



Mga Kwentong Tagumpay

✉ marketing@grupobpo.coop www.grupobpo.coop

☎ +63 908 813 8626

Transforming Social Workers into Entrepreneurs: Grupo BPO at the 4th Metro Manila Cooperative Congress 🚀

On Saturday, November 15, 2025, members of Grupo BPO Multipurpose Cooperative attended the annual 4th Metro Manila Cooperative Congress in Metro Manila.



Each year, the Cooperative Congress features a series of talks centered on a specific theme. This year, the focus was on instilling an entrepreneurial mindset within the cooperative movement. Several keynote speakers graced this annual event to share their practical experiences related to entrepreneurship in a cooperative setting.

Learning, Unlearning, and Relearning the Cooperative Way

The event commenced with welcoming remarks from the chairperson of the One Cooperative Federation, Mr. Marlon R. Roño. Following him, Fr. Anton CT Pascual, chairperson of the Union of the Metro Manila Cooperative, invited all cooperative attendees to "learn, unlearn, and relearn." He clarified this framework: to learn new concepts, to unlearn unwanted and unnecessary concepts, and to relearn—that is, to review and refresh concepts learned previously. All these activities focused on the central theme of adopting an entrepreneurial mindset.

Undersecretary Alexander B. Raquero, the chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), then passionately shared his insights into what it truly means to be an entrepreneur within a cooperative structure. He remarked that cooperative members are uniquely positioned to embody five important elements: risk-taking, resilience, innovation, *pasalamat* (gratefulness/gratitude), and *pakikisama* (camaraderie/mutual understanding). He stressed that risk-taking is crucial for success, noting that true learning often only comes through failure.



Honorary Mayor of Quezon City, Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte presents her achievements working with cooperatives in the municipality.

Learning, Unlearning, and Relearning the Cooperative Way

Honorary Mayor Josefina "Joy" Tanya Go Belmonte also graced the event, highlighting the City's achievements in supporting cooperatives established in Quezon City. Her administration's significant milestones include providing technical assistance to over 300 cooperatives, serving half a million members, and helping to employ over 6,000 workers.

The subsequent series of talks centered on the challenges encountered by cooperative members while embodying the entrepreneurial mindset. Jorge Wieneke, founder of Potato Corner, shared his regret about not taking enough risks earlier in his career. He identified characteristics which are considered the hallmarks of a disciplined entrepreneur: being resourceful, daring, adventurous, capable, experimental, distinct, and practical. He emphasized that these characteristics are vital for overcoming obstacles, such as the debilitating fear of failure.



Jorge Wieneke, Potato Corner founder, enumerates seven characteristics of an entrepreneur.

Further insights were shared by Gabriel "Ariel" Javelosa, owner of his own Photography and Videography Studio. He narrated his career trajectory, starting as an employee, transitioning to an employer, and becoming a successful business owner. He continues to demonstrate active cooperative engagement by participating in and endorsing products and services through several cooperatives, including the San Felipe Neri Credit Cooperative, Mandaluyong Union of Cooperatives, the NCR Union of Cooperative Inc., and the MetroSouth Cooperative Bank.

All speakers consistently drove home the critical point that success can be achieved through trial and error, facing fears and obstacles, and proactively contributing to the cooperative's development.