to be very promising and would help a lot of people. If there is a product per town, it would make people in those towns be productive and focused. If the mayor would help them into setting up their business, it would boost up the morale of the people wanting to go into entrepreneurship. A lot are not venturing into making their own business because they are not sure if there will be support coming from the government.

4. Ms. Rachele Austero

- I believe that aspiring entrepreneurs will be encouraged to establish their own business if the process for the business start-up will not be too difficult and complicated. Assistance, not only through financing, will be of great help. It will be better if there is some institution/ firm which can offer guidance for the entrepreneurs in accomplishing all necessary documents before they can start business operations, especially those who have no idea about these processes.

5. Mr. Sy and Mr. Tenioso

Action Plan:

- SME business is simply a matching examination. Match SME products to be supplied to large companies. Do this and everyone's happy.

To do this:

- Make a comprehensive website where SMEs & large companies can post their product specifications, wants and needs (www.sme.help.ph).
- Good logistic support, ie., interisland railroad.
- Internet usage. Google is good!

Great idea brought about by a great lunch!

6. Participant

- Require business courses on all degree programs of universities.
Hold "Negoskwelas" for students and the uneducated to teach them about business for a specific product/ project per town.
More government financial support for low-income families.

7. Participant

- Feudalism, as I understand, is a culture where there is a landlord and there are "subjects." For many places in the Philippines, feudalism culture (where there is a lord or a dominating family and there are "subjects") is very much alive. One manifestation of this culture is the presence of "political dynasties." A family rules this place and then another family rules the other place. I'm thinking that the fight for SMEs is a fight against this culture of feudalism. Maybe, to change the mindset of the people to entrepreneurship, a Filipino's tendency to be loyal to a lord or, in other words, to be a "subject," must be changed.

As a Mechanical Engineering student, we have a course requirement which is to come up with a project (tangible) that will show the things that we have learned during our 5 years of studying. We are thinking of creating a solar device.

8. Ms. Josielin Go

- Start introductory training from grade school to college then master the training on entrepreneurship.
How to start?
Value for money should be taught to children. Children should be educated on wise spending. The parents have a major role in their values formation.
Follow through training. The academe has a big role to play.
Productivity is very broad in its word and should be taught.

I commend UP ISSI for this very enlightening forum, for bringing in the government and private agencies to present their programs to us. Congratulations and more power!

9. Ms. Amy Quisumbing

- I hope that forums like this will also be available online (print/ video) for the benefit of those who can't be here like MSMEs and OFWs. Thank you, UP ISSI.

10. Philippine Society of Inventors and Innovators Inc.

Original Equipment Manufacturing Association of the Philippines, Inc.

- Plans and training without tools will not work. We need people to join us.
- We made a plan called "a store that makes the poor rich."
- We made a plan called "Inventors Reality Show."

11. Participant

Action plan:

- Make entrepreneurship and financial education a part of the curriculum (in the graduating year).
Give students a project to create a product to be sold or made by SMEs for them to apply what they have learned so far to improve SMEs.
Successful projects should be given full support by the school and GFIs.

12. Participant

- Report of OTOP, GFIs, SULONG, etc.- performance or assistance must show!
(a) % of per group they assisted such as XX % for micro, XX % for cottage level, XX % for small, etc.
(b) How many are there in need? In crisis?
(c) Through the help given, how many became successful? How sustainable is the program?

Review of integrated (the total approach) assistance program: is it a developmental program? Commercial program? R&D program? Incubation program?

Most programs are the same, competing with private banks. Government must take initiatives in crisis or developmental programs for those affected by various crises like in other countries.

Most of the financial programs are not developmental in nature. There must be a good program focusing on a crisis program and SME development program.

Pilot program for crisis-affected SMEs.

SME Labor wages- What industry can afford like in Germany

Maybe we can invite ambassadors like from the Netherlands to share their grant programs for SMEs.

Provide legal assistance to SMEs in affected areas.

There must be private sectors/ SMEs as part of reactors/ discussants.

13. Ms. Erlinda Llado

- How can you assist an individual who is interested in having a small business on dehydrated herbs when DOST charges higher fees in lending the dryer equipment and seems not interested in giving information on the "how tos" of technology on the said business?

14. Mr. Julius Labrador

- The meeting was very interesting. We need some time to digest what we talked about and agreed upon.

15. Ms. Isabella Francia M. Medina

Comments:

1. Very informative, good flow! Organizers must be more conscious of the time.
2. Good speakers!
Great talk!
3. Include tables during set up (for participants)
4. Make coffee readily available. Use styropor and not ceramic materials.
5. Provide more products to sell
6. Be punctual.