

# press release



(photocaption: from L to R: Department of Education Secretary Armin Luistro awards the certificate of recognition to Standard Chartered's Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing Mai Sangalang with DepEd's Communication Director Tina Ganzon and USEC Mario Deriquito.)

## **DepEd recognizes Standard Chartered Bank as Adopt-a-School partner**

**16 June, 2016 Philippines** – Standard Chartered Philippines was among the organisations recognised by the Department of Education in an Appreciation Event for Partners recently held at the Meralco Compound in Pasig City. Standard Chartered Corporate Affairs and Brand & Marketing Head Mai Sangalang received the certificate of recognition from DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro and USEC Mario Deriquito.

The oldest foreign bank in the country is supporting the DepEd's Pedals and Paddles program, through its 'Banca ng Buhay: School Boats for Mobility and Livelihood Project', providing 38 fiberglass boats to the Sierra island barangays in Catbalogan City, Samar.

Catbalogan City was among the areas in Western Samar devastated by typhoon Yolanda in 2013, displacing families and damaging houses, including public schools. The typhoon affected the community's economic livelihood as fishermen lost their boats, which are also the main transportation service for children who need to cross the waters to get to their schools.

Under the program, more than 300 public school students will no longer need to cross the rivers between the island barangays or walk on shallow water during low tide from where they live or endure a 40-minute walk on rough roads due to the absence of access roads to the inland, to reach their school. The boatmen will be committed to ferry the students for free during the school year, and will also use the boats for fishing. The community women will also be given capacity-building and livelihood trainings, as well as start-up capital for additional household income.

"We are partnering with Philippine Business for Social Progress and Negrense Volunteers for Change (NVC) to alleviate the plight of public school children and provide livelihood to boatmen and their families who have been affected by Typhoon Yolanda and Ruby," said Mai Sangalang, Standard Chartered Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing.

The UK-based bank has been supportive to the immediate response post calamities through emergency relief operations, construction of donated school building and houses in partnership with various NGOs and now sustainable livelihood opportunities to support the full recovery of the impacted communities.

"We look forward to stronger partnerships with program partners, local government units and agencies to deliver the message of hope to our Filipino brethren who may have lost so much but have found the faith to heal and rebuild lives," added Sangalang.

In recognition of the bank's support to various cases of the department, DepEd Undersecretary Mario Deriquito says, "Standard Chartered's Banca ng Buhay project actually hits two birds with one stone. First, it helps provide families or parents of children or students with additional livelihood opportunities. Second, it provides a safe and reliable (and no cost) means of transportation for children or students who need to cross rivers going to and from school. This actually helps address the problems related to access and ease of going to school."

The bank's sustainability agenda which also focuses on youth and education supports DepEd's commitment to promote a safe and sustainable learning environment for the students.

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**Note to Editors**

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