

DECEMBER 2018

MILESTONES



on this issue

Cover Story: 5 Years of Shell-PhilDev

In Focus: A sustainable livelihood project for coconut farmers



Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

CONTENT

1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017

9 6-PART COVER STORY: 5 YEARS OF SHELL-PHILDEV

IN FOCUS

- 27 A sustainable livelihood project for coconut farmers

PROGRAMS

Health

- 28 Batangas City's observance of the 35th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial
31 Winning the fight against malaria

Environmental Stewardship

- 33 Clonal nursery established in Pililla, Rizal

Livelihood & Agriculture

- 36 Shell Training Farm gets organic registration and learning site certification
37 Organic farming impacts on Sumilao farmers
40 20 schools reap bountiful harvests
42 Agro village and eco-park to rise in El Nido

Lives Touched

- 45 Planting seeds of growth with organic farming
47 Gearing up for passion
52 The scholar who rolled with life's punches
54 A Shell scholar's career journey to Shell Business Operations

UPDATES

- 55 Lighting up homes in Brgy. Baras, Taytay, Palawan
56 Shell executives go on a field trip
57 DepEd awards PSFI as Alternative Learning System Champion Partner
58 DepEd Batangas City recognizes PSFI
59 Volunteers gather for Brigada Eskwela 2018
60 From golf course to classroom

STAFF

ADVISER

Edgardo R. Veron Cruz

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Rachael Nathanielsz

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jeri Abenoja

Warlou Antonio

James Bruma

Maria Pamela Castro

Charelaiane Credito

Monaleizl Dy

Jasmine Garcia

Gillian Faye Ibañez

Jun Jay Jimenez

Jim Palma

Jeseth Nez Pasagad

Bernie Quimpo

Olivia M. Sorio

RJ Villanueva

NGP Integrated Marketing Communications



On its 35th year of empowering communities, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) made a positive impact on the lives of more than six hundred thousand Filipinos, bringing our total beneficiary count to 12,612,768 since 1982.

Keeping sustainability in mind and adapting to the changing times, the foundation has contributed to the country's progress by providing opportunities for employment and livelihood, better quality education, health care services, and other initiatives relative to social development.

Through its various programs all over the Philippines, the foundation also contributes to the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in September 2015.

Fostering invaluable skills

PSFI continues to promote inclusive and quality education through programs enabling youth and adults to gain relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

In Cagayan de Oro, 21 scholars started training in tech-voc courses under the Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal (SKIL) program in October 2017. With the rise of Shell's North Mindanao Import Facility in the city, various social development programs like SKIL were implemented for fenceline communities.

In Batangas, 5 SKIL scholars passed the National Certificate II exams in October 2017 for Housekeeping, Food and Beverage Servicing under the supervision of Lyceum of the Philippines University and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

On its 10th year of creating opportunities for Shell retail outlet staff in the country, the Gas Mo, Bukas Ko (GMBK) program benefitted 108 graduates of tech-voc courses in 2017. The top course choice by the scholars was Automotive Mechanics & Servicing, followed by Bookkeeping, Computer Hardware Servicing, Basic Computer, Food and Beverage Services, and Motorcycle Repair.

GMBK scholars aspired to be better and many have succeeded; one of them was Rowel Ellevera, who started as a forecourt attendant at the Shell Baloy, Cagayan de Oro station and later worked as cashier before becoming the site supervisor and onsite coach. He was recognized as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's top performing Service Champion for 2016 and was honored during the Global Smiling Stars event held in New York, USA.

Giving more opportunities to develop the potential of drivers and their dependents, PSFI continues to offer tech-voc skills training under Unlad sa Pasada (USP) and Driver Reward and Incentive Program (DRIVE). In 2017, 56 and 6 beneficiaries, respectively, completed their training.





Shell-PhilDev scholars working as a team during one of the camp sessions

Education is key

PSFI and its partner PhilDev, have been managing the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship Program focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education since 2013.

As a component of the program, the fourth annual leadership camp was held from July 25-27, 2017. A new batch was welcomed in the growing family and most of the 2017 graduates from Batch 1 also made sure to be present in the last day of the camp. A number of Shell officers also devoted their time to share words of wisdom to the scholars.

Batch 2 scholars took modules relevant to making career choices while Batch 3 scholars were exposed to developing their abilities to influence and lead others in the university. Meanwhile, Batch 4 scholars took the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development Workshop, helping them focus on developing self-awareness, knowledge about their talents, strengths, and areas for improvement.

The program has provided STEM scholarships to 165 students from five batches since 2013; 39 of whom have graduated (two *magna cum laude* and 17 *cum laude*) and four of the graduates are working as terminal operations administrators at Shell terminals (Louie Nathan Palola in Bohol, Mark Chester Rey in Cebu, Reinwill Jan Boyles in Cagayan de Oro, and Kerstein Kille Despi in Davao).

Another scholarship program, Gas Mo, Bukas Ko – Fund for University Education and Leadership Development (GMBK-FUEL), implemented by PSFI in 2014, reached its culmination with the graduation of 83 scholars from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in May 2017; two of whom graduated *magna cum laude* and 17 *cum laude*. GMBK-FUEL was a two-and-a-half-year program for 100 deserving students of PUP who took the following courses: Bachelor of Science (BS) Industrial Engineering, BS Electrical Engineering, BS Mechanical Engineering, BS Accountancy, and Bachelor of Transportation Management.



26 passed the board exams in Accountancy, 14 in Electrical Engineering, and four in Mechanical Engineering; while another two passed the certification exam in Industrial Engineering. Currently, two of the graduates are working for Shell Business Operations (Mark Edison Guntan – Scheduling Admin Analyst for Canada and Christian Llait – Contracts and Procurement Data Analyst).



GMBK-FUEL scholars with Shell employees during the Interview Upskilling session at Shell Business Operations

Propagating agricultural knowledge

PSFI reached 1,562 individuals in 2017 through the Integrated Farming Bio-Systems (IFBS) program, which helps improve the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers. The trainings on organic agriculture were conducted through partnerships with the Department of Agrarian Reform, Office of the Vice President (under the Angat Buhay program), and local government units. Farmers, indigenous peoples, and children in conflict with the law from Bulacan, Camarines Sur, Bukidnon, South Cotabato, Palawan, Cagayan de Oro, Batangas, and Quezon were trained.



IFBS training in Sumilao, Bukidnon



Goats distributed to farmer beneficiaries



Distribution of starter kits to IFBS graduates

Pasacao Typhoon Nina Livelihood Support Program

Realizing the impact of Typhoon Nina on livelihood and the need for sustainable support to the affected families of Pasacao, Camarines Sur, PSFI, in partnership with the local government, launched a livelihood support program in March 2017. Helping in the restoration and improvement of living standards and general well-being of affected families in the municipality, the program included the conduct of IFBS sessions, goat dispersal for farmers, and boat rehabilitation subsidy for fishermen.

210 farmers completed their IFBS training in June 2017. In addition, 207 goats were distributed to 90 farmers, and 25 fishermen were able to get their boats repaired through the boat rehabilitation subsidy.



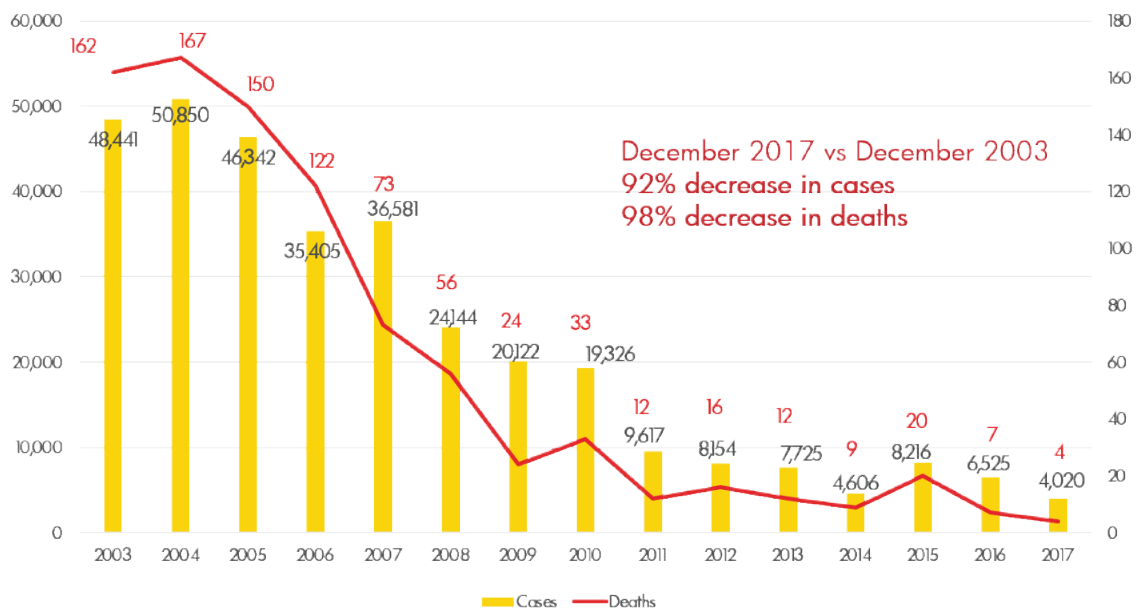
Long-lasting insecticide-treated net distribution

Malaria control and elimination

With The Global Fund's grant, there were 814,984 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and 29,499 pregnancy packs distributed in 2017 under the Movement Against Malaria program. In the same year, 125,416 houses were sprayed with residual insecticide and 704 health service providers trained.

Through the sustained private-public partnership in malaria control, 42 provinces in the country are now malaria-free, while 31 provinces are in the elimination phase. Moreover, malaria cases decreased from 6,525 in 2016 to 4,020 in 2017; and deaths reduced from 7 in 2016 to 4 in 2017.

Malaria Cases and Deaths
Philippines, Year 2003-2017





Voluntary counseling and testing

Combatting HIV/AIDS

In 2017, 30 new HIV cases were recorded per day in the country. From 9,264 new cases in 2016, the number increased to 11,103 in 2017.

PSFI and its partners continue their mission to educate individuals on the toll of the epidemic through the Philippine Business Sector Response (PBSR) to HIV/AIDS. In 2017, 50 companies and organizations were engaged and 37,234 individuals were given HIV orientation while 30,893 submitted themselves to voluntary counseling and testing in Amos Tara! community center in Palawan and The Love Yourself's (TLY) Anglo and Uni clinics in the cities of Mandaluyong and Pasay. 1,807 reactive cases were diagnosed at the TLY clinics, representing 45% of new HIV cases in NCR in 2017.

Takeda Patient Assistance Program

As part of its efforts in helping improve access to healthcare, PSFI signed an agreement with Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Axios International to support Hodgkin lymphoma patients prescribed brentuximab vedotin (Adcetris) through Takeda's Patient Assistance Program. The program uses an innovative, affordability-based approach where patients share the cost of their treatment with involved parties. Between June-December 2017, the program has supported 24 patients to access 161 vials of brentuximab vedotin.

Axios was formed by a group of health experts who shared the vision of an organization that could work effectively with patients and private and public sector stakeholders to improve access to healthcare in developing countries and emerging markets.

Takeda is a global research and development-driven pharmaceutical company committed to bringing better health and a brighter future to patients by translating science into life-changing medicines.



Adcetris vial



Some beneficiaries with their house keys

Yolanda: From destruction to rehabilitation

In the past four years, Pilipinas Shell supported Yolanda survivors in their journey to a new life through the donation of fishing boats and solar lamps, implementation of capacity-building and livelihood programs, and construction of school gyms and houses.

In 2017, PSFI, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, completed the construction of 146 houses for the benefit of Anibong, Tacloban residents. 41 Shell staff also joined the volunteerism activity of painting houses in March. 128 houses were turned over to the beneficiaries in 2017 and the remaining 18 in April 2018.

As part of the community's social development, post-resettlement programs such as SKIL, IFBS, and Sanayan sa Kakayahang Pangangalakal (SKP) will be rolled out from the third to fourth quarter of 2018.



HFH houses for beneficiaries





Powerhouse and wind turbine in Brgy. Decabaitot, Linapacan, Palawan

Access to Energy: A tool for community development

Through PSFI’s support to indigenous peoples, more communities don’t have to wait for the morning light in order to work and study. With the Access to Energy (A2E) project, PSFI lights up hope in communities like Brgy. Decabaitot in Linapacan, Palawan where 120 houses, five school buildings, two churches, two waiting sheds, a barangay hall, a day care center, a health center, and a multi-purpose hall were energized. 98 electric posts (51 fitted with lamp assembly) and a powerhouse were put up. Also, a 3-kW wind turbine, 60 units (250-Wp) of solar panels, and a 33-KVA diesel generator were installed.

Brgy. Decabaitot is the fourth A2E site. The other three are Brgys. Tanabag in Puerto Princesa, Teneguiban in El Nido, and Liminangcong in Taytay – all in Palawan.

Carbon Sink Management

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), in partnership with PSFI, the National Power Corporation (NPC), and the local government of Dolores, Quezon, embarked on the reforestation of a 50-hectare land at Mt. Banahaw, Brgy. Kinabuhayan, Dolores, Quezon through the Carbon Sink Management Program (CSMP).

In 2017, PSFI managed the planting of 83,000 seedlings of indigenous tree species. The program provided additional livelihood and employment opportunities to local residents in planting of seedlings and in the maintenance and protection of the trees and the reforestation site.



Hike to Mt. Banahaw reforestation site





Acknowledgement

Through the years, we have heard inspiring testimonies from people whose lives were touched and changed for the better because of our programs. We also continue to make a positive impact on community development through our scholarship programs and other interventions that contribute to the health, safety, and wellbeing of individuals. Moreover, we have created value through promoting livelihood and enterprise development as well as sharing agricultural technologies, benefitting many communities.

To date, PSFI has touched more than 12 million lives. However, its mission is far from over. There are more needs to address, more partnerships to forge, and more communities to empower.

Congratulations and more power to all!

Cesar A. Buenaventura
Chairman





The 5th Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp

by Monaleizl Dy and Rachael Nathanielsz

Every year, Shell and PhilDev come together and brainstorm to give their scholars the kind of camp experience they would always look back to with smiles on their faces. This year, the fifth Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp did not disappoint; it was quite a memorable one, special and different, just like all the other camps before it.

Let's start with **the first day – the arrival**. 98 scholars from northern to southern Philippines arrived at the Shell Training Center in Pililla, Rizal on July 23, 2018. For the camp newbies, Batch 5, it was time to get to know their Shell-PhilDev family. For campers from Batches 2, 3, and 4, it was an opportunity to renew ties. Camp master Jay Javier of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) welcomed the scholars old and new with his usual enthusiasm. Meanwhile, PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz encouraged the scholars to keep doing their best in terms of academics.

The second day – camp activities begin. As in the previous years, the campers were divided into three groups with each group undergoing modules specifically designed to cater to their needs. Batch 5 took the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development (LEAD) Workshop handled by PSFI; Batches 2, 3, and 4 took modules on personal health and well-being facilitated by Shell Health; in addition, Batches 2 and 3 took modules on career options and preparations for employment facilitated by Shell Human Resources and Shell Health.

The third day – camp proper. All campers assembled at the main training complex to start their day positively with an inspirational talk by Don Paulino, Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) Asset Manager.



The new batch of scholars during a LEAD session



SPEX Asset Manager Don Paulino delivering his talk

In his hour-and-a-half talk, Don Paulino focused on the theme of finding one's purpose and falling in love with it. He emphasized how finding one's purpose would lead to creative possibilities, collaboration, and integration. And what better way to make students believe what he was saying than to talk about his own experience? So he did talk about how, as an engineer, he was able to work on providing clean and affordable energy without harming the environment or doing minimal harm to it, as well as contributing to the development of the country and the Filipino talent. He talked about the Malampaya platform pipes laid out on the part of the sea where they cause minimal disturbance to marine life. He also mentioned Shell's partnership with the government in protecting marine life in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, and the second platform of Malampaya being made by a Filipino company, emphasizing that the Filipinos are just as good as foreigners.

Don Paulino's talk generated a lively exchange between him and the scholars on the issue of sustainable technology – technology that does not/does minimal harm to the environment.

After an active morning session with Don Paulino, the campers were fully charged, ready to learn more; they divided into their respective groups and underwent the prescribed activities for the day.



Shell Mini Grand Prix Activity

The fourth day – last day of camp. Early in the morning, the campers went to their respective groups to finish their prescribed modules then they all assembled at the main training complex to listen to talks of Shell and PhilDev leaders.

PhilDev Executive Vice Chairman Jones Castro focused on the positive gains of the program, highlighting the percentage of scholars who graduated with honors. He encouraged the current scholars to do well and reminded them of his belief that they can do it. As he ended his talk, he highlighted that Shell-PhilDev Scholarship is a “program of success” and a “program of developing our future leaders, who are you (the scholars).”

In lieu of a speech, Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) Country Chairman Cesar Romero, who attended the camp first time, opted to communicate directly with the scholars through a Q&A format. The scholars wrote questions on a piece of paper that Romero willingly answered. Some of the key takeaways from his session are understanding the higher purpose of what you do, the big difference between effort and accomplishment, and the big difference between making and taking a decision.

Romero’s interactive Q&A was followed by a motivating talk by another camp first timer, Dado Banatao, PhilDev Chairman and founder. His talk revolved around two main things: one – engineering as a tool for innovation, for solving the current problems of the world, two – developing/keeping the passion for engineering, for wanting to solve problems, for being hungry for knowledge. The following are some excerpts from his talk:

“Think about this: you will apply your own problem solving methods but you will never find any style in any book. At least I have never seen one so you have to invent your own process in time. We thrive as engineers because we can design things. It becomes a habit when you really like what you do and then your mind is always hungry for more... In your life as an engineer, as you move on with your career, you are going to invent something. It doesn’t matter whether you are inventing an idea, inventing a product. Inventing a solution is even better.”



SciP Country Chairman Cesar Romero and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation VP for Communications Ramon Del Rosario present tokens of appreciation to PhilDev Chairman Dado Banatao

Come 12NN, an interactive session over lunch took place. Mentors from Shell and PhilDev divided themselves among the scholars and conversed with them on concerns and interests pertaining to their studies, courses, and directions they are moving into.

Later into the day, the campers participated in a shirt-design activity. White shirts, textile paints, and brushes were distributed with the instruction for each scholar to paint the shirts with their own design. Just like the bookmarks they made in last year's camp, the finished shirts were indicative of their creativity and individuality.



PhilDev Executive Vice Chairman Jones Castro engaging with the scholars over lunch



Scholars proudly showing their shirt designs

In the evening, the campers assembled at the main training complex for the most awaited part of the camp, the culminating activity. All three groups prepared numbers showcasing their singing, dancing, and acting prowess. Batch 5's skit got a lot of laughs from the audience. The energetic and synchronized dance of Batch 4 got the audience up on their feet dancing. But it was Batch 2 and 3's performance that brought the house down with their funny skits which segued into a heartfelt performance of the song "Remember Me" interspersed with messages of gratitude to their Shell-PhilDev family. As the graduating group, this was Batch 2 and 3's last camp, hence the appeal to remember them in as much as they will never forget their yearly sojourn in the camp for the past three years.

All performances were fun and enjoyable but as is the case every year, the most touching one, the one that brings out both laughter and tears is the performance of the graduating batch who are on their last camp.



The culminating activity ended with heartwarming testimonials of scholars on what the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship program means to them. Most, if not all, of the testimonials highlighted the fact that the program gave them not just scholarship but a family.

The next day, the campers left the training center with a happy and grateful heart.

See you next year, campers! For now, get busy making a positive impact in any way you can.

Shell-PhilDev scholar updates

As of September 2018: 68 scholars graduated (34 with honors), 45 passed the board exams (5 topped), 94 are currently enrolled, 21 are reviewing for board exams, 2 are pursuing further studies, and 38 are working (e.g. at Shell, Petron, Meralco, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, Korea Electric Power Corporation, Philippine Geothermal Production Company, Inc., Lufthansa Technik Philippines, Nestle, San Miguel Yamamura Asia Corporation, Mapua, AI Wave Computing, and University of the Philippines Molecular Biology and Epigenetics Laboratory).

From Shell-PhilDev scholars to mentors

by Jim Palma

Shell-PhilDev scholars from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao gathered on July 23-27, 2018 for a week of learning, getting to know each other, and participating in a journey of self-discovery – the Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp.

Every year, a new batch of scholars joins the growing family of Shell-PhilDev. Same as the previous camps, this year's new batch, Batch 5, first had to participate in the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Workshop as a preparatory activity and an avenue to know themselves more.

For the senior batches, the scholars who are about to enter a new phase in their lives, the camp offered modules focusing on leadership and collaboration, as well as skills and values deemed critical as they become professionals. Part of these modules were mentoring sessions wherein scholars had the chance to personally converse with and learn from mentors who have gained quite a number of experiences in their respective fields as well as young professionals who are starting to build their careers.

This year's camp was special, as five of the mentors were former Shell-PhilDev scholars who are now working at Shell; they gave the scholars a picture of what it would be like transitioning to employees.

Joining the camp were Shell-PhilDev alumni Reinwill Boyles, Kerstein Kyle Despi, Louie Nathaniel Palola, Mark Chester Rey, and Julius Cesar Magno, all working as Shell terminal operations administrators (TOAs) at different Shell terminals in the country.

Focusing on their professional growth while contributing to the business, they shared to the scholars how the application of their learnings back when they were scholars are helping them navigate the professional world.



L-R: Reinwill Boyles, Mark Chester Rey, Kerstein Kyle Despi, Louie Nathaniel Palola, and Julius Cesar Magno join this year's Shell-PhilDev camp not as scholars but as mentors

Testimonies of gratitude and success

Reinwill Boyles

TOA North Mindanao Import Facility, Cagayan de Oro City
Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology
BS Chemical Engineering (graduated in 2017)
Shell-PhilDev Batch 1

“During the camp, I learned to become resilient and flexible. Well, working with Shell comes with many challenges. There are some things that will really test your resiliency and flexibility. There are moments when I am given a task I am not really familiar with, which means I need to start from scratch. But sticking with these values (resiliency and flexibility), I am able to accomplish the tasks given. I assure myself that I will deliver and do the best I can.

“Being a scholar and at the same time an employee of Shell put so much pressure on me. I know that people have high hopes for me and the challenge now is to live up to their expectations. I need to do my best to prove that I am worthy of the opportunity that the management has given me. Nonetheless, I am very happy with their trust and confidence.”

Kerstein Kyle Despi

TOA, Sasa JO Terminal, Davao
University of San Carlos
BS Mechanical Engineering (graduated in 2017)
Shell-PhilDev Batch 1

“I had always thought that if I ever would choose to pursue a career in the industry, it would be in Shell. I can’t deny that this mindset was shaped by attending three summer camps organized and facilitated by Shell as well. In those three camps, I realized that the values promoted by the company greatly align with my own values. And since this to me is a non-negotiable, Shell had always been the most obvious option.

“Beyond my student years, and as a current Shell staff, the scholarship program gave me the opportunity of returning the favor by mentoring current scholars and helping them become the person they want to be. But more than these, I find that the greatest benefit of becoming a Shell-PhilDev scholar is being able to build a family that lives on beyond the distance and beyond the camp.”

Louie Nathaniel Palola

TOA, Shell Tagbilaran Terminal
University of Santo Tomas
BS Electrical Engineering (graduated in 2015)
Shell-PhilDev Batch 2

“In Shell, we strongly promote the concept of care and the best way to apply it is being a role model by taking care of ourselves first. Moreover, working in the terminal requires collaborative working, for one person cannot accomplish everything and operate the terminal by himself. The effort of every staff is essential to operate and maintain the site; these are my key takeaways (from the camps) which I strongly follow today. Furthermore, always choose growth over money and comfort. Find a company that will enable you to grow professionally and personally, an organization that will challenge you and make you step out of your comfort zone, a company that will hone your skills and allow you to develop new ones. Ultimately, look for the one that will make you feel like you belong in a family - Shell is that company.”



Former Shell-PhilDev scholars facilitating some of the camp activities

Mark Chester Rey

TOA, Shell Mandaue Terminal
Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan
BS Mechanical Engineering (graduated in 2016)
Shell-PhilDev Batch 2

“I tried to apply for Shell twice and got rejected in both applications. But through the Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp, I was able to instill a strong mindset of ‘keep moving forward.’ Life will not really be so good to you everyday; there are moments of victory and disappointments. Your patience and strength will be tested but what really matters is getting up, dusting yourselves off, and learning from every failure. Face each challenge with positivity and always wear your best smile. In everything you do, find your purpose and love what you are doing. Being a Shell TOA for 1 year and 5 months now, I make sure that I’m doing my 101% best not just for myself but for the company and for my PhilDev family.”

Julius Cesar Magno

TOA, Shell North Harbor
University of Santo Tomas
BS Chemical Engineering (graduated in 2017)
Shell-PhilDev Batch 4

“I started to work for Shell in May 2018 and I should say that I’m still in the adjustment period from being a student to a working professional. However, the culture in Shell is very welcoming. It makes the adjustment to the new environment easier. I am very fortunate to be in a team that is packed with veterans and I have a supervisor that is a great motivator.

“The Resilience Module from the camp has been very helpful in my professional journey. Change is a big word, and it is normal to humans to resist change because of the stress it creates. But to succeed in life, I must embrace these changes, be able to immerse myself in experiences that will build my character for the betterment of the future me. Stresses from the pressure of work are like a furnace that melts a crude metal and molds it to a shape that is useful. The Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp made me realize that embracing change is essential to success.”

THE STORY OF LEO

by Bernie Quimpo (former PhilDev Program Director)

SCHOLAR.

I first met Leo Marcelo Villalba sometime in 2014 in his sophomore year of college, when he applied for a Shell-PhilDev scholarship. What impressed me about him then was his innovative spirit and his desire to help. He had graduated valedictorian of his high school class at the Cagayan de Oro National High School in 2013, more than a year after Typhoon Sendong hit the city, causing flash floods which resulted in many casualties. At that first meeting, he talked enthusiastically about a warning device he had designed in his senior year of high school as a response to Typhoon Sendong: "It was a simple circuit consisting of a motorcycle horn, 12V battery; and then the sensor, composed of Styrofoam, wrapped in an aluminum sheet, then enclosed in a plastic bottle with a hole at the bottom, conductors at the top. When the aluminum floater hit the two conductors, it acted as a switch to trigger the motorcycle horn." The sensor he designed is like the commercially available float switch today.

Leo has been fascinated by mathematics and science (mainly physics) since his elementary years. By creating a simple project, a battery connected to a switch and a light bulb, he was led into curiosity on how things work. As a child, he would open up his toys in order to see what was inside and discover what made them work.

He took up a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in the belief that one way to contribute to his community is through the power of electricity – its ability to power up light bulbs to illuminate the night, its ability to power up industries to enable jobs to be done, and the potential of the field in the coming years.

He hopes that his college group thesis—"Introduction of Building Management System for Efficient Energy Utilization"—will contribute to energy management and conservation in commercial and residential buildings with the use of alternative controllers.

MAN FOR OTHERS.

Leo has been sharing his knowledge with others to help them in their studies since his sophomore year in college. "Mentoring for me is a commitment. I feel committed to share my knowledge and help my fellow students. I try my best to teach them what they need to learn."

In his last academic year, he was appointed head of the Department of Academic and Co-Curricular Affairs (DACA) in his organization, the Integrated Institute of Electrical Engineers – Xavier University Council of Student Chapter. As DACA head, he handled the tutorials, seminars, and other academic-related concerns. He shared his test papers with students in the lower years who used these as reference material and guide on how teachers process the answers. He also tutored students applying for scholarships, hoping to give them the confidence to take qualifying exams.

Leo was also a volunteer math tutor in STREAMS (Supplementary Training to Reinforce Education of the Academically-Gifted but Marginalized Students). Of this experience, he says: "Being a teacher to those junior high school students is a great experience to have aside from being a tutor to college students. Comprehension wise, they need to be taught in a different manner compared to the college students I tutor."

BLESSED.

When I heard the good news from Leo that he was graduating *summa cum laude*, I asked him how he felt about this academic award. He had a one-word answer: "Blessed."

I can recall that when he spoke on behalf of his batch at the 2017 Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp, he said: "One speaker told us, the world doesn't owe us anything. Everything given to us is a gift. Indeed, Shell-PhilDev is a gift to us all; not just a gift, but a blessing."

Well said and well done, Leo. Congratulations!

Leo on his way to accomplishing his mission

by Rachael Nathanielsz

Leo proved his genius again by taking the Top 2 spot among the 3,135 passers of the September 2018 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination.

Following traditional belief, Leo and his roommates decided to wear red underwear on the exam day for luck. It certainly didn't cause any harm, but I don't think it was pure luck that brought them the victory. "The night when exam results were released, I was with my roommates and my mother. I saw my name on the 2nd place. I was very happy and thankful. My mother had tears on her eyes, especially because our prayers were answered; all of us, the 23 board takers from our university, passed and no one was left behind."

Preparing for the exam was all hard work and faith for Leo. However, he admitted that it was not easy. There was a lot of pressure that he had to deal with because he felt people would expect him to do well after graduating *summa cum laude*. He would always say to himself, "No pressure, no pressure. Whatever the result, it is the will of God." But Leo had a tough time keeping pressure at bay. "I thought topping the board exam would be a confirmation of my honors. Now I feel I would have to prove that I deserve the 2nd place in my workplace soon."

Believe it or not, Leo was not a consistent honor student. In his elementary and high school years, he was a happy-go-lucky boy who enjoyed playing outdoors and computer games. He didn't take studying seriously. Things changed in his senior year of high school. He thought he had to do well to be able to help his parents. He studied very hard and graduated as valedictorian, earning him a college scholarship. However, his scholarship didn't cover other fees so he had to look for others. He came across the PhilDev website and was inspired by their mission. Months later, he was called to go the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid and was informed that he was one of the selected candidates for the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship. "I was very happy that time. I felt that it was really destiny."

Looking back, Leo said his Shell-PhilDev journey was very fulfilling. "Every year, all scholars throughout the nation are brought together for the three-day Leadership Camp. The camp gives us the opportunity to know our fellow scholars from different schools. The bonds created during the camps are priceless. The lessons taught by Shell also helped me know myself better, prepared me for the future, and equipped me with the necessary tools to be a better person."



Leo Marcelo Villalba

Shell-PhilDev scholar from 2014-2018
Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan

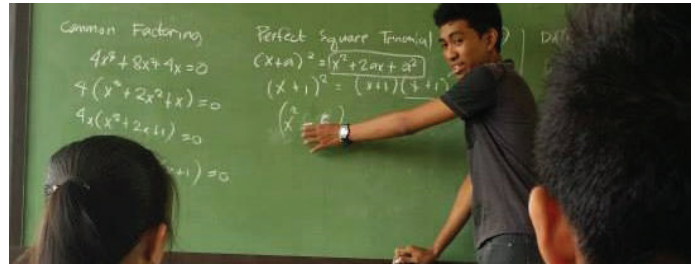
BS Electrical Engineering, *summa cum laude*, graduated March 2018
Top 2 – September 2018 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination



Leo giving a testimonial on behalf of his batch during the 2017 Shell-PhilDev Camp



Leo with his proud parents on his college graduation day



Leo tutoring on-probation engineering students

Passion and commitment run in Leo's veins. When he entered college, he instilled in his mind that he had to graduate *summa cum laude* in order to open doors to opportunities. "The determination must not fade. There were times before exams that I had to study until 5 AM. I had to take the exam with lack of sleep just to master the subject. I studied in advance, but I still had to study more just to achieve my goal. In the end, I managed to reach my goal, but I don't think I did it with my own abilities; I feel like I have a mission. Because God made me an instrument and provided me with the knowledge and support I need, I have to pay it forward. I am not a genius and I can only say I am just slightly above average. I don't think I could have earned my achievements if I am not true to my purpose."

Always curious on how things work, Leo exhibited his fascination with science when he was just a little boy playing with, or rather dissecting, his toys. His original goal was to become a physicist, however, at the time when he had to choose what course to pursue in college, there were no physics courses offered in their region. What led him to take up electrical engineering was his belief in the power of electricity, how it plays a major role in industrial processes and how it impacts the development of communities, of people.

"'Education is the key to success.' 'Poverty is not a hindrance to success.'" These slogans were two of the many posted on the wall of our classrooms during high school. I had come to realize, several people have electricity in their homes; however, several also don't. I was struck with the idea that we need light during the night to study; this light, powered by electricity, is taken for granted by several people. Looking at the bigger picture, I realized that there are many students, especially in areas far away from the city, who work hard to lift their family out of poverty, but hardly do so due to the absence of this light."

As I got to know Leo, I realized that more than having a great mind, he has an even greater heart. "Right now, I am looking for ways I can realize my goals to help other people. I am currently looking forward to work in our local distribution utility, if my application will be approved. I also hope I could have spare hours to work part time to teach electrical engineering subjects. There are several job offers, but I don't think the location is good or that the nature of work is in line with my current goals. I am also preparing to be a Professional Electrical Engineer (PEE), who has the capability, by law, to practice the entire scope of work of an electrical engineer. It takes minimum of four years of experience and additional requirements to prove that I am qualified to become a PEE. In addition, I am planning to apply for a Chevening scholarship for master's degree in the UK which requires 2,800 hours of work experience. On top of that, I am still searching for a product to develop or innovate and engage in entrepreneurship and follow the track set by PhilDev."

Leo, whatever it is you will pursue, we will be cheering for you. Keep the fire burning and hold on to your faith.



'Pressure will either crush you or push you'

by Rachael Nathanielsz

He knew his target very well. He studied hard. And when it was time to aim, he hit the bull's eye.

Shell-PhilDev scholar Kevin Relleve bagged the Top 1 spot in the April 2018 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination. He is the first Shell-PhilDev scholar who achieved this feat. He also placed 10th in the Registered Master Electrician Licensure Examination.

Kevin felt "so happy and overwhelmed" when he first saw his name on the top spot among the 1,315 board passers. On the day the results were released, he decided to change his mobile number out of nervousness. He did not want anyone to contact him but his family. "I texted them to call me and they were very happy... I was really surprised. I did not want to believe it at first. This is my gift to my parents. They exerted so much effort just to make sure my siblings and I finish college and I think being a licensed engineer is a big deal for them."

Asked for his advice to students who are planning to take the board exams, Kevin shared, "I used to think board exams are tough. However, many people told me it's easy, it's just basic. When I was taking the exam, I realized they're right. When it comes to problem solving, it's really basic. However, there are questions you have to analyze carefully. I think in preparing for the exam, you should try to read at least 100 objective questions per day. There are many books available, even online. For me, luck is also a factor in topping the exam. There were actually some questions I guessed the answers to. Another thing, prayers. Pray to God to guide you."



Kevin Relleve

Shell-PhilDev scholar from 2013-2017
University of the Philippines Los Baños
BS Electrical Engineering, *cum laude*,
graduated June 2017
Top 1 – April 2018 Registered Electrical
Engineer Licensure Examination

Kevin's interest in engineering stems back from his kindergarten years. "As far as I can remember, we had an activity wherein we had to draw a house. I thought to myself, even though I'm not skilled in drawing, someday I could design and build my own house." When he reached elementary, his desire to become a civil engineer became stronger. However, when he took the college admission test in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), he did not meet the requirements for the civil engineering course and ended up taking electrical engineering. He planned to shift but their lessons on electricity fascinated him and he never looked back. He graduated *cum laude* in June 2017.

Kevin admitted he started feeling pressured to do well in school during elementary. Both of his sisters graduated valedictorian in the same school where he went to. He felt he had to graduate valedictorian as well but someone else took that place and he ended up graduating salutatorian. In high school, his sisters were in the first section while he was in the second. "I was feeling really down thinking I couldn't beat my two siblings. But that's what motivated me. I didn't let the pressure swallow me. The thing with pressure is it will either crush you or push you. As for me, I used it to push myself to be better."

Kevin was born and grew up in the province of Albay. He only moved to Los Baños when he entered college. Coming from a family of engineers, it's no wonder Kevin decided to pursue the same path. He was inspired by his two older sisters who took up agricultural and chemical engineering in UPLB and his father who finished agricultural engineering but did not become a licensed engineer. His mother had a degree in education but did not pursue teaching.

"Both of my parents are tenant farmers. To earn a living, they have been helping each other manage a farm in Albay. I remember a time when they would go to the farm at 2 in the morning to harvest crops and sell them in the market just so we could have allowance for school. They sacrificed so much for us." Knowing how much his parents sweat to give him and his four siblings a good life and proper education, Kevin only wishes one thing for his parents - that they live long enough to witness their children's success.



The Relleve family during Kevin's graduation ceremony. Kevin was awarded with two medals – one for graduating with honors and the other for his outstanding service in school.

On being a student leader

Kevin joined a school organization in his third year in college. He felt he had to grow outside the classroom. "In the classroom, I feel there's a limit to what you could learn. I wanted to join an organization because I think it could help you develop many aspects of yourself. I joined the Society of Electrical Engineering Students, an academic organization exclusive for electrical engineering students. I became the college representative during my fourth year and vice president in my fifth year.

"Being a student leader is a challenge. You have to balance your time serving the students, and of course, you have to watch your academics. That was the biggest challenge for me because I used to only focus on my academics then I had to adjust. It was a big transition. There were times I really struggled with academics. There were subjects I almost failed but in the end managed to pass."

On being a Shell-PhilDev scholar

In his second year of college in UPLB, Kevin saw an announcement on their school bulletin saying applications were open for possible scholars under Shell-PhilDev. He applied and eventually got in. Kevin shared that "being a Shell-PhilDev scholar is really fun. It's really a big help that you get allowance and free tuition. On top of that, there is a summer camp for all the scholars where you meet new friends and learn a lot of things about being a professional, being a leader. My second summer camp (2015) was my most memorable one. I learned so much especially when it comes to applying for a job."

Where is Kevin now?

Kevin now works for Meralco as their Power Innovator (Management Trainee). He started working for the company in June this year.

In 2016, Kevin had a one-month internship in the company under their Power Camp program wherein he worked on a dashboard design project for monitoring the performance of one of the company's programs. He also participated in a number of trainings in this camp.

Kevin's internship in Meralco made him realize how amazing it would be to work for a company with a positive working environment. "Mentors are more than willing to train their apprentices; and all employees, regardless of their rank, possess the characteristics of a good leader." However, working for a company like Meralco could be demanding. Kevin says "it's challenging since there's a lot of things that must be learned, but this task becomes manageable since my mentors are very hands-on and supportive."

A few days after the release of the board exam results in April, Kevin received a call from Meralco offering him to join their Power Innovator program. "This is my dream program which I applied for. I had a preliminary interview with the HR group and had a psychological examination. This was followed by a panel interview wherein I introduced myself to the big bosses of Meralco and explained why I deserved to be one of their Power Innovators. After days of waiting, I got a congratulatory message from the HR."

As one of Meralco's Power Innovators, Kevin started off with attending a one-month classroom-based lecture session. He is now being immersed in various company processes and exposed to engineering projects to address consumer needs.



As part of his immersion in Meralco, Kevin visited the company's Legazpi Substation in Makati City

From scholar to Power Innovator

by Rachael Nathanielsz

Another Shell-PhilDev scholar dominated the April 2018 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination. When he heard the news that he made it to the top 4 spot among the board passers, he described it being “so surreal.” He even told his parents, who are both engineers, he would come back home to Iligan City and make sure he’d make it to the top 10. And he did make it. His name is Leo Nogas.

The oldest of three siblings, Leo is not only a loving son, but also a loving brother. “I’ll do anything for my siblings... I was thinking, I would like to top the boards because I wanted to see my brother and sister smile. That was one of my driving forces. I wanted to show them that hard work pays off. I wanted them to be proud of their kuya.”

Passing the board exams was very important for Leo. He went to Cebu City to take the exam with “a mission in mind.” But after taking the exam, Leo thought he couldn’t keep his word to his parents for there were questions he simply couldn’t grasp. While waiting for the results, he prayed and hoped for the best. “I sure was surprised to be part of the top 10. It goes to show that you reap what you sow and I’m happy to have made everyone who has supported me in this journey proud. All Glory is His.”

On preparing for the exam, Leo first started reviewing the concepts he felt he was good at. “I really read a lot. Every night. I believe if you read a lot, it sticks to your memory.”



Leo presenting Meralco Power Tech: the country’s first R&D facility featuring a smart and sustainable grid system

On his advice to students planning to take the board exams, Leo said, “Put your goals in mind in everything that you do. Always make each opportunity worthwhile. I’m the type of person who doesn’t like to waste anything – my day, what my parents and the Lord gave me. My next advice, regardless of your plans, if things don’t work out, you do not quit. Because the Lord has better plans for you. Never forget the one who gave you the capacity to be able to learn things.”

In a conversation I had with Leo, I discovered his motivation to become an engineer was quite peculiar. When he was a kid, whenever someone asked him for his dream occupation, he would say he would like to be a scientist, “not because they invent things, but because I’d often see them talking on TV. They’re the ones explaining stuff. The explaining part was the one that took my attention, not the making part. Not a lot of people can understand what drove me to engineering per se. I think it needs someone who is able to convey ideas to people to make them appreciate engineering itself. I’d like to be the one teaching stuff to other people. I’m very much in love with people. I like to speak in front of people. I don’t have that much anxiety.”

When Leo reached college, he started off studying chemical engineering at Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology. Come sophomore year, he shifted to electrical engineering because as he put it, “I felt an affinity with it. I like the way the world revolves around electricity. The way that we control life is pretty much the way we control a city. Imagine a city without light, without the management of electricity.”

Leo said he was also inspired by his electrical engineer dad, who made him realize that being an electrical engineer would give him an opportunity to make a positive impact in the world. “My dad told me, what makes you propel in any engineering course is the way you communicate with people. Not all engineers know how to communicate. As long as you’re able to convey whatever it is that you need to convey, that makes you ahead of people.”



The Nogas family



Outside academics

Leo’s talent for public speaking earned him the victory in the 2015 Toastmasters Philippines Table Topics Competition. He was tagged as the youngest Toastmasters Champion in the Philippines.

Leo first competed in Iligan, then Cagayan de Oro. He later made it to the nationals in Bulacan where he faced off against 11 other contenders across the Philippines. “I was representing Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, and Butuan. That experience was one of my best experiences. I was the only student, the only undergrad.”

Aside from public speaking, Leo is also into table tennis and dancing. He was an active member of their university’s table tennis club and was part of their college dance society.

On being a Shell-PhilDev scholar

Leo said nothing but good words when asked about his Shell-PhilDev Scholarship journey. "I knew the scholarship was there for me every step of the way, and in each step, I can't help but think of what I did to deserve this; so, I make an effort to prove to my benefactors my worth and my dream to contribute in the near future."

Emphasizing the value of the learnings he got from the annual Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camps, Leo said, "I learned that attitude can make or break a person; that has been my 'mantra' ever since I took the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development Workshop in the camp. Various activities in the camp enabled me to take to heart that every experience is a learning opportunity and I should make the most out of it, and that the extent and intent of my actions should always lean towards how I can contribute. And throughout all those leadership camps and activities, I've been introduced to a great number of Shell employees, happily and willingly sharing their craft and passion while working at Shell."

Where is Leo now?

Leo started working for Meralco in August this year as their Power Innovator (Management Trainee), same as Shell-PhilDev scholar Kevin Relleve, the top 1 placer in the April 2018 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination. Like Kevin, Leo also took a one-month internship in the company in 2016. One of the select few Power Campers chosen by Meralco to be part of their company, he went through a series of interviews and was one of the four chosen from their batch of 30.

Talking about the company and the internship, Leo said, "Being one of the top employers of the country, Meralco is a prime destination for an electrical engineer here in the Philippines. The Power Camp program of the company provides an opportunity for aspiring engineers to accomplish a business case alongside a panel defense by the end of the training. My business case was a study on overloaded poles and fiber optic cables."

As a Power Innovator in Operations Technology Management, Leo is currently being immersed in different company processes like the model promotion process of their Advanced Distribution Management System.

When asked how he feels about working in Meralco, Leo said, "I love the environment. The people are nice, the food is good, and the compound is simply amazing with so many things happening: events, sports. I am currently enjoying the sports and gym facilities every time I get off from work. I am also going with the flow of the immersion, which would last until March 2019, and in the process widening my network and my grasp of the company business. If there's one thing that I would like to add to this happy place, it would be my family. As much as I love being here, with so much that I can do and learn and meet, I can't help but long to come home."



Leo Nogas

Shell-PhilDev scholar from 2013-2017
Mindanao State University – Iligan
Institute of Technology
BS Electrical Engineering
magna cum laude, graduated July 2017
Top 4 – April 2018 Registered Electrical
Engineer Licensure Examination



Going further through a scholarship

by NGP Integrated Marketing Communications and Rachael Nathanielsz

“Before the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship came, every semester was a battle for me,” shared Reinwill Boyles, a proud scholar and *magna cum laude* graduate of Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology. Reinwill never surrendered, but finished the battle strong, graduating class valedictorian with a BS Chemical Engineering degree in July 2017. He also passed the Chemical Engineer Licensure Examination in November 2017.

In his college valedictory address, Reinwill said, “...nothing has changed for me. Being at the top doesn’t make me the smartest guy here. I am certain of it. I know people smarter than me. It could be you or the person sitting next to you. I am here maybe because I am the most determined one, the most inspired one and the most loved one. I am lucky and blessed to have great people around me. Without them, I wouldn’t be here. With that, I would like to quote Sir Dado Banatao (PhilDev Chairman): ‘I am not special, I am just determined.’”

Supporting scholars taking up science and engineering courses from various schools all over the country since 2013, Shell and Philippine S&T Development Foundation – Manila, Inc. (PhilDev) have invested in the potential of the youth, like Reinwill, to become tomorrow’s great leaders and innovators.

Giving us a picture of how his life was before he earned the scholarship, Reinwill said, “There was no assurance if I’d have free tuition or not. I had to maintain high grades to avail of the free tuition for the next semester.” His father provided for the family’s basic needs through farming while his mother, a public school teacher in Kidapawan, had to constantly borrow money to make sure her children had good education and a chance at a better future.

Reinwill is grateful for the scholarship as it helped his family financially. “My parents had the chance to invest in other things. My father invested in his agricultural efforts and my mother put more money for my siblings’ education, all of whom are still in school.”





Reinwill with his parents on his graduation day



Reinwill Boyles

Shell-PhilDev scholar from 2013-2017
Mindanao State University – Iligan
Institute of Technology
BS Chemical Engineering
magna cum laude, graduated July 2017

Talking more about his Shell-PhilDev journey, Reinwill shared, “I was so privileged to have this scholarship. After I formally became a scholar, so many things had happened. I was able to go out of my comfort zone, join an organization, and become a student leader for two consecutive years. I definitely had a lot of engagements. Aside from these, I was able to learn a lot from great people during the annual Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp.”

The camp is what makes the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship different from other scholarships for it ensures support in the holistic development of scholars – around leadership, self-awareness, and preparation for career choices. In the camp, scholars from partner schools in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao are brought together to learn more about how they can improve their character and skills. They are exposed to an environment that encourages them to proactively contribute to the betterment of their family, community, and country.

The annual camps were moments of growth for Reinwill. “They really motivated me and my co-scholars. I don’t think I would have had the chance to become a class valedictorian if not for those camps. I met people from Shell who truly inspired me. They started from the bottom and worked their way up. Their life testimonies motivated me to be even more determined. Maybe I won’t become as rich or successful as some of them, but with my hard work and a new sense of purpose for myself, my family, and my country, I believe I can continuously improve.”

Reinwill is now working as terminal operations administrator at Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation – North Mindanao Import Facility in Cagayan de Oro. He started working for the company in January 2018.

On his experience working for Shell, Reinwill says it “really amazes me. I thought I learned everything in school, but I realized there’s still a lot of things I could learn, especially in operations. Shell also makes me feel that my growth really matters; they will put their resources to hone you and train you to become better at what you do.”

Reinwill considers Shell his companion in his journey to success and a better life for himself and his family. He stressed that “Shell is a part of me. I will not be who I am without Shell because it molded and honed me to become the leader I am now. I was motivated to go beyond what I thought were my limits.”



A sustainable livelihood project for coconut farmers

by Jun Jay Jimenez

The future looks bright for coconut farmers in Quezon Province.

On June 6, 2018, the Collaboration for Coconut Productivity and Nurturing Farmers Trade (Project COCONUT) was launched at the JNJ Oleochemical Plant in Lucena City, Quezon.

A partnership between JNJ Oil Industries Inc., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), and Shell International, "Project COCONUT is about creating more environmentally sustainable fuels for the Philippines and more sustainable livelihood for coconut farmers so they can provide adequately for their families," said PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz.

The objective of the project is to increase farmers' incomes and economic self-sufficiency through organizing a cooperative, conducting seminars in managing coconut farms to improve yield, and setting up training programs for processing coconut-based products such as handicrafts and souvenir items.

Helen Scholey, Shell International Biofuels Sustainability Compliance Officer, said "Project COCONUT is an expansion of Shell's previous initiatives for cleaner energy through biofuels, at the same time providing sustainable livelihood for coconut farmers." Through Project COCONUT, sustainable supply of coco methyl ester will be made possible through Shell's purchase of biofuel raw materials.

The pilot sites for the project are Unisan and Agdangan municipalities in Quezon Province, wherein project survey shows that 50% of the farmers rely exclusively on coconut farming and 86% earn below minimum wage. Additionally, most of the farmers are tenants or non-owners of the land they farm.

The project will benefit around 150 farmers from the municipalities.



June 6, 2018. Pilipinas Shell and JNJ Oil Industries Inc. officers and farmers during the Project COCONUT Memorandum of Agreement Signing at JNJ Oleochemical Plant in Lucena City, Quezon (seated in middle row L-R: Rolando Jao, JNJ Oil Industries Inc. Chairman; Helen Scholey, Shell International Biofuels Sustainability Compliance Officer; Edgardo Veron Cruz, PSFI Executive Director)



Batangas City's observance of the 35th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

by Rachael Nathanielsz

To commemorate the lives lost due to HIV and AIDS and raise social consciousness about the epidemic, Batangas City observed the 35th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on May 25, 2018 at the Batangas City National High School.

With the mission to honor, support, and advocate for those who have been affected by HIV, Batangas City Health Office (CHO), together with its partners including Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), celebrated the AIDS Candlelight Memorial (ACM) full of hope for the future. More than a memorial, it was a community mobilization campaign to spread awareness about the disease and to share ways on how to prevent it or seek treatment and care.

With 36.7 million people living with HIV and AIDS in the world, the ACM serves as an important intervention for global solidarity, breaking down barriers of stigma and discrimination, and giving hope to new generations.





On the day of the event, youth and adults from different barangays in Batangas City visited booths and participated in the activities prepared by CHO, Teen Health Kiosk, Batangas Barako Pride Inc., Samahan ng Ikatlong Lahi ng Batangas Inc., and PSFI. A free voluntary counseling and testing session was also offered to everyone. Later into the day, there was a panel discussion that dug deeper into the HIV/AIDS situation in Batangas City, human rights, and the health programs and services offered in the city.

After a long day of learning, prayers were offered, commitments were made, and candles were lighted.



Dr. Rosanna Barrion
CHO Head

Dr. Rosanna Barrion, CHO Head, called on everyone to work together in putting a stop to HIV: “May this ACM remind us that in preparing for our future, we have to act now. We should all work together from all sectors of the society to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS so that we can put a stop to the increasing trend of cases. For our brothers and sisters living with HIV, let us all be united to make them feel that there is a way of living a happy life and make them our partners in advocacy. This may be a big challenge for all of us but there is nothing impossible if we will join our hands and commit ourselves so that we can make the difference in reducing the lives that are lost due to AIDS.”





PSFI Program Manager Olivia Mamisay-Sorio said that through the foundation's Philippine Business Sector Response to HIV/AIDS program, "We will continue to support and provide programs on HIV for the community, the academe, and the workplace."



Olivia Mamisay-Sorio
PSFI Program Manager

In 2007, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) contacted the Batangas CHO. It was the funding agency that supported the city's HIV awareness campaign. With partners growing in number, the CHO has been able to widen their base, catering not only to the high-risk groups, but to the general population as well.

Statistics

According to UNAIDS, the Philippines has registered the fastest-growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Asia-Pacific from 2010 to 2016 with a 140% increase in the number of new infections. From the data of the Department of Health, 11,103 new infections were recorded in 2017. Since January 1984 to December 2017, a total of 50,725 people were diagnosed with HIV and 2,466 of whom lost their lives. From January to September 2018, there were 8,533 new reported cases of HIV, 1,520 of which had progressed to AIDS and 459 deaths were accounted for. In addition, the number of cases of HIV is increasing among the younger population, specifically the 15-24-year olds.

In Batangas City, from 1984 to 2017, a total of 179 individuals with HIV had been recorded and 27 of whom progressed to AIDS.



Winning the fight against malaria

by NGP Integrated Marketing Communications

In a world besieged by epidemics such as SARS, bird flu, and Japanese encephalitis, it is easy to forget a constant but still potent threat: malaria.

“Make no mistake, malaria continues to threaten nearly half of the world’s population today,” said Marvi Trudeau, Program Manager at Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc (PSFI). “Here in the Philippines, while we are making headway against it, the battle has been long and hard.”

For PSFI, this battle began in 1999 with the initiation of their Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM) program in Palawan. When Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. started the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project, PSFI found that malaria was endemic in the province; this drove the foundation to implement the program. From that time until 2007, malaria had been consistently among the top 10 causes of morbidity in the country.



A Movement Against Malaria volunteer taking a blood sample

“In 2004, for instance, there were 22,425 cases of malaria recorded in Palawan alone. That’s 44% of the total malaria cases recorded in the country that year,” Trudeau said. “But from 50,850 cases in 2004, we saw the number of malaria cases nationwide go down. In 2017, only 4,020 cases were recorded in the country.”

The success of PSFI’s anti-malaria program earned for it a grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) in 2006. KLM then became Movement Against Malaria (MAM).

“We started with the five worst-hit provinces in the country—Palawan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Apayao, and Quirino,” Trudeau said. “Then, we expanded our services to 40 provinces in the Philippines. In 2018, our coverage is down to the 8 remaining malaria-endemic provinces.”

One of the things that contributed to the success of MAM is the dedication of its volunteers. One of them is Paciano Madlay, a banana farmer from Palawan who has dedicated his time as a volunteer of the program for more than 10 years.



Paciano Madlay
Movement Against Malaria volunteer worker of more than 10 years

“When PSFI first came to Palawan, there was really a lot of malaria,” Madlay said. “In one month, no less than 50 people would get sick in our village. They would not go to the barangay hall to get help because they were too shy or afraid.”

So instead, Madlay went to them. “I would bring my diagnostic kit and get blood smears, and then I would walk to the barangay hall two hours away to get those smears analyzed. When somebody comes up positive for malaria, I bring medicine to them, and sometimes, I also bring food in case they don’t have any, because you cannot take the medicine if you have not eaten.”

To ensure that the medicines were fully consumed, Madlay would stay with the patients for two to three nights, keeping watch. “Because if they don’t finish [the medicine], it would not be effective and would be wasted,” he explained.

“PSFI has been very consistent in providing the medicines and supplies we need. They have never failed us. I only hope that the next generation will also take up this volunteerism so that malaria will not return to Palawan again,” Madlay said.

Over the past 11 years, PSFI had already distributed 8.5 million long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and nearly half a million anti-malaria pregnancy packs, sprayed 2.2 million houses with residual insecticides, and trained tens of thousands of health service providers and volunteers. Through these efforts, PSFI has helped prevent malaria from taking more lives.

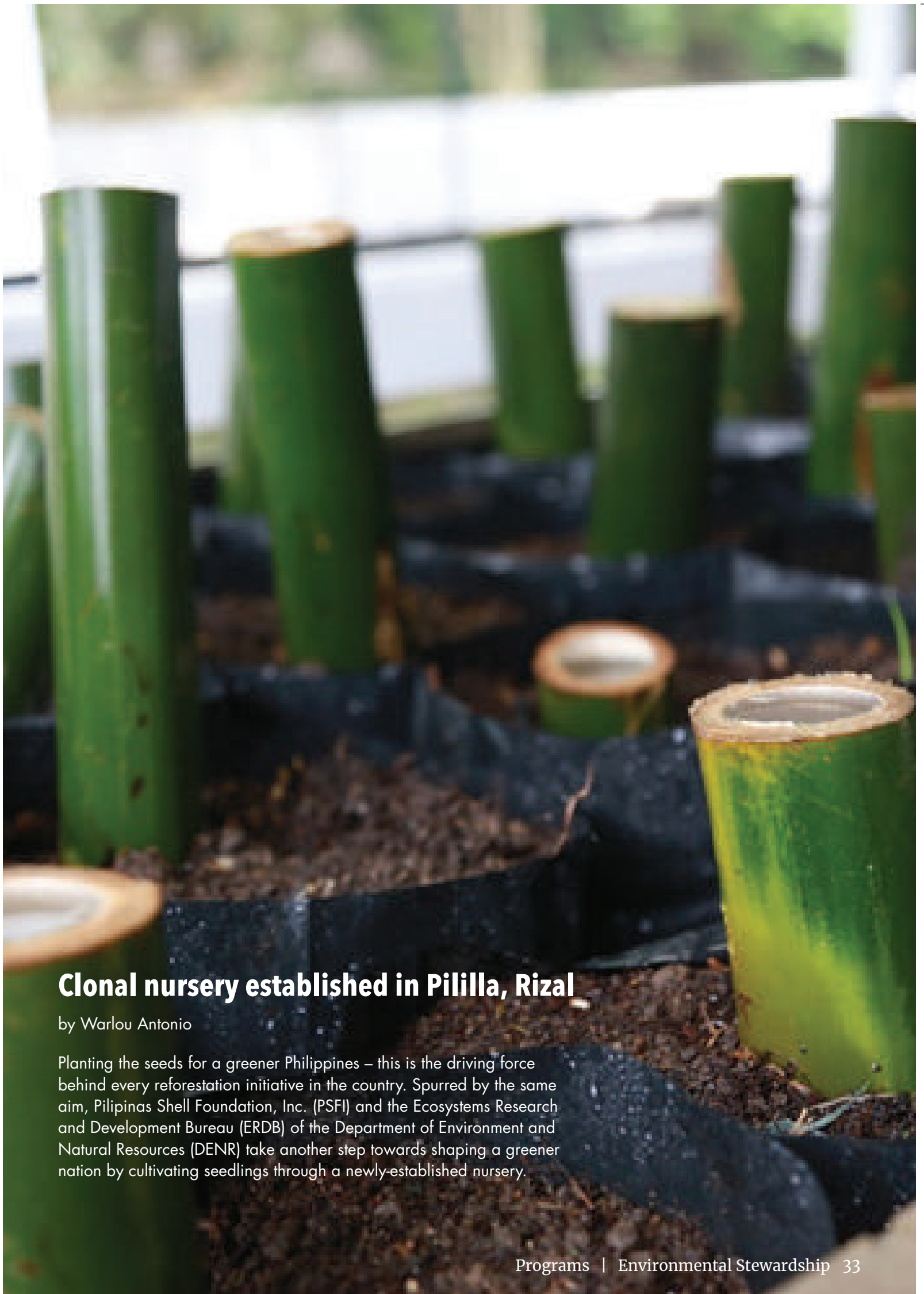
“PSFI will continue its efforts to help achieve the national goal of eliminating malaria in the Philippines through working with government and non-government organizations,” Trudeau said.



Long-lasting insecticide-treated net distribution

***Refer to malaria cases and deaths in the Philippines graph on page 4**





Clonal nursery established in Pililla, Rizal

by Warlou Antonio

Planting the seeds for a greener Philippines – this is the driving force behind every reforestation initiative in the country. Spurred by the same aim, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) take another step towards shaping a greener nation by cultivating seedlings through a newly-established nursery.





Clonal nursery and bamboo propagation facility



Planted cuttings of lipote are sensitive to natural stressors like gust of wind and dehydration. A misting system is employed to keep them hydrated.



Nodal cuttings of bamboo used as propagules for bamboo propagation

The development of a clonal nursery and bamboo propagation facility was agreed between PSFI and ERDB a year ago. Now the 1,000sqm-structure housed at the Shell Training Center in Pililla, Rizal has started operations following its inauguration on July 26, 2018. Training of technical and farm personnel was held from September 12-14, 2018.

Leading the inauguration and ceremonial ribbon cutting were Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) Country Chairman Cesar Romero, PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz, and former ERDB Director Celso Diaz.

The clonal nursery has the capacity to produce up to 30,000 quality seedlings of endemic and indigenous species and 6,000 bamboo propagules in one cycle – around 9 to 12 months – which is a big leap from the numbers yielded by existing infrastructures in a short period of time. This can help broaden the inventory of endemic and indigenous species which are rapidly becoming scarce in the country.

SciP Country Chairman Cesar Romero shared how the project aligns with the company’s overall agenda: “We are proud to be a partner in this project. As many of you know, we are very keen on ensuring that our planet is developed in a very sustainable way. Therefore, environmental conservation and climate change actions are high on our agenda. This project supports that overall agenda, so we see very good alignment between what Shell wants to happen and actually what our country and government want to happen.”

The development of the nursery supports Executive Order No. 193 series of 2015 titled “Expanding the Coverage of the National Greening Program” (ENGP), which targets to reforest 7.1 million hectares of unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands nationwide between 2016 to 2028.

The project reinforces the importance of public-private collaboration in helping the country achieve its goals. ERDB provided the design of the nursery and it will also share its expertise and technical know-how to the Shell team for the successful propagation of quality seedlings.

Former ERDB Director Celso Diaz had this to say about the partnership and significance of the newly inaugurated nursery: “We have a lot of partners in the country but it is very rare for us to have a partner organization like Shell. So, why did we do this? Because our major species for reforestation are dwindling. It’s difficult to source seedlings and planting materials. With the clonal nursery, Shell can produce cloned planting materials on a mass scale and it can be made available any time of the year. This will surely address the concern on the lack of readily available planting materials.”

The bamboo propagation facility is another notable feature of the project. It targets to grow select Philippine bamboo species that can be used for bamboo plantation projects and future livelihood endeavors. “This is an initial move and what excites me also is the inclusion of bamboo propagation for two things: one, bamboo can absorb 3-4x carbon dioxide compared to other species. And also, bamboo provides plenty of livelihood opportunities,” shared PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz.

During the inauguration, Romero also shared how Shell has always been a champion for the environment through its roster of programs that complements the government’s efforts. He highlighted the company’s environment and biodiversity programs, including conservation of the Tubbataha Reefs, coastal cleanups, mangrove planting activities, community waste management programs around its distribution terminals nationwide, and planting of endemic and indigenous species in Mt. Banahaw, Quezon as part of its Carbon Sink Management Program.

The establishment of the clonal nursery and bamboo propagation facility signifies Shell’s commitment in partnering with the government to create a greener and more sustainable future for the Philippines.



Shell and ERDB officers during the inauguration of the clonal nursery and bamboo propagation facility

Shell Training Farm gets organic registration and learning site certification

by Maria Pamela Castro

PSFI's Shell Training Farm in Bombon, Camarines Sur received its Certificate of Registration as an organic farm on June 20, 2018 from the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS). BAFS is the premier government institution in charge of ensuring the integrity of organic agriculture and fishery products. The certification is issued to institutions or entities practicing organic agriculture that are compliant with the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

On June 25, 2018, the farm was certified as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture. As an LSA, PSFI makes available the Shell Training Farm as demonstration area for hands-on learning on integrated farming systems and related technologies of field participants, visit groups, scholarship grantees, and other groups arranged by the ATI.

PSFI hopes to sustain and upgrade its competency in providing appropriate agricultural services to farmers and partners by continuously working with BAFS, ATI, and other institutions.



Organic black and red rice products of STF Bombon



Some of the organic vegetable produce of STF Bombon



Farmers Bagsakan Center at Sumilao Public Market

On December 28, 2017, the Farmers Bagsakan Center at the Sumilao Public Market was launched to serve as a marketing hub for IFBS farmers' produce. Organic vegetable purchases from farmers amounted to Php 150,000 weekly after less than four months of operation and continues to increase, providing additional monthly income of Php 3,000-5,000 to each farmer.

To highlight the gains from the program, the first Farmers Day was held on June 30, 2018. The celebration was attended by IFBS graduates from eight barangays who proudly displayed their organic vegetable produce in their respective booths. Mayor Villo led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the booths, together with PSFI, Ms. Sylvela Dumaguít of the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, and Mr. Benjamin Baluma of the Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council.



Brgy. Lupiagan's organic produce display during the first Farmer's Day in Sumilao



Communal garden established at Brgy. San Roque





Part of Sumilao National High School's garden



IFBS trainees doing direct planting (for vegetable production)

Mayor Villo thanked PSFI for the implementation of IFBS under the Angat Buhay program of the Office of the Vice President by awarding it a plaque of appreciation. He vowed to sustain the gains of the program by rehabilitating the town's farm-to-market roads, allocating more funds for farm tools and equipment, and providing other forms of support to farmers. His vision is for Sumilao to become the organic vegetable basket of Bukidnon.



PSFI Program Manager Maria Pamela Castro receiving plaque of appreciation from Mayor Villo on the first Farmers Day, with Sylvela Dumaguit (right) of the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist and Mr. Benjamin Baluma (left) of the Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council





20 schools reap bountiful harvests

by Maria Pamela Castro

It's always good to know where your food comes from. It's even better when you eat what you've planted and grown. However not everyone has a backyard garden. The alternative? A school garden.

In Rizal and Camarines Sur, 20 schools are now reaping the benefits of their expanded and improved school gardens, through the help of East-West Seed Foundation, Inc. (EWSF) and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI)

In July 2017, PSFI partnered with EWSF in implementing the latter's Oh My Gulay!-Tanim sa Kinabukasan (OMG!-TSK) program in ten schools from Camarines Sur and ten from Rizal that were chosen in coordination with the Department of Education. The program aims to encourage elementary school pupils to plant and eat vegetables grown from their school gardens.

From September 2017 to January 2018, the two foundations trained 55 school teachers, 228 parents, and more than 1,000 grade school pupils on vegetable production. The outputs are 20 beautiful school gardens with more than 1,750 kilos of vegetables harvested after three months.

A key component of OMG!-TSK is the training on the adoption of appropriate and improved technologies in vegetable gardening. The harvested crops then would be used for the schools' feeding program.

Amaranth, mustard, pechay, and kangkong seeds and tomato, eggplant, hot pepper, cucumber, patola, and ampalaya seedlings were distributed to each of the 20 schools. Tools and materials provided include hoe, trowel, rake, shovel, hand-held sprinkler, peat moss, plastic mulch, seedling trays, and organic fertilizers and pesticides. During the harvesting period, the teachers took pride in showing their bountiful harvests from their 500-sq-m gardens.



Delivery of gardening items to Lagundi Elementary School, one of the 20 beneficiary schools of the OMG-TSK! program

In celebration of the fruits of their labor, a Community Day was held in Rizal and Camarines Sur in January and April 2018, respectively. Schools with the best vegetable gardens, art posters, and eggplant dishes were given awards.

During the post-program implementation review, representatives from partner schools expressed their appreciation to PSFI and EWSF. The modern gardening techniques they learned enabled them to optimize the overall garden performance. Apart from benefiting the school's feeding program, OMG!-TSK also helped generate funds from vegetable sales. Moreover, the train the trainers program for teachers equipped them with knowledge that they were able to share with their students. With the positive results of the OMG!-TSK program, the DepEd Divisions of Camarines Sur and Rizal, together with the teachers, have started preparing their plans to improve and expand their vegetable gardens for a more bountiful harvest in the future.

OMG-TSK! program participating elementary schools:

From Camarines Sur: Caranan, San Isidro - Pamplona, Manguiring, San Antonio, Carangcang, Tierra Nevada, Carolina, Soledad Marasigan, Sagrada Familia, and San Isidro - Naga

From Rizal: Talaga, Lagundi, Tomas Claudio, Wawa, Patricio Jarin, Bugarin, Quisao, Niogan, Punta, Palapala



Eggplant dishes cooked on site by the participating schools in the OMG!-TSK Community day cooking contest in Rizal



Poster-making contest winners during the OMG!-TSK Community Day in Camarines Sur



Train them young. Elementary pupils enjoying gardening activities



One of the teachers trained on vegetable production harvesting hot pepper from their school garden



AGRO VILLAGE AND ECO-PARK TO RISE IN EL NIDO

by Gillian Faye Ibañez (Palawan News) and Rachael Nathanielsz





El Nido is not your ordinary municipality. Known for white-sand beaches, limestone cliffs, and coral reefs, it's no wonder tourists keep coming to this world-class destination. But more than the tourist spots, El Nido is rich in land suitable for agriculture. However, not all locals have the capability to use their land for livelihood; that's where Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and its partners come in.

PSFI, in partnership with the Municipality of El Nido and the Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI), will establish the TALINDAK Agro Village and Eco-Park, a center for harnessing the inherent talents and skills of the locals towards empowerment and a hub that promotes environmental protection and conservation while creating opportunities for sustainable employment. It will soon rise in an 8.4-hectare land owned by DA-ATI in Sitio Calampinay, Barangay Pasadeña. Target launch date is 1st quarter of 2019.

Talindak is the name of the first settlement site of the Tagbanuas which later on became El Nido. As an acronym, TALINDAK stands for "Talinong Angkin at Likas-Yamang Iniingatan Natin, Dangal at Kabuhayan ng Palawan."

PSFI Program Manager Marvi Trudeau told Palawan News that the facility will be a "training park" for farmers with the aim of boosting agricultural production in the town whose economy is mainly dependent on tourism. "In a nutshell, it's a training park, but it's more than that. We want it to be a showcase training park so that people will be encouraged to go back to farming. The demand [tourism] is here, but you [locals] don't have the supply."

The project aims to provide quality training on skills and attitudes, with corresponding accreditation and certification for gainful employment and entrepreneurship; increase farm productivity and attain food sufficiency in the locality; address environmental degradation through initiatives such as reforestation and waste management; showcase organic farming systems, business models, and technologies appropriate to the community; and increase family income, thereby improving the quality of life of locals.

El Nido Mayor Nieves Rosento told Palawan News the land property in Sitio Calampinay is appropriate for the project because of its abundant water supply. She explained that the land was once a training center for farmers way back 1983, but due to the lack of support from the government, the land became idle.



DA-ATI Region IV-B Center Director Pat Andrew Barrientos said one of the needs of El Nido residents is proper knowledge on utilizing their land resources in order to address food demand and even supply other municipalities. He added that the project will also inculcate in the minds of children, especially millennials, the abundance and wealth found in agriculture as free trainings and scholarships will be offered to them.

“Here in El Nido, people need skills and knowledge on how to utilize their land. The soil is rich, ideal for agriculture. We will provide the learning area called the National Farmers’ Training Center, a knowledge hub that will make the people realize, especially our youth, that there is really money in agriculture,” said Barrientos.

To ensure the project’s sustainability, income-generating activities will be established to support the TALINDAK Agro Village and Eco-Park’s operations and future expansion; these will include the production of organic vegetables and organically grown fish and livestock to cater to the demand of resorts, hotels, and restaurants in the municipality.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority will provide the farmers with all the basic skills and knowledge, while DA-ATI and PSFI will train them on agribusiness, agritourism, and enterprise development. PSFI will also conduct the following trainings: Integrated Farming Bio-Systems, biodiversity conservation and protection, and climate change mitigation.

PSFI will be primarily handling the management of TALINDAK’s day-to-day operations and monitor the beneficiaries as they establish and develop their individual or group enterprises.



On August 9, 2018, PSFI signed a memorandum of agreement with the Municipality of El Nido and DA-ATI for the establishment of TALINDAK Agro Village and Eco-Park



Planting seeds of growth with organic farming

by NGP Integrated Marketing Communications and Rachael Nathanielsz

For Palawan teacher Linda Gonzaga, the Integrated Farming Bio-Systems (IFBS) training she attended in 2012 led to a sustainable productive livelihood providing support to her family to this day.

Linda hailed from Sebaste, Antique and her husband, Azarael, from Guimaras. After finishing high school, Azarael did not choose to pursue a college degree but opted to engage in farming; his brother supported his decision and bought him a six-hectare land in Brgy. Sandoval, Narra, located in southern Palawan.

When Azarael moved to Palawan, he met Linda, a teacher at Brgy. Tinagong Dagat Elementary School, and they eventually got married. However, life was not all roses for the both of them. In February 1995, their house was totally burned. They were not able to save anything, but did not lose hope and decided to focus on developing their farm.

Linda looks after farm management while Azarael does most of the labor work. While Azarael is the full-time farmer, Linda took the IFBS training conducted by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) in 2012 because her husband is a shy one. She recalls that they started with a calamansi farm to fund their children's studies and after the IFBS training, they started planting watermelon, radish, and corn.



“When we planted a kilo of sweet corn seeds in our farm, we earned P40,000 from our harvest. We used the money to support the education of our four children, one of whom recently graduated as a seaman,” said Linda.

As an alternative to the traditional farming technique called monocropping (planting one type of crop), IFBS promotes planting different crops with the aim of increasing farmers’ productivity and maximizing income. Through harvesting crops at different times, farmers have the opportunity to earn income year-round.

During the IFBS training, Linda was also taught how to make vermicompost and carbonized rice hull. Using what others think are farm waste like rice hull, corn leaves, and stalks to produce organic fertilizer reduces farm cost.



Linda and Azarael’s farm, a product of hard work and patience, was awarded as the model farm in the 2015 Palay Festival in the municipality of Narra. In the same festival in 2017, the couple was recognized as the champion on corn production.

Earlier this year, the couple was also featured in the “Istorya ng Pag-asa” photo exhibit, an initiative of the Office of the Vice President aimed at promoting positivity by spreading stories of hope. During the opening of the exhibit, Linda and Azarael were among those given recognition as outstanding Palawan citizens by Vice President Leni Robredo.

Emphasizing the value of hard work, Linda said: “If you are hardworking, you will find a way to have a source of income. We encourage our children to work in the farm so that they will have something to rely on in the future.”



Thinking not only about growing their own seeds, Linda and Azarael promote farming as a business, sharing their knowledge and skills to their neighbors, relatives, and to school personnel. When asked why they do this, Linda said they simply want to give other people an opportunity to augment their income.



Jeseth Nez Pasagad
Proud Shell intern from Palawan State University

GEARING UP FOR PASSION

by Jesseth Nez Pasagad





In a typical Filipino setting, the only thing that ever matters once children grow up is getting a job that is enough to bring food on the table. Rather than giving the freedom of choosing who we want to be, most Filipino grownups in our generation would try to influence us into choosing a career that prioritizes financial stability over personal fulfillment.

Looking back, my late uncle Ronald used to say that I was fit to become a doctor, a cardiologist to be exact. It was not much of a far-fetched idea at the time, considering that most of my relatives died from heart diseases. To me, it felt like a call of duty, a noble opportunity to give back to the people who nurtured me. When my other uncle ran for vice mayor, it was also Uncle Ronald who wanted me to become a lawyer. Seeing how my family had spent so much on campaigns and an attorney, somehow, everything started to feel ever-changing. Yet, even with the sentiments of responsibility and familial attachment, those occupations failed to give me a sense of being true to myself; it felt like I was being restricted from something that is bigger than who I am.

Engineering, for me, was a diamond in the rough. It was not what I expected to take, but somehow, it's something that I have come to love over time. It never really occurred to me that a seemingly random choice in college would lead me to where I would be in touch with both my passion and my need. Now, as my life story continues to unfold, I find myself at the wake of something both incredible and endearing: my Shell story.

Our internship program started with a holistic 10-day travel from Puerto Princesa City to Manila, Rizal, and Batangas; a chance to visit the Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) headquarters, Shell House, Shell Training Center, and Shell Tabangao Refinery. For five long years, I've been eagerly looking forward to this kind of involvement where my understanding of the oil and gas industry is not limited within the four corners of my classroom. The trip was a much-needed jump-start for an aspiring engineer like me and the experience also served as a reminder of a much bigger world ahead.

The first destination was the SPEX headquarters, where we were warmly welcomed by the cheerful External Relations Manager, Mr. Paulo Gavino. He and the rest of the people inside the office were very friendly and accommodating. I instantly felt a sense of belongingness even as a fresh intern. Having met with four of their employees, Ms. Inah, Ms. Cheryl, Mr. Gino, and Mr. Lorenz, our time there was spent with talks regarding the industry as well as personal conversations about life and career. They told us that they were the products of the Shell Graduate Program, an intensive course that was established in order to maximize one's college degree. In this program, Shell managed to become a breeding ground to a variety of people in all walks of life, giving each professional a niche in the company. It was such an inspiring moment for me to learn from them due to the fact that in our generation, people seldom know where they truly want to be. Ever so often, we millennials are often misled by idealism and impatience in life. Despite that, these four people were able to wade through that same obscurity with consistency and a passion, eventually finding that place here in Shell.





The following day, we traveled from Alabang to Makati for our Shell House visit. It was during this time I realized that Shell transcends from being an international company into being a part of an active and growing community that cares for the welfare of its employees. Upon entering Shell House, you could easily spot their rainbow-colored mats at the elevator entrance, a subtle reminder of the versatility and openness of the company. The rest of the day continued with more meaningful encounters and discussions with Shell's remarkable employees and it was also that time when we had the privilege to converse with the venerable Executive Director of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), Mr. Edgardo Veron Cruz. Unlike most of the people we had previously met, Sir Edgardo was advanced in years. Our encounter with him, although brief, left a significant impact on my personal views about the journey of a young professional. Of all the subjects we chatted about—major life decisions, plans for the future, career—it was his path towards realizing his purpose that struck me the most. To him, our opportunities in life are not limited to the nature of the degree we acquire but rather the skills and talents we possess. He encouraged us to know ourselves better and find avenues to develop our abilities so we can be effective professionals in the industry we work in.

It was now time for us to leave Manila and drive to Pililla, Rizal for an immersion at the Shell Training Center. I was indeed surprised to see how vast and wide the area was with verdant meadows which used to be a refinery. We visited the old administration building which the current staff still occupy, the vermicomposting area and laboratory where we firsthand saw how they culture and create fertilizers for livelihood, and the sports gym for some quality time over badminton and table tennis. Part of our immersion was to drive up to the hills of Rizal and go to the famous 54 MW Pililla Wind Farm, another one to cross out from my bucket list. I've learned a lot about wind turbines and how they work but seeing one up close for the first time was breathtaking. I purposely refrained from taking photos just so I could appreciate the amazing product of science and technology that was in front of me.

The remaining five days of our travel were spent on several plant visits in Batangas. Having been taught numerous theories and concepts about engineering, it was finally the time when I could see all my learnings unfold as realistic models being used in the industry. On my 4th year in college, as a requirement for our Petrochemicals subject, we were tasked to build a miniature of a petroleum refinery. Seeing as I had sufficient prior knowledge, I initially thought that the Shell Tabangao Refinery would just look like an upscale model of our miniature. I have never been so wrong in my life. Shell Tabangao Refinery was a work of art. I could not help but gasp as I saw the towering reactors and columns, the labyrinth of pipelines and the legion of lorries around the area. I had just started my internship but somehow I already felt a sense of fulfilment inside me when we were touring around the refinery. Their engineers were very patient in answering our questions; piece by piece we collected all the information and made sense of the entirety of the place. It was quite a lot to learn but I seized the opportunity. It is not all the time that I get to enter such a remarkable compound at this age.





Our experience was filled with trainings and technical discussions about the process flow of the operation in the refinery. We also had an oil-cooking class and a guided instructional tour around their state-of-the-art laboratory where they test and monitor the quality of Shell's products. The trip had more in store for us. Aside from the Shell Tabangao Refinery encounter, our curious engineering minds were once again stirred when we visited more power plants in Batangas: Kepco Ilijan Power Plant and First Gas Power Corporation. Because of the internship, I had the honor of meeting such talented engineers and managers who are the unsung heroes of our society.

The 10-day trip concluded with an intimate dinner with Shell Tabangao Refinery's External Relations Department. Pictures were taken, business cards were handed out, but the best memory of it all would have to be the effort that the people from Shell had given in order to support the future of five young students from Palawan State University (PSU).

After the trip, our new on-the-job training assignment was ready. We spent the next 30 days at Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation – Puerto Princesa Terminal where we were exposed to the many depot and downstream operations of Shell. The terminal manager, Engr. Cristopher Aparece, gave us each an area of assignment to which I was in charge of the tanker and ethanol-receiving operations. This mainly concerns the transfer of product from the carrier vessel/tanker into the large tanks of the depot for storage. Tanker-receiving operations only happened once a month so the days where there were no transfers, I spent at the admin office sorting out files and documents. During my stay at the terminal, I was able to familiarize and learn the downstream side of Shell. I understood how the additives worked for better quality of fuel and even the transaction and orders from retail customers. More than just technical knowledge, I was also able to create meaningful bonds with the contractors and other workers inside the depot. Our relationship with the workers were built on constant tagging-along and frequent asking. Nevertheless, they were kind enough to guide us throughout the entire duration of our stay in the terminal.





We finished the last 30 days of our internship at PSFI Palawan where we were exposed to the numerous environmental, health, safety, livelihood, and social development programs of Shell. PSFI, being the social arm of Shell companies in the Philippines has been doing breakthroughs in the country so spending our remaining days with them as Shell interns was indeed the perfect cherry on top. Our brilliant and seasoned program manager, Ms. Marvi R. Trudeau, spearheaded all our activities in PSFI. We took part in most of PSFI's significant undertakings: Paskuhan 2017, PSU Malampaya Engineering Laboratory Inauguration, and Love Affair with Nature. Perhaps the joy of it was the mere thought of Shell investing in us, making us realize how they trust our potential to become someone who will also create an impact in the community, just like their employees.

We went on several other relevant travels under PSFI: Turismo at Negosyo Dulot ng Ingat-Kalikasan (TANDIKAN) project at Brgy. Tagabinet where we planted trees and explored the majestic Hundred Caves, Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM) collaboration building visit, and Access to Energy (A2E) project site visit wherein we spent five hours on travel to reach Brgy. Binaluan, Taytay. These are just a few of the many ways PSFI delivers its commitment to enable the disadvantaged become productive and responsible members of society.

My experience with Shell is a journey towards self-awareness: having started studying engineering back in 2013, it seemed to me as though how I liked my field then was sufficient enough to support me through the trials that lay up ahead. Like a moth drawn to the luminescent flame, I became fixated on how I could still work on myself. As I went on and met all of these amazing people, my focus began to shift from just finishing the course to finding ways to improve what I have for myself. Shell made me realize that as a future professional, it is important not only to cultivate what I already have but to actively look for ways in order to grow more as a person. It is with this experience that I was able to look at the bigger picture in life, and somehow, I feel so relieved now, knowing that it was not without sense that I had felt lost along the way.





Jean De Chavez, a proud PSFI SKIL scholar who started working for Honda as a machine operator in 2007 and is now working as their regular employee

The scholar who rolled with life's punches

by Charelaiane Credito and Rachael Nathanielsz

"Will we have food to eat tomorrow?" was her constant worry. It was an everyday struggle that pushed her to give up her college scholarship. She wanted to be an engineer but studying was not the priority. The priority was to have a job to earn a living.

It was a tough journey for Jean De Chavez, a daughter of a fruit and vegetable vendor (mother) and livestock farmer (father) in Batangas. After quitting her engineering scholarship under the Department of Science and Technology, she never thought of applying for another one. It was her mother who pushed her. Without any clear direction as to where she was headed, Jean applied for the Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal (SKIL) tech-voc scholarship under Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) in 2007 and got accepted.

"I just took the chance and told myself that no matter what happened, I should finish the training. I let my college scholarship slip away but I would not let this one go. With regard to the course offered, what would I know about Motorcycle Small Engine Servicing? I just took it to fulfil my desire to earn a certificate from Shell and get a good-paying job."

At that time, Jean's father was very ill and her focus was gathering support for his hospitalization as the medical bill had gone up to half a million. "I was losing my grip but Ina (mother) kept on motivating me to continue until I finished my training," she recalled. "I really wanted to have the certificate and that's all. For me, it would be a reminder that I had accomplished something for myself. It would somehow serve as my edge among others and would expand my chances to afford a better life for my family. It was the cherry for me. I was determined to hit it regardless of the circumstances."





Jean admitted that it was real tough during training. She would usually drink a lot of water for lunch and nothing else. Walking to and from the training center under the scorching heat of the sun was also necessary to save some money. "It became more exciting yet tougher. As days passed by, I learned to enjoy the training discussions and activities. I was torn between keeping the scholarship and looking for a job. We had nothing left. We already sold the appliances we had, including the desktop set bought by my parents to support my studies."

Armed with her drive to keep going, Jean managed to finish the 2-month SKIL training at Batangas Association for Guaranteed Metalcraft Engineering Technology (BAGMET) Skills Training Center and the 11-month apprenticeship with Honda Philippines, Inc. – PSFI's partner in providing apprenticeship and employment. "I learned a lot in Honda and I really strived hard to get the employment. The competition was hard because I had to excel among engineers and college graduates. I remember being teased by one of Honda's regular employees who told me that if I was not a scholar of PSFI, there was no way I could enter the company and I would not be able to get a good job; instead, I would just be an ordinary vendor. That motivated me to focus real hard to achieve my goal. After the assessment, seven PSFI scholars got the job with Honda and I was one of them. I started being a machine operator in 2007 and got regularized in October 2008, well compensated and receiving the same benefit as a junior associate. The position given to me and my progress with Honda was questioned by others because I was not an engineer, but I proved them wrong. The training I had with PSFI was a great help but it never stopped there as I had to keep studying on my own. Learning is a continuous process."

"I am now stable and I do not have any regrets signing up for the SKIL scholarship. I was able to pay the remaining debts for my dad's hospitalization, got my own insurance, and even bought a fully furnished house. I know I am not living the life others are dreaming of because I don't have any fancy things with me, but now, I am living peacefully as I do not have to think of our food for tomorrow and how we will survive. I do not have to think if we have enough money to send my parents to the hospital every time they get sick. This is the kind of life I have always wanted and I am forever grateful to PSFI."

Usually when life hits us hard, we hold on to someone who gives us strength and support. For Jean, it has always been her mother. "She has been with me since day 1. She shared my suffering and I shared hers too. She has always been the reason why I do things, why I work hard and why I choose not to complain about the circumstances in my life. All of the things I have acquired and attained to date are all because of her. If she never mentioned the SKIL scholarship and pushed me hard to not give up, maybe I would not be working for Honda now."

Jean experienced a number of hardships but never did they break her. Here is her advice for all of us who are still trying to figure out our why: "Our plans usually do not go the way we want them to go. There will be a lot of hindrances and reasons for us to get discouraged. We will get disappointed. But best believe that God's plans are bigger and greater than ours. Do not be afraid to test your what ifs. In life, one of the lessons I have learned is, we are the only limit of ourselves. As said in the PSFI Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development Workshop, 'We are here for a purpose.' I found mine and now I am living the peaceful and happy life I have always dreamt of."



A Shell scholar's career journey to Shell Business Operations

by RJ Villanueva and Jasmine Garcia

Education plays a vital role in today's globally competitive and fast-changing world. In this age of digitization, formal education helps in the formation and development of individuals who will be tomorrow's movers and shakers; these are the men and women who will have an active role in social transformation and nation-building.

As part of Shell's corporate social responsibility, a program dubbed as Gas Mo, Bukas Ko Fund for University Education and Leadership Development (GMBK-FUEL) was initiated by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. in 2014. The two-and-a-half-year college scholarship was offered to deserving students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Sta. Mesa, Manila.



Mark Edison Guntan

Interestingly, one of the recipients of this scholarship program was Mark Edison Guntan, who is now working at Shell Business Operations' (SBO) Order-to-Delivery Manila Hub as a Scheduling Administrator for Canada. He is the first GMBK-FUEL scholar hired by SBO. Now, there is a total of four GMBK-FUEL graduates employed by SBO.

Mark's journey as a Shell scholar started in 2014. He was on his 3rd year as an industrial engineering student of PUP when he qualified to the program. "When our college announced that Shell was looking for scholars, I told myself, this one's for me."

Indeed, there's a sense of pride when one is admitted to the scholarship due to its rigid selection process, but along with the prestige that goes with it, one must hurdle the pressures and meet the academic requirements. "For one, staying in the scholarship program was never easy. It was tough." Admittedly, Mark had his own share of frustrations when a low grade in one subject nearly cost him his scholarship. This, however, did not deter him from working hard. All his sacrifices and hard work finally paid off when he successfully graduated and earned his diploma in industrial engineering in 2017.

After his graduation, Mark was prepared to face the challenges in the real world with much optimism. He initially applied for a position in Shell but he didn't get the job; eventually, he landed a job in another company. "I was offered a role and thought that this could build a solid foundation of experience if ever I'd apply again at Shell."

That same year, Mark received a call from Shell inquiring if he was still open for a possible career at SBO-Manila. Thinking he wouldn't lose anything if he tried again, he reapplied for the original job he wanted and got it. "I looked back at the time when I was scouting for a scholarship and Shell was there to help me with my studies. It's fair to say that part of my success was because of Shell," Mark reflected.

"In my four months of stay and working at Shell, I must say that it's an exceptional experience. Shell is composed of diverse personalities, and inclusiveness is also one value I admire most. The team that I am part of now is like a family to me. We all know how to play and deliver as a team."

Lighting up homes in Brgy. Baras, Taytay, Palawan

by Jeri Abenoja

On May 5, 2018, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) lighted up homes in Brgy. Baras (Taytay, Palawan), an off-grid fishing community some 30-minute boat ride away from the mainland.

Under the Save, Invest, Nurture Access to Green Energy (SINAG) program, PSFI brings the Access to Energy (A2E) project to indigenous people communities with no immediate prospects of being connected to any power grids. "In 10 years' time, Baras is unlikely to be energized," said SINAG Senior Program Officer Antero Rebueno.

The A2E project, funded by Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., helps rural villages in the growth of their community enterprise, development of livelihood, improvement of basic health services, and enhancement of education.

58 households in Brgy. Baras have benefitted from the micro-grid project that equipped the community with a 15-kW solar array and a 33-kVA diesel-fed backup generator for cloudy, rainy days. This hybrid power system also energizes their barangay hall, health clinic, day care center, elementary school, and plaza. "Their fish catch can now be stored in freezers, their school can soon have computers, and those who weave mats and make roofing materials can work even at night," Rebueno said.

To ensure the facility's sustainability, PSFI formed and continuously capacitates the Baras Electric Solar Association (BESA) that oversees operation and maintenance. In March 2018, 30 individuals were trained on basic electrical installation and maintenance as well as solar technology.

BESA President Chita Gonzales solicited support from her constituents for the sustainability of the facility: "This will greatly help, especially our children and the following generations, so I urge everyone to do their part in ensuring it would be up and running in the years to come." Since the power-up day in the community, users have been giving their monthly monetary contributions for electricity usage and facility maintenance.

Brgy. Baras is the fifth community to have benefitted from the A2E project, which was piloted in a Batak indigenous community in Sitio Kalakwasan, Brgy. Tanabag, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. By 2024, Rebueno said the A2E program expects to power up 15 more off-grid communities across the province.



Shell executives go on a field trip

by Jeri Abenoja



The top executives of Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) took time to visit Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.'s (PSFI) sustainable development programs in El Nido on August 16 this year.

Country Chairman Cesar Romero led the Shell Country Coordinating Team in the field trip. Sailing from Lio Beach, the team arrived at their first destination – Sitio Ligad. Home of a Tagbanua-Cuyunon community, the coastal village had been off the grid for years. But in 2016, Shell's Access to Energy (A2E) project made a significant change in the village through the construction of a mini-grid. Composed of a wind turbine, solar panels, and a backup diesel generator, the grid is able to power 27 households, three school buildings, a health center, a purok center, and a church. Before the A2E project was inaugurated in the village, trainings on basic electrical installation, maintenance, and solar assembly were also conducted for the community. Filled with joy and tears, the residents of Sitio Ligad warmly welcomed and thanked the Shell team for lighting up their homes.

After taking the time to interact with the community and explore the A2E facility in Sitio Ligad, the team proceeded to their next destination – Barangay Villa Libertad. The Chairman himself, together with El Nido Mayor Nieves Rosento, distributed 26 individual solar home systems to teachers assigned in a far-flung school with no power. "The solar kits will greatly help teachers do their lesson plans at night," said Mayor Rosento.

In the same barangay, the team also witnessed the following activities: distribution of mosquito nets and blood smearing by the Movement Against Malaria team, disaster preparedness and first aid training for teachers jointly spearheaded by PSFI and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and Integrated Farming Bio-Systems training at Western Philippines University – El Nido Campus.

"We are happy this visit happened. The top executives of Shell were able to see firsthand how our programs in Palawan positively impact the lives of Palaweños," said PSFI Program Manager Marvi Trudeau.



ALS community learning center constructed and wind turbine installed by PSFI in Brgy. Decabaitot, Linapacan, Palawan (one of Shell's Access to Energy project sites)

DepEd awards PSFI as Alternative Learning System Champion Partner

by Jeri Abenoja

Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) is one of the seven Alternative Learning System (ALS) Champion Partners for 2018 awarded by the Department of Education (DepEd) in Palawan. On the first ALS Awards and Friendship Night held in the province on September 27, 2018, DepEd recognised PSFI for its contributions in helping implement the ALS Program to indigenous communities.

Through its Integrated Support to Indigenous Peoples (ISIP) program, PSFI helped 554 individuals from 14 communities graduate from the ALS Basic Literacy Program.

Many Filipinos are not able to complete formal basic education due to different reasons such as the immediate need to work to survive, cost of schooling, and lack of schools in remote areas. Hence, DepEd has established the ALS Program to provide Filipinos, especially those who are underprivileged like the indigenous peoples (IPs), the opportunity to complete basic education in a way that fits their and their communities' needs. Compared to formal in-school education, ALS is usually conducted at community learning centres, multi-purpose halls, libraries, or even at home. The classes are facilitated by mobile teachers and district coordinators.

Since 2016, PSFI has been a steadfast partner of DepEd-Palawan in bringing education to far-flung communities. Aside from interventions on education, PSFI also supports Palawan IPs' development through the Access to Energy (A2E) project, medical missions; and trainings on food production, farm productivity, and livelihood.



DepEd Batangas City recognizes PSFI

by Olivia M. Soro

The Department of Education (DepEd) Batangas City recognized Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) for the second time as one of its valuable stakeholders and education partners for public schools in Batangas City for Academic Year 2017-2018.

DepEd handed a plaque of recognition to PSFI on December 19, 2017 during its Education Week Celebration wherein stakeholders from different offices and agencies also received the same recognition for their significant contributions in the development of schools, students, parents, and teachers.

Since 2005, PSFI has supported and provided various programs for elementary and secondary schools of Batangas City such as Road Safety promoting proper road behavior; Junior Fire Marshal educating children as well as adults to become advocates not only of fire safety and prevention, but of safety as a whole – at home, in school, and in the community; Young Writer’s Club training students on responsible journalism; and Green School aiming to improve the health and well-being of students and encouraging them to become stewards of the environment.

Moreover, PSFI in Batangas City actively participates in the annual Brigada Eskwela by bringing in volunteers, cleaning materials, and gardening tools to schools. PSFI also conducts seminars on HIV awareness and health and sanitation as well as trainings on Integrated Farming Bio-Systems for parents, students, and teachers.



DepEd Batangas City Curriculum and Instruction Division Chief Sacoro Comia (left) and DepEd Batangas City OIC – Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Donato Bueno (right) awarding plaque of recognition to PSFI-Batangas team (middle L-R: Charelaiane Credito, Project Officer; Olivia M. Soro, Program Manager; Pete Javier, Project Officer)



Volunteers gather for Brigada Eskwela 2018

by Olivia M. Soro and Jim Palma

More than 100 volunteers from Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) gathered to help schools in Batangas City prepare for the resumption of classes. This is in line with the Department of Education's National Maintenance Week, commonly known as "Brigada Eskwela."

Anchored on this year's theme, "Pagkakaisa para sa Handa, Ligtas, at Matatag na Paaralan Tungo sa Magandang Kinabukasan," all tasks were geared towards the common goal of not just preparing the schools for the opening of classes but also ensuring that all facilities are safe and conducive to learning.

From May 28 to June 1, 2018, the volunteers, who signed up to the Shell ACTS (A Community that Serves) volunteerism program, participated in the cleaning and clearing of school vegetable gardens, cleaning of surroundings and classrooms, and painting of walls and chairs. Led by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), with the help of Shell External Relations Tabangao, and Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI), the activity covered seven public elementary and high schools of TALIM (Tabangao, Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, and Malitam).

Welcoming the volunteers was the School Principal of Libjo Elementary School, Carina Bagon: "On behalf of Libjo ES teachers and parents, we gratefully acknowledge your participation in Brigada Eskwela 2018. With your generosity and commitment to help, you are helping us create a proper learning environment for students. We truly appreciate your valuable contributions."

Emphasizing the relevance of fulfilling the shared obligation of helping communities, External Relations Adviser – Manufacturing, Darlito Guamos, said, "This activity is a manifestation that everything can be successfully done through collective efforts and willingness to extend help. It's rewarding to see the full smiles and warm appreciation of these volunteers braving the heat of the sun and participating in draining activities. We hope that they carry along the gratification and fulfillment of helping as they travel back to their respective sites."

After the activity, a ceremonial turnover was conducted to donate the materials for cleaning and repair which the schools can use for the maintenance of their facilities.



From golf course to classroom

by Rachael Nathanielsz

A caddy's life in the golf course is uncertain. The way to go is having another job or two to earn extra income. Stepping up their game outside the golf course, 12 caddies of The Manila Golf & Country Club (MGCC) saw the opportunity to study and grabbed it without hesitation. They are the first batch of scholars under The MGCC Caddies Livelihood Program, a partnership between The MGCC Foundation, Inc. and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) which aims to improve the livelihood of caddies and their immediate relatives through technical-vocational scholarships.

From April to May this year, 8 of the said caddies took a month-long training on Massage Therapy and 4 on Beauty Care at Cosmos Training and Assessment Center (accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority). The caddies did not only complete the training, but also passed the National Certificate II assessment, a way of ensuring the productivity, quality, and global competitiveness of middle-level workers. Before the training proper, the caddies, like other PSFI scholars, also participated in the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development Workshop designed to develop their socio-emotional and interpersonal competencies.

In recognition of their hard work, the 12 caddies received their certificates and livelihood starter kits during the awarding ceremony last June 19. Present in the ceremony was The MGCC Foundation, Inc.'s current president and Shell companies in the Philippines' (SciP) former country chairman, Edgar Chua, who encouraged the caddies to do well and keep going: "Ang hiling namin sa inyo ay tatlong bagay: una, pagbutihin ninyo ang natutunan ninyo na kasanayan at gamitin ninyo ito para mapabuti ang kabuhayan ninyo at ng inyong pamilya. Pangalawa, maging role model o inspirasyon kayo sa mga kapwa caddies at kayo mismo ang magsabi sa kanila na nakakatulong talaga itong programa. Higit sa lahat, huwag ninyong isipin na dito ito nagtatapos; ipagpatuloy ninyo ang inyong pag-aaral. [We only wish three things from you: first, do your best; use the skills you learned to improve your family's livelihood. Second, be a role model or inspiration to your co-caddies and tell them yourselves how the program has been helpful to you. Most of all, don't think that everything ends here; keep studying.]"

Also present in the awarding ceremony was PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz, who expressed his joy towards the partnership between the two foundations carrying the same aim of helping people help themselves. He also congratulated the caddies for a job well done: "Ako ay natutuwa din dahil nagamit ninyo ang inyong natutunan at mayroon nang mga kumikita kahit it's only about a month na natapos ang training. [I'm also happy because you were already able to use your learnings and started earning even though it's only about a month after you completed your training.]"



Massage Therapy NC II assessment



Beauty Care NC II assessment

On behalf of the scholars, Thelma Padillo (Massage Therapy scholar) wholeheartedly expressed her gratitude to the foundations: "Taos puso po kaming nagpapasalamat sa The MGCC Foundation, Inc. at PSFI. Wala po kami sa harapan ninyo ngayon kung hindi dahil sa inyo. Laking tulong po sa amin kasi po kung wala kaming ligid, nagmamasaha po kami. May regular client na po ako sa aming kapitbahay. We assure na dadalhin namin itong natutunan namin habang malakas pa kami. [We are deeply grateful to The MGCC Foundation, Inc. and PSFI. We would not be here in front of you if not because of your support. The scholarship benefitted us a lot because every time we don't have a job in the golf course, we offer massage services. I already have a regular client in our neighborhood. We assure you that we will carry our learnings with us as long as we are able.]"

The caddy-scholars have been offering massage, manicure, pedicure, and foot spa services to neighbors, relatives, and their co-caddies since they finished their training.

To extend assistance to more caddies and their dependents, The MGCC Foundation, Inc. and PSFI agreed to offer another round of scholarships. Last July 19, the interested applicants attended the orientation and screening. Trainings started October this year.

*Note: 3 Bookkeeping scholars (1 caddy, 2 dependents) from the first batch finished their almost-5-month Bookkeeping training at Fine International Training Center, Inc. in September and passed the National Certificate III assessment in October 2018. They will be awarded with their certificates together with the next batch.



PSFI and The MGCC officers during the awarding ceremony for the first batch of scholars under The MGCC Caddies Livelihood Program (L-R: The MGCC Deputy General Manager Nonette Romero, PSFI Project Officer Marah Villanueva, The MGCC Treasurer and Corporate Secretary Johnip Cua, The MGCC Trustee Michael Escaler, PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz, The MGCC Foundation, Inc. President Edgar Chua, The MGCC General Manager San Agustin Albina)



12 caddy-scholars with their certificates and livelihood starter kits



Published by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.
shell.com.ph/psfi
inquiry@pilipinasshellfoundation.org

