

A Tribute of Indebtedness, A Conduit Between Cultural Identities: CNGYL Graduation Imprints Strengthening PH-Korea Ties

BALANGA CITY — In a moment that extended beyond the bound of formality and protocol of a graduation ceremony of the cultural exchange program led by Best Global Center, Mr. Hwang, President of the Chungnam Institute for Lifelong Education, rendered an earnest message that will be etched in the memory of the crowd during the graduation rites of the Chungnam Global Youth Leadership (CNGYL) Program held at La Vista Inland Resort, Balanga City last February 12, 2026.

Mr. Hwang, addressing an assembly of a broad groups of graduates, learners, educators, and community leaders, underscored the vitality of academic rigor and universal human connection of the youths across the cultural borders, realizing that education transcended knowledge acquisition and centered on human mutual dependence. His remarks resonated the wealth of experiences, however it was his gesture that marked a profound symbol of humility and gratitude.

Mr. Hwang, expressed his sincerest appreciation by kneeling and bowing before the gathering—a gesture firmly embedded in Korean tradition—presented to the Filipino. It was his premium way of reflecting his appreciation: for the cordiality, the receptiveness, and the authentic and deep regard offered to Korean students who have sought a welcoming home in the Schools Division Office of Balanga City.

This modest yet compelling act lingered greatly with everyone in the ceremony. It is a reminder that beyond the structured programs, intercultural interfacing is founded on shared humanity, compassion, and receptivity to diversity.

SDO Balanga City exhibited a notable commitment to global education through the hosting of the Korean student exchange program. The halls of La Vista Inland resort stood as living classrooms, where diversity connected - not on mere learning resources, but in authentic communication, teaching-learning process, and community collaboration.

Mr Hwang stressed that such interfacing are impeccable opportunities for reciprocated paths of growth. Korean students were immersed in the Philippines to learn English, integrated themselves to the Filipino culture, and fostered independence. However, they leave with something far more lasting overtime - an intense indebtedness for the Filipino soul of cordial reception, tenacity and delight.

As Schools Division Superintendent, I am honored of how our school community, parents, and learners have accepted the responsibility.

Hosting international students was a perfect opportunity to find purpose in shaping global citizens - young minds who comprehended that the world is interrelated, and that peace and success started with empathy.

The CNGYL graduation rites was a milestone of affirmative journey of partnership between Korea and the Philippines. It ensured that when we open our doors to cultural diversity, we also open the soul of people for opportunity to broaden their perspectives.

Mr. Hwang's bow was not a mere gesture - it was a gateway. As another day unfolds, we carry with us the hope that such bridges would be strengthened, guided by principles of education and founded on respect.