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Center for  
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THE TEST OF EXCELLENCE

# CEM ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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## SY 2018-2019 Summary

CEM has been flourishing in the last forty years. Its vision and mission are spreading in different forms, involving a growing number of advocates who are convinced that our education system can be upgraded through systematic evaluation and timely feedback on students' academic performance. Its goals are increasingly capturing the hearts and minds of individuals, institutions and organizations so it remains focused on what it does best— serving the Philippine education through assessment and research.

The organization's agendas are underpinned by the belief which is surmised by its winning perspective of Quality, Integrity and Service. Today, schools have become more cognizant of the benefits that the CEM test data could offer to their institution and they have explored and discovered more ways to maximize these information. They have fully recognized and optimized their roles in making the assessment and research data work for their own benefit.

In retrospect, fiscal year 2018-2019 was a remarkable period for CEM. Not only was it filled with new achievements but it was also marked by a number of significant feats that will remain etched in the CEM archives. The eight highlight stories demonstrate that this year was a hugely productive one for the organization, with more progress, experience and traction in its burgeoning development initiatives.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

#### Our main highlights for SY 2018-2019:

CEM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

CEM Coffee Table Book Launch

CEM Awards

CEM Forum on Educational  
Assessment for School Improvement

CEM Professional Development Programs

Launch of New CEM Tests

Standard Setting Workshops

CPD Accreditation



## CEM 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This landmark moment was marked by a 3-day Conference on “Leveraging Assessments in Education”- a teaching and learning conference that brings together global and local experience and expertise in using data from assessment and research to create and steer change in classrooms, schools, and educational systems. It was held on October 3-5, 2018 and was graced by more than 500 attendees from various public and private educational institutions and corporate organizations.



(L-R) Ms. Esperanza C. Buen (CEM Corporator), Mrs. Debbie Bautista, wife of Dr. Reynaldo C. Bautista (CEM Trustee), Dr. Maria Cynthia A. Alcantara (CEM President), Atty. Diosdado Madrid (CEM BOT Vice Chair), Dr. Lenore Li. Decenteceo (former CEM President), and Dr. Muhammad Nazir Bin Amir (Keynote Speaker) during the CEM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.



Dr. Nazir delivering his keynote speech and workshop entitled 'How Doing Classroom Research Makes Me a Better Teacher'.



Dr. Josefina V. Almada delivering her keynote speech entitled 'Quality Educational Assessment: The Only Thing Constant'.



(L-R) Dr. Alberto B. Roxas (Deputy Executive Director, Association of Philippine Medical Colleges, Inc.), Atty. Emerson B. Aquende (Chairman, Legal Education Board), Dr. Michael M. Alba (President, Far Eastern University) during a panel discussion on 'The Role of Assessment in Driving Decisions in Education', moderated by Dr. Grace H. Aguilin-Dalisay.



## CEM COFFEE TABLE BOOK LAUNCH

The CEM Coffee Table Book project is one of the biggest publications ever produced by CEM to commemorate its 40<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. The CEM Inside Stories chronicles the organizations colourful journey and highlights the significant endeavours that have shaped CEM into its present reputation and prestige. It was launched October 5, 2018 during the CEM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Makati Shangri La Manila, Makati City.



## CEM AWARDS

CEM recognizes partner individuals and institutions that have helped CEM advance its mission in improving education through measurement and research in the form of the Commitment to Academic Excellence Award (CAEA) and the CEM Exemplary School Performance Award (CESPA). These awards are given to member schools that have shown commitment to quality education in continuous partnership with CEM and those that have accomplished outstanding performance in the CEM Achievement Tests

in English, Mathematics, Science or Reading over a period of 5 years, respectively. The awarding ceremony was held on October 5, 2018 in celebration of CEM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Makati Shangri La Manila, Makati City.

## CEM Forum on Educational Assessment for School Improvement

Building relationships and cooperation with potential member schools was seen as an opportunity to spread CEM's agenda to a wider audience. Through this activity, CEM was able to identify the pain points of various schools in terms of student performance, career guidance and admissions, as well as administrative and organizational affairs. These data will be used in designing CEM programs that will address these challenges.



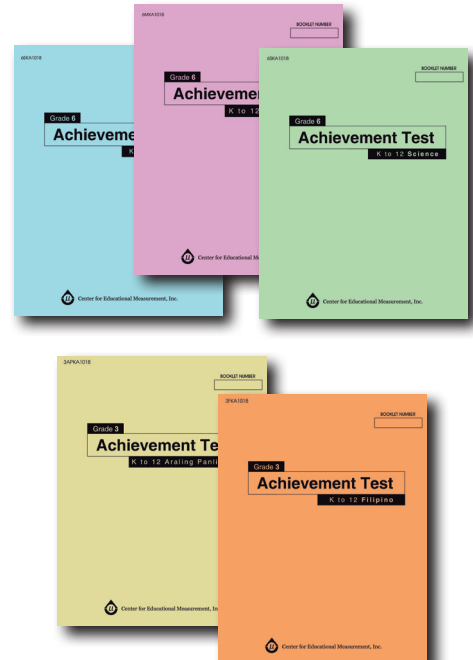
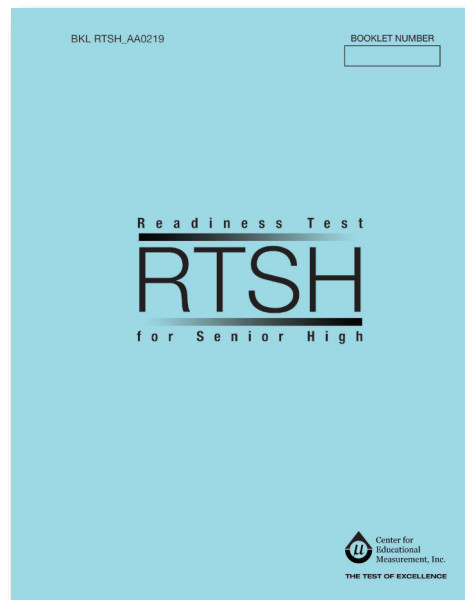
*Iris Lark H. Dizer (Head, Professional Development Section) during the CEM Forum in Laguna.*



*Dr. Alcantara during the CEM Forum in Batangas.*

## Launch of New CEM Tests

In order to serve its clientele better, CEM constantly develops its programs and services to be relevant to the current needs. In January 2018, nine (9) new tests were added in the roster of CEM K to 12 Achievement tests: English, Mathematics and Science Grade 6 and Filipino and Araling Panlipunan Grades 2 to 4. Another instrument, the Readiness Test for Senior High School (RTSH) was also launched in May 2019 to help senior high schools in their admission process.





## CEM Professional Development Programs

Ever since its implementation in the 1980s, the CEM Professional Development Program has been one of CEM's leverages in terms of providing quality and relevant services to its clientele. This program is specifically designed to complement CEM's testing services and to develop new and existing competencies among teachers, administrators and guidance personnel.



*Seminar-workshop on 'Developing Classroom Management Skills' for CEM Member schools in the Davao Region*



*Standard Setting activities for Grades 5 and 6 English, Science, and Math held from April 29 to June 7.*

## Standard Setting Workshops

Since 2014, CEM has been conducting a series of Standard Setting Activities for its K to 12 Achievement tests. This project aims to determine and rationalize levels of test performance that can help teachers classify and describe reliably what a student is expected to have attained after a period of instruction within and across grade levels. This is done by identifying cut scores on the test score scale that will classify test performance into three performance levels and delineating explicit performance level descriptors (PLD) for each of the three levels of performance based on the learning competencies tapped by the items in the CEM K to 12 Achievement Tests.





## CPD Accreditation

CEM has been accredited as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provider by the CPD Council for Professional Teachers of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in June 2018. As such, all related trainings and seminars it will facilitate may be recognized as CPD Programs and corresponding CPD credit units could be earned by licensed teachers, guidance counselors or psychometricians / psychologists through participation.



## What can be expected from CEM this coming school year 2019-2020?

There are a number of exciting plans and ideas in the pipeline, but one thing is certain – CEM is all set on creating new institutional goals while ensuring that the company's mission and core values are carefully realized on the ground. And more than ever, CEM is keen on exploring other relevant and practical ways on how assessment and research can find a place in emerging educational trends and practices.