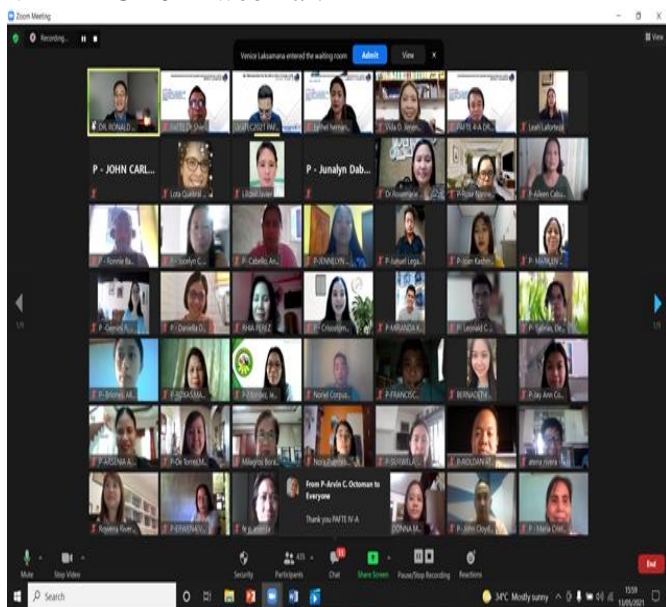


# PAFTE IV-A holds VirATEC 2021: A webinar for teachers with CPD units

By: *Dr. Ronald A. Gonzales*

Another milestone for **PAFTE Region IV-A CALABARZON** Chapter was the recently conducted Virtual Annual Teachers and Educators' Convention (VirATEC) held on May 13-14, 2021, via ZOOM. The activity was the first webinar for teachers ever conducted by the PAFTE regional chapter with CPD units. The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Council for Professional Teachers of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) granted 8 CPD units for VirATEC 2021 webinar.



VirATEC 2021 highlighted the theme, “Movements and Resilience of Teacher Quality in the New Normal”. The activity was organized and conducted by PAFTE IV-A to: a.) discuss the shifts, initiatives, and opportunities in ensuring teacher quality in the new normal (pandemic and post-pandemic times); b.) provide a platform for academic exchanges among teachers and educators in this time of the pandemic; and c.) strengthen the camaraderie among PAFTE members, teachers, and educators in CALABARZON.

The 2-day webinar featured the presentations and discussions of caliber resource speakers: Dr. Amelia Biglete (CHEDRO IV-A Director), Dr.

Runvi Manguerra (TEC Executive Director), Dr. Brenda Corpuz (PAFTE National President), Dr. Tirso Ronquillo (PASUC National President and President of Batangas State University), and Dr. Jennie Jocson (PNU, VP for Academics).

The first day of the convention, May 13, 2021, featured the keynote address and a plenary talk. The program started with the welcome remarks by Dr. Rowena R. Abrea, PAFTE IV-A Chairperson. Then, the emcee, Dr. Ronald A. Gonzales introduced the keynote Speaker, Dr. Amelia Biglete, the Director of CHEDRO IV-A. Dr. Biglete addressed the participants by highlighting the theme of the convention and by giving CHED Updates in relation to Flexible Learning and the promotion of Teacher Quality in the region amid the pandemic. Dr. Runvi Manguerra, the TEC Executive Director delivered his plenary talk on “Teacher Quality and the Basic Education Paradigm Shifts in the New Normal”. Questions on CHED’s and DepEd’s response and assistance to TEIs and basic education schools and their faculty were addressed during the Open Forum and academic exchange. Dr. Jose Romano Jalop moderated the Q & A right after the talk of the keynote speaker and the plenary speaker. Questions from the participants were posted in the chat box, read by the moderator, and were answered by the resource persons.

Four hundred eight (408) registered participants from different regions in the country and some schools abroad actively engaged themselves in an academic discussion of various issues relevant to teacher quality.

The second day, May 14, 2021, was a full-packed session for the presentations and discussions of the plenary speakers. Dr. Bethel Hernandez, the emcee of Day 2 introduced the speakers right before the start of their presentation. Dr. Brenda Corpuz, PAFTE National President, discussed the “Role of TEIs in Ensuring Teacher Quality in the New Normal”. Dr. Tirso Ronquillo, President of Batangas State University and President of PASUC, highlighted in his talk the “Higher Education Shifts in relation to the promotion of Teacher Quality in the New Normal”. Dr. Jennie Jocson, the Vice President for Academics of Philippine Normal University discussed about the “Teacher Education Paradigm

Shifts in the New Normal”. The same thing happened in day 2 for the Open Forum. Dr. Jose Romano Jalop moderated the Q & A right after the talk of the keynote speaker and the plenary speaker. Questions from the participants were posted in the chat box, read by the moderator, and were answered by the resource persons. Questions were mostly about pedagogy, faculty support and quality promotion in teacher education (both in the pre-service and in-service levels).

Closing remarks was delivered by Dr. Ronald Gonzales, the Vice Chairperson of PAFTE IV-A.

VirATEC 2021 will have its Video on Demand which will run from June 20 – July 20, 2021. Details of which are posted on the regional chapter’s official facebook page (PAFTE IV-A Calabarzon Chapter) and on PAFTE official website ([www.pafte.org](http://www.pafte.org)).

The conduct of VirATEC 2021 proved that nothing should hamper teachers’ growth. Every opportunity that strengthens resilience, especially in today’s time must be provided to teachers. This helps insure TEACHER QUALITY.