

Welcome Remarks

Prof. Nestor O. Rañeses

Director, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

Summary

Prof. Nestor Rañeses set the tone for the day by defining the objectives of the Forum to wit:

1. to discuss ideas, insights, and relevant experiences regarding the promises of the 2011-2016 development plan;
2. to provide options in overcoming the challenges of sustainable “inclusive growth;”
3. to pinpoint the critical success factors that will make the SME sector the real engine of growth; and
4. to engage all stakeholders in converging action solutions.

He defined the direction of the Forum by encouraging the audience to base discussions on a model that is characterized by the triumvirate of entrepreneurship, innovation, and growth. According to Director Rañeses, the critical success factors in fostering entrepreneurship center around being an entrepreneurial university, imbibing an entrepreneurship culture, mandatory entrepreneurship education and accreditation system for non-formal courses, in place quality assurance and measurement, and maverick learning methodologies.

He mentioned about the low ranking of the Philippines with the rest of the world in global competitiveness surveys. To address this, Director Rañeses cited a study done by the group of joint chambers of commerce which laid down a set of outcomes that the country should achieve to improve its rankings, grow, and become prosperous. The plan is called, ARANGKADA 2010 and the outcomes will be measured in terms of big improvements in per capita income, gross domestic product, population growth, foreign direct investments, and exports.

According to him, “these outcomes are order of magnitude improvements and not incremental improvements. The challenge is actually being thrown to us. Can the SME be able to participate and really make a difference in this particular set of outcomes that have been outlined in the ARANGKADA 2010?”

He ended his remarks by encouraging everybody to look not only at the short-term, immediate solutions but also solutions for the future and how SMEs will be able to participate in achieving the outcomes.