

The W Group

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GOOD QI CIRCLE CENTRE

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2010-11 ELIAS JOURNEY

PERSONAL JOURNEY

Much of my life has been concerned with the acquisition of specialized knowledge in ethno-medicine, physiological anthropology and Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine for the purpose of improving health through understanding how culture and environment contribute to disease. The greatest gift of my ELIAS learning journey has been the rediscovery of the value of daily mind-body awareness practices such as meditation and Sheng Zhen Qigong. My endless pursuit of academic degrees and recognition is waning as I begin to emerge as a more Authentic Self connected to and aware of my surroundings (co-workers, community, and the global environment).

ORGANIZATIONAL JOURNEY

My current involvement with the International Sheng Zhen Society has been expanding, both as a practitioner and instructor of Sheng Zhen Qigong. Locally, my classes are reaching beyond the Good Qi Center (a holistic fitness center) into the corporate training community here in Manila. In my wife's family business, the parent organization, the W Group has benefited from my sharing and conducting weekly workshops on Theory U and the Fifth Discipline concepts and practices. I feel, an evolving Self, emerging as a teacher, trainer and coach and my passion for Waldorf education initiatives and opportunities in our urban areas is burning brighter every day.

SOCIETAL JOURNEY

The societal picture in the Philippines is often depicted of a land of natural disasters, yet the resilience and necessary self-sufficiency of the Filipino citizen, position this country and its people well, for the impending economic and ecological revolutions. In the past, my expat status distanced me from the problems of most local people. However, as my son approaches school age, my aspirations for him have expanded to include not only his Waldorf classmates, but also the less fortunate who are unable to afford or access a sustainable education.

With the hugely Catholic influenced educational system in private schools and vastly underfunded public schools, the Philippines educational system is ripe for change. Even as technological fixes such as the electronic classroom emerge as solutions to lack of textbooks and qualified teachers, the underlying issues of poverty, malnutrition, hunger and overcrowding loom ominously in the background.

THE CRACK AND WHAT LIES BEYOND

As the increasing demand for Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs), Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) call center workers and the Tourism sectors continue to grow, so does the need for globally aware, ecologically sensitive multi-lingual employees. As this creates a brain drain of the brightest minds, it also creates a void or crack which induces opportunity for locals who wish to stay or return to the Philippines. Low cost of living continues to attract an expat community, who in turn seek better education options for their children. This can create jobs and education opportunities not previously available to the locals.

I know that education lifted me from poverty and hope to share this experience with others and offer age appropriate, holistic and ecologically minded Steiner inspired education opportunities to urban areas such as Manila. I will continue to teach awareness practices for all ages and share my life long passion for learning with others. Lastly, my new found involvement with the Society for Organizational Learning in the Philippines and it's Camp Snowball education initiative will allow me to deepen my understanding of Systems Thinking; truly understanding elements of non-traditional learning and how to better address leverage points which can effect societal change that will produce sustainable and appropriate results.