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THE-ICE 13th IPoE Forum 2019

Panel 4: Getting to the Heart of the Matter – exploring ways for increasing humanism within education and service industries

Ms Joji Ilagan Bian

Chairperson, Joji Ilagan International Schools & President, Council of Hotel Schools of the Philippines, Philippines



Ms Joji Ilagan Bian is known for her ability to inspire people, to share her passion and advocacy and involve them in making positive change happen. She is a respected leader in business/education, continuously transforming lives, making a difference as an educator, woman leader and entrepreneur. She holds leadership positions in many organizations including: President of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines (COHREP); Treasurer of the Asia Pacific Council of Hotel Educators; Past Deputy Chair East ASEAN Business Council; Chairman, Mindanao Business Council (2000-2008); Past President (1st Woman President): Davao City Chamber of Commerce Industry; Founding Chair: Mindanao Technical Vocational Schools Association and Phil Call Centers Alliance.

As a businesswoman-entrepreneur, Joji is a prime example of what an empowered woman can do for her family and community. She had established five hospitality colleges with international linkages: Joji Ilagan College of Business and Tourism: Joji Ilagan International School Hotel Management; Institute International Culinary and Hospitality Entrepreneurship; Stockbridge American International School; International Management School. These international schools have come to form the network of JIB International Schools, all offering transnational, international and industry standard skills-based education and training which allows students to earn internationally recognized certifications.

The impact of her services has transformed the lives of fellow Filipinos, with two Philippine Presidents awarding her Medals of Recognition for her various contributions. Joji has built a solid track record in community engagement in the fields of education, business, politics, civic and religious movement spanning more than 30 years, and received many awards for her contribution and excellence in the field of education and business development, including: Datu Bago Awardee in Business and Education (1997), the highest award conferred by the City of Davao; Kabalikat Laang Bisig Presidential National Awardee for the promotion of Development of Technical Vocational Training in the Philippines (1997); Presidential Service Medal of Merit (2005); University of the Immaculate Conception Centennial Outstanding Alumni Award (2005); Patnubay Award in NGO Work for Education (2010), COHREP; Mindanao Jaycee LEAD Award (2002), Leadership Award in the field of business and education; Outstanding ASEAN Woman Entrepreneur (2017), ASEAN Women Network; 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award (2017), Global Filipina Network; and Australian Excellence Award Alumni of the Year 2020. In spite of her countless achievements and commendations, her dedication to continuing her personal advocacy has not waned or slowed. Her tenacity and entrepreneurial spirit come from a drive to help others; shown in her continuous involvement in education, tourism, religious affiliations and business.