



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER

NO. 48

Series of 1997

SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF POTENTIAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (COEs) IN AGRICULTURE EDUCATION**

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In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994," and by virtue of Resolution No. R 308-97, series of 1997 of the Commission, the following guidelines for the identification, support and development of potential Centers of Excellence (COEs) in the five agriculture education subsystems, namely, agriculture, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry and veterinary medicine issued by the Commission for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned, thus:

1. **Policy.** The state shall promote quality and excellence in higher education by identifying, supporting and developing potential centers of excellence in higher education institutions (HEIs). All agriculture, agricultural engineering, fisheries, forestry and veterinary medicine fields of specializations are hereby recognized areas needed for the development of world-class scholarship, nation building and national development.
2. **Potential Centers of Excellence (COEs)** are HEIs, public or private that demonstrate the highest degree level of standard in instruction, research and extension. The potential COEs shall be chosen from the existing HEIs offering the five agriculture education subsystems which shall be established into a network of potential COEs.
3. **Roles and Responsibilities of potential COEs.** The identified and supported potential COEs shall formulate/develop strategies toward modernizing agriculture through the following roles and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 Offer curricular programs, both undergraduate and graduate of international standards, thereby producing world-class human resource;
 - 3.2 Focus on conducting relevant researches in agriculture education;
 - 3.3 Engage in extension services through technology transfer, industry linkages or consortia with other HEIs;
 - 3.4 Share expertise and facilities with other HEIs, the government and the private sector in terms of technical assistance and staff training;

3.5 Develop instructional materials;

3.6 Link up with national agencies to keep tab of local needs, international agencies to keep abreast of scientific advances and industry to match manpower needs, and

3.7 Assist other HEIs in their development efforts towards relevance, effectiveness and excellence in instruction, research and extension.

4. Identification. The Commission shall identify potential COEs upon recommendation of the Technical Panel for Agriculture Education (TPAE). Criteria, however, shall continuously be reviewed to attune to changing global trends and development.

5. Support and Development. CHED shall provide support and incentives to duly identified potential COEs, in the form of faculty and staff development, facilities upgrading, research and extension support, office/laboratory equipment acquisition, library build-up and curriculum/instructional materials development.

6. Responsibilities of TPAE. In addition to the regular functions and responsibilities of TPAE, it shall:

6.1 Formulate criteria and procedure for the identification of potential COEs;

6.2 Recommend potential COEs to the Commission;

6.3 Recommend the awards of grants, endowment funds, and other forms of financial support to potential COEs;

6.4 Monitor programs and projects of potential COEs in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education Regional Offices (CHEDROs).

7. Responsibilities of the CHEDROs. In relation to potential COEs, CHEDROs shall:

7.1 Recommend potential COEs to TPAE based on the developed set of criteria and procedure;

7.2 Monitor development and progress of identified potential COEs in coordination with TPAE;

7.3 Provide regular reports to the Commission on the status of potential COEs through TPAE;

7.4 Monitor periodically other HEIs offering programs in the five subsystems for possible inclusion in the list of potential COEs;

8. Identification Criteria. Potential COEs shall be identified using the following minimum criteria: (Please see Attachment A for details)

- 8.1 Instructional Program Quality
- 8.2 Research
- 8.3 Extension
- 8.4 Organizational Culture and Leadership

9. Identification Procedure. The identification of potential COEs shall normally follow the procedure outlined herein:

- 9.1 CHED-TPAE issues guidelines and rating system;
- 9.2 HEIs interested to be included in the identification process submit quality profile based on the criteria above;
- 9.3 CHEDROs conduct preliminary survey and screening and submit results to TP AE;
- 9.4 TP AE conducts evaluation of prospective potential COEs.
- 9.5 TP AE recommends to CHED potential COEs; and
- 9.6 CHED issues order identifying COEs.

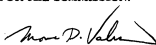
10. Term of Identification. Status of COEs shall be valid for three (3) academic years and to be renewed subject to evaluation.

11. Repealing/Separability Clause. All existing rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly. If any part of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part or provision hereof shall be affected thereby.

12. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect upon approval.

Pasig City, Philippines, November 14, 1997.

FOR THE COMMISSION:



MONA D. VALISNO
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Chair