Delegates: Roundtable meetings are helpful

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THE two additional informal roundtable meetings during the 6th Asean Education Ministers Meeting (6th Ased) hosted by Brunei, have helped provide a platform for substantial discussions on improving the cooperative framework outlined by Ased.

The Southeast Asian Minister of Education Organisation (Seameo) Council Conference and the Asean Ministers of Education Meeting, as Brother Armin Altamirano Luistro shared with The Brunei Times “have been a very helpful one in terms of assessing where we are now”.

Relating to the collaborative steps and developments needed to realise the “dynamic Asean community of 2015” Luistro said “our meetings will have to bring us to a total paradigm shift, where the 11 member nations and education ministers will be able to look at the whole problem, to look at all our resources as a community and make a (collective) assessment”.

Asked of what changes were decided during the meeting to help reach the community goal, Luistro related, “We made a resolution that our meetings will have a ministerial segment where we don’t just look at programmes on an annual basis, but also at the reality of the whole region”.

The roundtable meeting is an innovation by the host country, that allowed ministers to have “freewiling discussions”.

He added however, that for future roundtable meetings it would be “helpful” to have collected data on the challenges, resources and programmes... “and discuss it as a region not by each country coming up with a report”.

Adding that reports may tend to “feed competition among each other, especially when the reports tend to rank us”.

Also sharing his views on the outcomes of the 6th Ased was Professor Dr Muhammad Nuh, Minister of National Education in Indonesia who said, “There were more comprehensive and cooperative discussions on student mobility”.

He added: “Before that, we acknowledged the (educational) systems in each country, because without this we can’t propose the mobility of the students”.

Professor Dr Muhammad explained that without a recognition and acceptance of the various educational systems throughout Asean, the mobility of students would be worthless as past records of education would not be acknowledged.

He further added that the network of recognition is already in place but more developments are needed.

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