



FEU PUBLIC POLICY CENTER



Michael M. Alba, Ph.D.

President, Far Eastern University

Dr. Michael M. Alba has always been both a university educator and an economist for most of his adult life. He is thus eminently suitable to become the eleventh president of Far Eastern University as the pioneering educational institution enters its 86th year of service to the nation and Asia.

It is providential that his investiture is taking place more than a year after he began serving the University as COO. By this time, he has met—and worked—with the Board of Trustees (of which he is a member), FEU academic, corporate, and administrative officials, the faculty, and the students. He has delivered academic lectures to big and small assemblies of teachers and students. He has receptively sat in FEU convocations, interacted with faculty, fielded questions from students serenely most of the time and occasionally with levity.

At this time of his investiture, Dr. Alba has taken his PhD in Applied Economics from Stanford University, MA in Economics from the University of the Philippines (UP), and AB in Economics from Ateneo de Manila University.

In his tasks at and leadership of FEU, Dr. Alba will certainly be helped by his having been dean of the College of Business and Economics of De La Salle University (DLSU) from 2001 to 2006, and from having been assistant professor and associate professor in Economics at UP and DLSU for more than a decade.

Dr. Alba has also helped shape on a national scale the academic study of Economics by being a member of the Technical Committee for Economics of the Commission on Higher Education.



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He has also experienced the educational atmosphere abroad not only as a student but also as a teacher. He was an exchange professor at Waseda University in May 1999 while at DLSU.

He is highly familiar with where the country is and where it can go—with its resources, both human and natural. He is sharply aware of socio-economic, political and cultural realities that have to be changed, modified, strengthened, or almost completely uprooted so the country can move on to a prosperity that considers social justice and equity. His involvement in research, social action and advocacy, and consultancy for national and international agencies has led him into such stark awareness.

Dr. Alba has written and presented papers on a wide range of topics, such as household consumption and economic growth, overseas workers' remittances, gender and inter-industry wage differentials, and hospital cost functions.

About the status and effects of education in the country, he has published as a single author or with others the following papers: A Review of the Philippine Government's Education Service Contracting Program, Education and Inclusive Growth, and "Basic Education: All's Still Not Well."

He has been a consultant of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the US Agency for International Development (US AID) both in the fields of education and economics. He was president, vice president, and member of the board of directors of the Philippine Economic Society, a member of the Millenium Development Goals Task Forces on Gender and on Education.

His paper on "Household Vulnerability to Employment Shocks" received the Outstanding Scientific Paper Award of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines in 2003.

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