

JUAN ROBERTINO D. MACALDE, EdD

A Distinguished Leader in Educational Innovation, Digital Transformation, and Capacity Development in Southeast Asia

With more than three decades of professional experience spanning education, public administration, human resource development, policy formulation, international development, and digital learning, Dr. Macalde has established himself as one of the Philippines' recognized experts in educational innovation, technology-enabled learning, leadership development, and institutional capacity building. His career reflects a rare combination of academic excellence, executive leadership, regional influence, and practical implementation experience gained through service in government, international organizations, academia, and development institutions.

Currently serving as Manager of the Learning Development and Management Office (LDMO) of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), he leads initiatives that support educational transformation across Southeast Asia. In this capacity, he oversees the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of learning programs that promote quality education, teacher professional development, school leadership, digital learning, and educational innovation throughout the region.

His expertise is further recognized through his concurrent appointments as a Member of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel for Open and Distance Education and Learning (ODEL) and as a member of the Philippine Forum for Quality Basic Education and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee for the Department of Education. These appointments demonstrate the trust and confidence placed in his professional judgment by key national education institutions.

Academically, he possesses a strong multidisciplinary foundation. He earned a Doctorate in Education with a major in Educational Management, a Master of Arts in Education, a Graduate Diploma in Business (Training and Development), and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He likewise completed graduate studies in law and pursued advanced executive programs in organizational development, career management, public administration, digital government, performance management, cyber emergency policy, resilience policy, and development management.

His commitment to lifelong learning is reflected in the numerous international scholarship-based programs he has completed, particularly through the Korea Development Institute (KDI) School of Public Policy and Management, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), and other globally respected institutions. These experiences have strengthened his expertise in educational leadership, digital transformation, governance, public-sector innovation, and human resource development.

Throughout his distinguished career, he has consistently been at the forefront of educational innovation. At SEAMEO INNOTECH, he played a pivotal role in expanding flexible learning systems, online professional development, instructional design, learning management systems, open educational resources, and technology-enabled capacity building. His leadership became especially significant during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, when educational institutions across Southeast Asia relied heavily on distance and flexible learning solutions. His contributions helped shape policies, programs, and learning interventions that enabled educators and institutions to navigate unprecedented challenges in delivering education.

Before joining SEAMEO INNOTECH, he served as Program Manager of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) Program at the Asian Institute of Management and the World Bank Development Resource Center (AIM-WB DRC), where he facilitated international knowledge exchange and capacity-building initiatives involving governments, universities, development agencies, and international organizations throughout Asia and the Pacific. He also served as Program Manager/Consultant for the Asian Development Bank's Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CAREC Institute), supporting regional cooperation, knowledge management, and institutional development efforts.

His earlier career in government included leadership roles in the Department of Labor and Employment, the Office of the President of the Philippines-The Livelihood Corporation (LIVECOR), the Congressional Commission on Labor and Employment, and the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal. These assignments provided him with extensive experience in public policy, governance, human resource management, organizational development, and legislative affairs, skills that continue to strengthen his work in educational leadership today.

A highly respected thought leader, he is frequently invited as a keynote speaker, plenary speaker, panelist, resource person, trainer, and expert consultant by international organizations, ministries of education, universities, and professional associations. His presentations have covered a broad range of topics, including educational leadership, teacher professional development, artificial intelligence in education, digital transformation, competency development, flexible learning, online pedagogy, instructional design, educational technology, open and distance learning, and education policy.

His expertise has been sought by prestigious organizations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, the OECD, ministries of education across Southeast Asia, and numerous higher education institutions. He has delivered keynote and expert presentations in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Rwanda, and other countries, helping shape regional discourse on future-ready education systems and sustainable educational development.

A recognized regional and international education professional, he has participated in policy dialogues, expert consultations, and capacity-building initiatives in more than

twenty countries across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. His international exposure has enabled him to benchmark global best practices while maintaining a strong understanding of local educational contexts and development needs.

His professional stature is further demonstrated through his leadership positions in respected organizations, including serving as a Governing Board Member for Asia and the Pacific of the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), a World Bank-initiated global network dedicated to advancing knowledge sharing and development learning. He has likewise held leadership positions in the Philippine eLearning Society, where he contributed significantly to promoting technology-enhanced learning and digital education in the Philippines.

Beyond administration and policy work, he is a dedicated educator. For more than two decades, he has served as a graduate and postgraduate lecturer in institutions such as the Asian Institute of Management, Rizal Technological University, De La Salle University, San Beda University, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and Jose Rizal University. Through these teaching engagements, he has mentored future leaders, educators, researchers, and professionals in education, management, human resource development, and organizational leadership.

His recent engagements as an expert reviewer, validator, and consultant—including his role as External Validator and Expert Reviewer for the Philippine Science High School System Professional Standards for Special Science Teachers—further affirm his reputation as a trusted authority in educational quality assurance, teacher competency standards, and professional development.

Fluent in both English and Filipino and possessing working knowledge of Spanish and Japanese, he effectively engages with diverse international audiences and professional communities.