

press release



Standard Chartered Bank supports Leyte Regional Prison senior high school education

14 August 2018 - Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) joins the Department of Education Leyte Division officials and corrections officers in their efforts to provide continuing education for the inmates of Leyte Regional Prison (LRP).

The corrections facility located in Abuyog, Leyte is the first in the country to offer senior high school (SHS) education to prison inmates. More than 60 inmate learners are currently enrolled in the two-year “Formal Basic Education for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL)” program after graduating from the Alternative Learning System.

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), the oldest international bank in the Philippines, donated a computer laboratory and complete uniform to the inmates which also include school materials such as backpacks, black shoes, socks and rubber slippers. The items came from the bank’s employee donations in response to a call to support the LRP SHS education.

Leyte assistant schools division superintendent Edgar Tenasas saw the enthusiasm from the inmates to further their learning as they serve their time in prison. According to Tenasas, the program will enable them to be productive while in prison and be prepared when they get released and reintegrated to the society. "The computer laboratory will support the program's goal to build the inmates' IT skills and open virtual employment opportunities for them in the future' he said.

Leyte Schools Division Superintendent Ronelo Al Firmo also expressed his gratitude for the support and added that opening of senior high school inside the facility is part of his administration's mission of providing access to education for all secondary students. The SHS program is a "special class" of the Hampipila National High School in Abuyog and other district education supervisors.

SCB led by its Head of Corporate Affairs and Brand and Marketing Mai Sangalang, together with other employee volunteers, visited the correction to personally deliver the donation items and set up the computer laboratory. "Our support for the inmate learners of LRP goes beyond the materials and equipments we bring. More importantly, we send a message of hope and encouragement that with perseverance and desire to change, there's a new and better life waiting for them," she said in her message to the inmates during the turnover ceremony. The bank's NGO partner Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), facilitated the donation and planning for the visit.

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