University-business collaboration

By Edilberto C. de Jesus, Philippine Daily Inquirer

The University of the Philippines, De La Salle, Ateneo de Manila and Asian Institute of Management joined 72 other higher education institutions from 37 countries at the 3rd Asem (Asia-Europe Meetings) Rectors’ Conference convened last week at Groningen University in the Netherlands. Most of the participants came from government institutions; in both Europe and Asia, the state has historically assumed responsibility for education at all levels.

Even for UP, the conference focus on university-business engagement “for a sustainable future” is no longer a new concern. In developing countries where the government lacks the financial resources to support the expanding demand for higher education, universities need other sources of funding and must engage with the private sector. Developed countries have now recognized that the state can no longer bear the education burden alone.

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