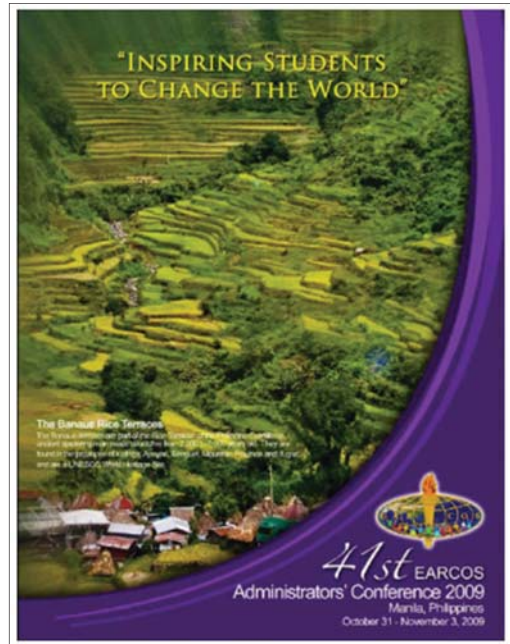


# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual EARCOS Administrators Conference: “Inspiring Students to Change the World”

by Christie Powell



The vision of RIS includes references to ‘nurturing’ the intellect and ‘shaping’ leaders who will contribute responsibly and compassionately to our 21<sup>st</sup> century world. An audacious vision. The bar is high; the challenge clear. And, as educational leaders from nearly 100 schools including nine from RIS came together the weekend of October 31 in Manila, Philippines for the 41<sup>st</sup> EARCOS Administrators’ Conference, that was the broad question that was posed: “How do we inspire students to change the world?”

A good part of the answer to this question, of course, lies in the ability and commitment of schools to be responsive to the needs of learners and the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that are all around us; also a significant challenge. However, it is a challenge that is made much easier through collaboration with like-minded, courageous educators and leaders around us. This is the potential power of organizations such as EARCOS and conferences such

## “How do we inspire students to change the world?”

as this one. Through listening to world leaders and participating in workshops on topics such as engaging youth in global issues, global sustainability, 21<sup>st</sup> century leadership and change, data-driven decision making, and supervision and appraisal systems that keep the focus on learning, we have the opportunity to explore essential questions and potential answers with EARCOS members from around the region.

This is one of the deep wells of professional learning: accessing the expertise of others who share our passion and vision. This is what EARCOS is all about. As Tim Carr, the current EARCOS President and Head of School at ASIJ in Japan,

indicates, “EARCOS strives to inspire adult and student learning . . . and fosters intercultural understanding, global citizenship, and exceptional educational practices within our learning community.” The membership of RIS/RIST in EARCOS ensures we have a place at the table for the important and enriching conversations that are on-going in the region. These collaborative conversations are an important starting point for us to integrate our learning, connect it with our context here at RIS/RIST, and take focused, courageous steps toward enhancing our educational program to ensure that our audacious vision is our reality.