

## PRESS RELEASE

## Secretary Briones co-opens ASEAN-Russia Forum on Education



*RUSSIA, October 24, 2019* – The ASEAN-Russia Forum on Education, held on 21-22 October in Moscow, Russia discussed ongoing education best practices in basic, technical, and higher education in ASEAN countries and Russia. The Forum also explored areas for deeper cooperation between Russia and ASEAN.

DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones was among the high officials who gave opening remarks. She outlined the historical cooperation between Russia and ASEAN, and specifically with the Philippines, that has been ongoing without fanfare. She recalled that there were a number of big batches of student exchange to Russia in the 1960s, and that she personally knows some of the alumni of this program.

In her speech, Briones likewise noted that there are many framework platforms of cooperation between Russia and ASEAN not only in education but also in other areas; however, implementation is a challenge.

Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malaluan spoke at the panel on basic education. He said that in-service professional development of teachers is one area of cooperation that can have the greatest impact on education quality.

One highlight of the Russia presentations, which Briones expressed great interest on, is their strong programs for gifted children. Among a number of presentations,

Russia showcased their STEM initiatives using small interactive robots for educational play in early grades.

Meanwhile, Secretary Briones met with Filipino scholars now working in Russia. She was also hosted to a dinner by Philippine Ambassador to Russia Carlo Sorreta. Secretary Briones shared developments in basic education, while the Ambassador shared the status and condition of Filipinos in Russia.

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