

Press Release
27 June 2019



The Bikes for Progress beneficiary students and TESDA scholars in Siquijor



More bikes were given to Pandan High School students in Castilla, Sorsogon. These students walk 2-3 hours to school every day.



The Bikes for Progress project donated a total of 118 bicycles to selected public high school students and TESDA scholars who walk 8 to 15 kms per way to go to school.

Standard Chartered addresses access to education in Sorsogon and Siquijor through Bikes for Progress project

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), the oldest international bank in the Philippines, launched this June its “Bisikleta sa Pag-unlad” (Bikes for Progress) project in the provinces of Siquijor and Sorsogon. In partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Department of Education and the local and regional government units, the Bikes for Progress project donated a total of 118 bicycles to selected public high school students and TESDA scholars who walk 8-15 kilometers per way to go to school. The student beneficiaries were chosen based on the distance of their houses to the school, economic status and academic performance.

Back to back turnover ceremonies were held this month in Pandan High School in Castilla, Sorsogon, Enrique Villanueva National High School and Ponong High School in Siquijor.

Aside from the bicycles, the Bank also provided accessories such as safety helmets, reflectorized vests and tire pumps and gave bike safety and maintenance trainings. Employee volunteers facilitated information sessions on financial education, basic computer literacy and job readiness. The bank also donated a computer laboratory to Pandan High School in Sorsogon where the recipients are all in Senior High School under the General Academic Strand with Information Technology as elective. It also included support for TESDA accreditation and provision of livelihood start-up kits. Student beneficiaries also received backpacks filled with school supplies and slippers donated by SCB employees.

Supporting access to education

Poverty limits opportunities for students especially those living in far-flung areas. People living in poverty may stop going to school due to lack of financial support or work early to help augment

the family income. In Siquijor and Sorsogon, the high cost of transportation and distance to school discourage students from pursuing their studies resulting to increasing drop-out rate. The Bikes for Progress project is designed to provide students a safer and more convenient means of transportation.

Standard Chartered Bank Philippines Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing Mai Sangalang says, "We hope that our donation of bicycles through our Bikes for Progress project can help keep the students in school so they can complete their basic education. Our goal is to incrementally improve enrolment and reduce drop-out rates, and increase employability of the beneficiary students."

Standard Chartered Bank believes that to create long-term value, it needs to help promote economic and social development in our communities. The bank aspires to achieve that vision by creating opportunities focused on education, employability and entrepreneurship. The Bikes for Progress project aims to ensure that the students can have a chance to these opportunities by getting them safely to school first.

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