

Snags hamper tech commercialization

FILIPINO inventors, universities and companies that develop innovative technologies face difficulties in transforming their technologies into viable products or services because of lack of information.

At the 2nd National Workshop on Intellectual Property and Technology Commercialization organized by the Intellectual Property Office, though its training arm, the Intellectual Property Research and Technology Institute (IPRTI), current problems in technology transfer ecosystems were discussed along with suggestions on how to improve such.

"Part of tech commercialization challenges is lack of information. For example in academics, they are more interested in getting their work published. They fail to look at the commercial value of their work, but, in tech transfer they can get both academic honor and profit from their ideas," Sen. Edgardo Angara told the *BUSINESS-MIRROR* in an interview.

Angara said: "They have to be enterprising as well. Inventors should deal more on the businesses [private sector] and entrepreneurs, because they know what will sell. They will help you from registration, patent and royalty to profit."

Asked if the government has a plan to give inventors subsidy to sustain their work for innovation, the senator gave a quick answer. "That's the worst thing to do for inventors, to make them dependent," he said.

Another barrier pointed by Angara is the practice among academics that put more importance on theoretical teachings rather than the practical approach.

He explained: "Although everything starts with theory and academic ideas, these should translate to mentorship of creating goods and services that are saleable." He also advised inventors to promote interaction, fellowship and more meetings with entrepreneurs, private sector and academe for strong linkages. *L. Francisco*