



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release
AASC-060-2020

IT-BPO in Education: Key Driver of Learning in PHL Amidst Pandemic

03 September 2020, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General (PCG) in Los Angeles joined the Philippine Foreign Service Posts and Philippine Trade and Investment Centers in the United States in part 3 of the “*Global Business Processes Webinar Series*” held on 27 August 2020.”



(Photo credits: Joss Leaño)

The session was entitled, “*Getting your School/Company Ready for Distance Learning: Outsourcing the Creation of Effective e-Learning Solutions*” and was moderated by Consul Jed Martin M. Llona of San Francisco PCG.

Education is an important pillar of the Philippines’ long-term development goals towards human capital development and inclusive growth. While the CoViD-19 pandemic may have challenged traditional ways of learning, the Philippines, through its thriving IT-BPO industry, is poised to take advantage of the “new normal” in education.

As a leader in the IT-BPO industry, the country is home to internationally competitive e-learning process developers such as Filipino-owned Academ-e Multi Media Solutions and SkillBean, a company that focuses on corporate learning and development co-founded by DM Varun.

Academ-e Multi Media Solutions Inc. is known for strategizing cost-effective ways to deliver distance learning through outsourcing. The company develops e-learning content and software systems, and alternative learning platforms for special education. It has developed over 1,500 e-learning modules for various private schools in the Philippines and has worked for the United States Agency for International Development and the University of the Philippines.

Academ-e’s Director of Technology, Mikhail Joseph Torres estimates that the pandemic has led to 1 billion out-of-school students and an additional 7 million student dropouts due to income shock. He believes that e-learning will become more and more indispensable as households and institutions look for ways to continue education as they adapt to the limitations brought by the pandemic.

SkillBean’s DM Varun believes that the shift to online learning is fast happening as more people are ready to pick up a new skill, adding that the corporate world needs to adjust to the pace. He emphasized the importance of “building a culture of learning” through technology and that employers should see themselves as architects and enablers of learning. “Companies need to come out of the reactive mode,” he said when asked about key challenges in corporate education in the Philippines.

SkillBean specializes in corporate learning and development solutions through its learning experience platform. It also helps companies understand training behavior, history and preferences of employees through data analytics. Some of its e-learning products include personalized learning journeys and integrated workflow learning.

The Global Business Processes Webinar Series started on 13 August 2020 and will continue to run until 01 October 2020.

Representing the Consulate General, as observers, were Consul Rea G. Oreta, Information Officer Mary Grace “Joss” D. Leaño and Trade Commissioner Eric C. Elnar.
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