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SENATE  
PS. Res. No. 369

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Introduced by **Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid**

**RESOLUTION**  
**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE FILIPINO EDUCATORS**  
**WHO WERE RECOGNIZED AND AWARDED AT THE 2022 SOUTHEAST ASIAN**  
**EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS HELD IN BANGKOK, THAILAND**

**WHEREAS**, the Senate of the Philippines has, on innumerable occasions, recognized and commended outstanding Filipinos for their achievements that have garnered them international awards, bringing honor and pride to our nation and showcasing the Filipino relentlessness in the pursuit of excellence in any field;

**WHEREAS**, at the 2022 Southeast Asian Educational Innovation Awards, 3 Filipino Educators won 3 of the 4 trophies given out at the competition, the event focuses on awarding outstanding classroom and school innovations that were essential in adapting to the call of the times, honoring the ideas that created better learning environments for students during the COVID-19 Pandemic and ensured that the children get their education despite the many hindrances brought about by the outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, the Filipino Educators bested over 350 other classroom and school innovations by other Teachers from Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and other competitors from the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Joana Romano, Master Teacher I, from Melencio M. Castelo Elementary School in Quezon City, won an Award in the Teachers' Innovations Category in the competition for developing an offline, game-based learning app that focuses on Mathematics and Reading for her kindergarten students, making learning fun and appealing to children struggling with the lockdown. The app was also infused with educational video materials that greatly improved the students' performance in the subjects and ensured that it captivated the attention of the children;

**WHEREAS**, in the School Head Category of the competition, 2 school principals bagged the awards for their innovations, Mary Hazel Ballena and Rowan Celestra;

**WHEREAS**, Mary Hazel Ballena, School Principal of Bucay North Elementary School located in Abra, won her award for her initiative entitled TEACH TALK (Teachers' Engagement, Action and Commitment in Assisting Learners at Home to Think, Ask, Listen, and Build New Knowledge), providing each student a handheld

two-way radio system so that the teachers could still deliver lessons and conduct learner assessments despite the lack of internet connection of many pupils, her initiative improved her learners' performances and strengthened the bond between school and parents over the course of the pandemic;

**WHEREAS,** Rowan L. Celestra, Principal of Beunavista Elementary School in Sorsogon City, won his Award for his initiative that empowered mothers to play a bigger part in their children's education. He launched E-NAY.COM(Education for Nanay in the Community), the project helped mothers become learning facilitators amidst the pandemic, the project established learning centers in different sub-villages in their area which served as a library and drop-off point for learning modules for the children, and it also served as a halfway-classroom from time to time to ensure that the kids weren't totally detached from the traditional education they were used to;

**WHEREAS,** despite going up against more developed nations and educational institutions from all over Southeast Asia, our educators and their ingenious ideas stood out from the rest, their innovations truly made an impact not only on the lives of their students but in the international educational community as well, creating a better learning environment for learners despite the many hurdles;

**WHEREAS,** the achievement of our Filipino Educators in the competition demonstrates the remarkable ability of Filipinos to innovate and develop systems that make what seem to be impossible, possible;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** for the Senate of the Philippines to congratulate and commend educators Joana B. Romano, Mary Hazel Ballena and Rowan L. Celestra for their award-winning ideas that garnered them awards at the 2022 Southeast Asian Educational Innovation Awards.

*Adopted,*



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*