

press release



Standard Chartered Bank launches agri-aquaculture development program in senior high school in Catbalogan City, Samar. Together with the bank volunteers are: (4th from left) Catbalogan City Agro-Industrial School (CCAIS) School Head Archie Fabillar, SCB Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing Mai Sangalang, Department of Education Schools Division Superintendent Cristito Eco and Catbalogan City Vice Mayor Art Gabon.



SCB LEAD program includes donation of a computer laboratory, audio-visual materials for education and recreation and farm tools and equipment, skills training for the teachers and students.

Standard Chartered Bank supports agri-aquaculture education in Catbalogan, Samar

9 July 2018 - Standard Chartered Bank, the oldest international bank in the Philippines, recently launched its Livelihood and Education for Agri-Aquaculture Development (SCB LEAD) program in Catbalogan City, Samar in partnership with Phil. Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the Department of Education and Catbalogan City local government unit. SCB LEAD will support the development of the Catbalogan City Agro – Industrial School (CCAIS) in Barangay San Vicente into a centre of excellence in farming and fishery in the Eastern Visayas.

The school utilizes an abandoned jailhouse with quarters allocated for the instructional and dormitory of the senior high school students. Students taking up the Agri-Fishery strand were offered scholarship grant with the privilege to stay at the dormitory with free board and lodging and school supplies. Currently enrolled student-scholars came from the 57 barangays of Catbalogan.

The SCB LEAD program includes development of a 5-year operations manual and strategic plan for the CCAIS school, formation of school governing council, provision of farm tools, recreation and audio-visual facilities, computer laboratory donation, teachers training, leadership and employment coaching, immersion trip and job fair for the senior high school students. The bank will also provide a medium-sized milkfish cage for the Sierra island barangays as livelihood assistance and exposure site for the students taking the fishery strand.

Standard Chartered Bank Head of Corporate Affairs, Brand and Marketing Mai Sangalang said, “It is a multi-pronged program addressing numerous education and livelihood concerns. Catbalogan is highly reliant on fishing and farming as its main livelihood and top importer of basic commodities in the Eastern Visayas. With these industries playing a key role in addressing concerns on food security and self-sustenance, the youth plays a big role to achieve this goal. SCB LEAD will help develop the Catbalogan City Agro-Industrial School (CCAIS) and make skilled and entrepreneurial farmers out of these senior high school students.”

The program is very much aligned with the LGU and local DepEd priority initiatives.

“SCB LEAD is a breakthrough on public-private partnership in education. It supports the LGU agenda in achieving food security and inclusivity through basic education. LEAD also triggers strong convergence with other sectors in addressing local issue on food and education,” said DepEd Schools Division Superintendent Cristito Eco.

“The city government values education as a vehicle to address poverty towards sustainable development. By providing a holistic approach and by making popular to the younger generation agriculture in today’s food-challenged times, we are making relevance and difference,” said Catbalogan City Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan.

PBSP Senior Program Officer on Education Cecilia Ang said, "As a corporate-led foundation, PBSP aims to bring like-minded companies together for social development. PBSP is glad to partner with Standard Chartered Bank whose company vision is aligned with our own in uplifting communities in need. SCB LEAD will teach future farmers new technologies to boost production and increase income. The goal is to encourage more students to take agriculture as a track and prove that it is also a more viable profession and livelihood option."

This is the second flagship program of Standard Chartered Bank in Catabalogan, Samar. In 2016, the bank implemented its "Banca ng Buhay" project in the Sierra island barangays which provided motorized fiberglass boats to fisherfolks and their wives given capability training and seed funding to start small businesses. The program was also designed to include a commitment from the beneficiary fishermen to transport the students of Sierra Islands to school daily for free resulting to an increased enrolment and zero drop-out rate the following schoolyear. Standard Chartered Bank aims to replicate the impact of this program, this time to develop students to become farm entrepreneurs and become active contributors to the long term growth of the province.

"When we implemented the Banca ng Buhay, we wanted to diversify their livelihood activities as they are fully dependent on fishing alone, empower the community women and make sure that the students get to finish high school. This time, we want to offer the students of Sierra islands the opportunity to go to the city to pursue and finish their senior high school, and with the milkfish fish cage, expand and improve on their catch and produce," said Sangalang.

"A lot of young Catbaloganons dream of pursuing college education but do not have the access, and through the SCB LEAD program, we hope to fuel that dream by extending access and improve on the quality of agri-aquaculture education,' she added.

During the launch, bank volunteers facilitated information sessions such as financial education for the youth teaching more than 80 senior high school students on practical money management, as well as HIV awareness for the community adults.

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