INTRODUCED BY RIZAL SECOND DISTRICT REP. JUAN FIDEL FELIPE F. NOGRALES

RESOLUTION
URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO ADVOCATE THE TRAINING OF MORE FILIPINO SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS ABROAD THROUGH ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE

WHEREAS, there is a growing interest among national governments to initiate or expand scholarship programs that provide citizens with the opportunity to study outside their home country, the Philippines included;

WHEREAS, the opportunities to study and train abroad aim to advance the economy and improve country's capacity and potential for innovation and ultimately contribute to institutional and governmental reform and better performance in the home country.

WHEREAS, the Philippines needs to strengthen its higher education sector, as the Philippines behind in sending our graduates to international centers of to ensure the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology for the different sectors of the economy that remains underdeveloped due to the lack of knowhow.

WHEREAS, Harvard economics professor Roberto Hausmann said that tacit knowledge or know-how is what mostly constrain economic development because it is localized in the people’s brains and it is most difficult to transfer. This type of knowledge that international education of Filipinos seeks to address. With the limited supply of sectoral knowhow in the country, government has every imperative to send its best and brightest graduates to learn from the best of world.

WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Filipinos studying abroad had doubled in the last ten years, with more than Sixteen thousand Students currently enrolled in various foreign universities but this number is a far cry when compared to our Southeast Asian neighbors which had been sending more than triple of its students for foreign studies. As an example, Vietnam had more than sixty thousand students abroad in 2016.
WHEREAS, CHEd also noted that most students were studying in the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, this preference is probably due to the use of English language as the medium of instruction, and the reputation of their schools as education powerhouses. However, these options must be expanded,

WHEREAS, on the other hand, a review of CHEd’s website relating to foreign scholarship and training shows different foreign scholarship and training programs available for Filipino students, there are various scholarships from ASEAN states, India, China, Russia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, among others,

WHEREAS, while foreign scholarship funding is most certainly welcome, these options are every limited and targeted. The government currently lacks a coherent strategy on how to send Filipinos to study abroad in order to contribute to the country’s collective knowhow. Case in point, there is currently no government-led funding effort to catch up with the level of outbound degree students ag our ASEAN counterparts,

WHEREAS, in order for the country to truly develop into upper-middle income country, government should take the initiative and fund the foreign training of our Filipino graduates. This is because this foreign training is an investment in producing our own experts, and towards the development of our economy,

WHEREAS, aside from technical skills, Filipino scholars will ultimately imbibe the different values and worldview of their foreign institutions, which will certainly contribute to the diplomatic objectives of our allies.

WHEREAS, this is why a coherent, fully-funded international education strategy is important, not only for knowledge transfer, but also for the country to assert its independent foreign policy in the education sphere.

WHEREAS, while promoting scholarships and further studies abroad, the government must also ensure that the country shall benefit directly from these investments. The return service structures must be streamlined, rules and regulations on the implementation be progressive, and the conducive environment for further research be established,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education shall advocate the training of Filipino scientists and experts abroad through annual appropriations for this purpose

Adopted,

[Signature]

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