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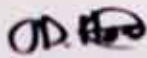
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FinanceAsia

ASIA'S
BEST
COMPANIES
2011

Best CEO

Philippines
Erramon Aboitiz
Aboitiz Power



Lara Wynid
Lara Wynid
Lara Wynid

Aboitiz Foundation, AGAPP
build 45 school buildings nationwide

Open Access
starts in December 2011

Best CFO
Philippines
Iker Aboitiz
Aboitiz Power



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Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.

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Erramon Aboitiz

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Jon Ramon Aboitiz

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FinanceAsia 11th Best Companies in Asia Poll

EIA named Best CEO, IMA Best CFO

Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower) and Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) continue to reap international recognition, as they ranked prominently in FinanceAsia's 11th Best Companies in Asia poll.

The naming of AboitizPower President & CEO Erramon Aboitiz (EIA) as Best CEO and Iker Aboitiz (IMA) as Best CFO for the Philippines headlined this recognition.

In the poll's other categories, AboitizPower and AEV also rated well, improving their ranks from the previous year.

In the Best Managed Company category, AboitizPower ranked 2nd and AEV was at 5th, jumping from their 6th and 11th spots, respectively, in 2010.

For Best Corporate Governance, AboitizPower stayed steady at 6th, same as last year, while AEV improved to 7th from 8th place in 2010.

In the category of Best Investor Relations, AboitizPower ranked 3rd from last year's 7th place,

which is being occupied by AEV this year.

For Best CSR, AboitizPower improved its ranking to 3rd place from last year's 7th while AEV slipped slightly to 7th from the 6th spot in 2010.

In the Most Committed to a Strong Dividend Policy category, both AboitizPower and AEV landed on 4th place, from last year's 6th and 5th spots, respectively.

The two executives received their awards in a by-invitation-only event held last June 15 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. More than 100 senior executives, bankers and market regulators attended the event.

EIA spoke on behalf of the awardees in thanking FinanceAsia for the recognition accorded to Philippine companies in its annual poll. Other companies that ranked high in the poll were PLDT, Ayala Corp., Globe Telecom and Manila Water.

On the overall performance of the Aboitiz Group, EIA said, *"For AEV and AboitizPower to be recognized in almost all the categories is truly a*



As the Aboitiz Group pursues its growth ambitions, we will continue to be driven by our corporate values of professionalism, passion, integrity and innovation.

—EIA



Main awardees AboitizPower President & CEO Erramon I. Aboitiz (4th from left) and AboitizPower Chief Finance Officer Iker M. Aboitiz (leftmost) are joined by (from left) Aboitiz Power SVP-Power Marketing & Trading Luis Miguel Aboitiz; ATR KimEng Capital Partners, Inc. President Manuel Tordesillas; ATR KimEng Financial Corp. Chairman Ramon Arnaiz; AEV AVP-Investor Relations Carmela Franco; AEV SVP-Group Treasurer Gabriel Mañalac; and ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. President Lorenzo Roxas in a souvenir shot after accepting their awards.



These awards belong to the entire Aboitiz team. They have nothing to do with individual talent but rather the teamwork that allows the Aboitiz Group to achieve its goals and those of its stakeholders.

—IMA

great honor for the Aboitiz Group. Likewise, the magazine's recognition of my brother Iker as the country's best CFO, and myself as the best CEO is certainly a reason for elation as well as inspiration for us."

"I accept all these recognition on behalf of the 30,000 team members that currently make up the Aboitiz Group, as well as the thousands more who came before us. We believe the success of one is the success of all," EIA said.

Since going public in 2007, AboitizPower's net income has grown from P4.2 billion to P25 billion by yearend 2010. Over the same period, the company's market capitalization has jumped from P38 billion to P229 billion.

"We have therefore been reshaping AboitizPower to ensure we capitalize on current developments by positioning our business and organization for a more challenging future. As the Aboitiz Group pursues its growth ambitions, we will continue to be driven by our corporate values of professionalism, passion, integrity and innovation."

Both EIA and IMA acknowledged the value and result of teamwork in winning the awards.

EIA said, "Thank you to all of us. These awards are a result of the whole team delivering what our stakeholders expect from us."

For his part, IMA said, "These awards belong to the entire Aboitiz team. They have nothing to do with individual talent but rather the teamwork that

allows the Aboitiz Group to achieve its goals and those of its stakeholders."

Quoting Howard Schultz's book on Starbucks – Pour Your Heart Into It, EIA said, "When you run a race as a team, you'll discover that much of the reward comes from hitting the tape together... Victory is much more meaningful when it comes not just from the efforts of one person, but from the joint achievements of many... Success is sweetest when it's shared."

"While we are very proud of the Group's achievements, we are even more proud of all our team members. The Group is what it is today because of them. They truly are the ones who deserve the awards we received tonight."



FinanceAsia


11th Annual Best Companies in Asia poll

BEST CEO

Erramon Aboitiz
AboitizPower

BEST CFO

Iker Aboitiz
AboitizPower

 **AboitizPower**
A Better Future

 **aboitiz**
Equity Ventures

BEST MANAGED
COMPANY

2nd

5th

BEST CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE

6th

7th

BEST INVESTOR
RELATIONS

3rd

7th

BEST CORPORATE
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

3rd

7th

MOST COMMITTED TO
A STRONG DIVIDEND
POLICY

4th

4th

Aboitiz listed companies improve ratings in ICD Corporate Governance Scorecard

abotiz
Equity Ventures

AboitizPower
A Better Future

UNIONBANK

ATS
Aboitiz Transport System Corp.

PER CATEGORY AVERAGE SCORES					AVERAGE SCORES	
I. Rights of Shareholders	II. Equitable Treatment of Shareholders	III. Role of Stakeholders	IV. Disclosure & Transparency	V. Board Responsibility	2010	2009
100%	100%	100%	96%	97%	98.4%	93%
98%	100%	100%	92%	97%	96.9%	91.6%
86%	100%	100%	91%	86%	91.3%	90.3%
92%	92%	100%	91%	88%	91.5%	90.6%

AEV Chairman Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Aboitiz Power SVP—Power Marketing & Trading Luis Miguel Aboitiz and UnionBank Chairman & CEO Justo A. Ortiz accept from ICD Chairman Jesus Estanislao and ICD President & CEO Rex Drilon II (leftmost) the awards for the recognition of their respective companies for adhering to best corporate governance practices.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), AboitizPower, UnionBank and Aboitiz Transport System Corp. (ATS) are among the top scorers in the 2010 Institute of Corporate Directors' (ICD) Corporate Governance (CG) Scorecard for Publicly Listed Companies (PLCs). All four companies increased their scores from the previous year.

AEV and AboitizPower notably improved their ranking from being silver (those with scores from 90% to 94.99%) to gold (scoring 95% and above) awardees. AEV's average score was 98.4% in 2010 from 93% in 2009, and AboitizPower scored 96.9% last year from 2009's 91.6%.

Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) and ATS also improved their scores, maintaining their silver awardee status. From the 2009 average score of 90.6%, UnionBank improved its score to 91.3%, while ATS increased its rating to 91.5% from 2009's 90.3%.

Now on its sixth year, the CG Scorecard results measure the PLCs' compliance with CG rules and regulations as well as globally accepted practices. Companies were rated in five categories, namely, rights of shareholders, equitable treatment of

shareholders, role of stakeholders, disclosure & transparency, and Board responsibility.

"Having both AEV and AboitizPower in the gold category underlies the importance given to good corporate governance in the Aboitiz Group, as do the improved scores of UnionBank and ATS. Corporate responsibility and financial performance go hand in hand, and we take both seriously," said AEV President & CEO Erramon Aboitiz.

ICD presented the awards during its 8th Annual Dinner held at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila last May 25. AEV and ATS Chairman Jon Ramon Aboitiz, AboitizPower SVP for Power Marketing & Trading Luis Miguel Aboitiz, UnionBank Chairman & CEO Justo Ortiz accepted the awards.

Also present at the ceremony were UnionBank President & COO Victor Valdepeñas, AEV Chief Reputation Officer Sebastian Lacson, and AEV and AboitizPower Chief Compliance Officer M. Jasmine Oporto.

ICD conducts the CG Scorecard annually together with its partners, Center for International Private Enterprises, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Ateneo De Manila Law School, and the Institute of Internal Auditors.



AboitizPower among Asia's best in corporate governance

AboitizPower's brand promise to increase shareholder value based on a commitment to corporate governance best practices has been acknowledged by corporate watchdogs. The company is one of the awardees in "The Best of Asia" Recognition Awards 2011 given by the Corporate Governance Asia journal, joining other reputable companies from Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and the Philippines.

AboitizPower Chief Compliance Officer M. Jasmine Oporto received the award from Corporate Governance Asia publisher Aldrin Monsod at a dinner ceremony held at the Conrad Hotel in Hong Kong last June 20. She thanked the publication "for recognizing our commitment to the three pillars of 'ESG' — Environmental, Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance."

The quarterly journal, considered the region's most authoritative publication on corporate governance, provides news and analysis on governance issues, boardroom practices and shareholder activism.



AboitizPower Chief Compliance Officer M. Jasmine Oporto accepts from Corporate Governance Asia Managing Director & Publisher Aldrin Mosod the award on behalf of the company, which was recognized for its continuing commitment to the development of corporate governance in the region.

AEV, AboitizPower bullish about further growth

By Rianne Tecson

AEV and AboitizPower turned in record performances in 2010, and both companies are pursuing strategic plans for further growth.

AEV and AboitizPower President & CEO Erramon Aboitiz reported last year's financial and operating highlights of the two listed companies and revealed ongoing projects and plans during the annual stockholders' meeting at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu City last May 16.

"Over the last few years, we have remained resolute in our objective to assemble a portfolio of power assets that would not only complement each other but also make us more competitive over the long run...We remain excited about the prospects of the Philippine economy and will not stop developing generation projects to augment our economy's generation capacity," Aboitiz said.

He said during the Cebu briefing that while AEV, as a group, faced a lot of challenges in the first quarter of 2010, the Group was able to take advantage of these. He added that as the Group continues to improve its core businesses, it will keep in mind the need to continue helping communities and protecting the environment.

Aboitiz also reported that AboitizPower continues to be bullish about its potentials for growth, after posting a record net income of P25 billion in 2010. Of the amount, P24.4 billion came from the generation business.

"Our plants were available to play a crucial role in partially covering the power supply shortfall in the Luzon grid caused by higher demand growth, major outages of other plants due to either scheduled maintenance or equipment breakdown,

and the effects of El Niño. Our two power barges in Mindanao and the commissioning of our Sibulan hydro also aided in assuaging the Mindanao power shortage."

The power distribution business contributed a total of P1.9 billion in income to AboitizPower's 2010 bottom line, a 23% increase from 2009, and representing 7% of earnings contribution to the company.

In both gatherings, Aboitiz explained the decision of AEV to divest its shareholdings in Aboitiz Transport System Corporation and assured shareholders that their investment will not be affected by the development.

The same information and other matters that were agreed during the May 16 meeting were then relayed to stockholders in a separate briefing last May 18 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.



Catching up with colleagues

After a long day for some, with two stockholders' meetings and two board meetings, Busay's fresh air was a welcome respite and the Ma. Luisa Clubhouse a perfect setting to relax and wind down.

This year's Meet the Board was the third time the event was held, which EIA envisioned as a once-a-year opportunity to relay relevant messages to senior team leaders across the Aboitiz Group. Given that many AEV and AboitizPower team leaders are in Cebu for the stockholders' meetings, it seemed little additional effort to get the non-AEV and non-AboitizPower officers to join the evening.

To many, the Meet the Board event has become a chance to catch up with colleagues from other companies and see how they are doing.

EIA got the evening off to a heady start by discussing analysts' reports from AEV and AboitizPower from years past and observing how quite a few of their recommendations and price targets have been rendered obsolete by what has happened to the Aboitiz Group since then.

He then segued into how the growth has created increased expectations, which, in turn, the entire Group is expected to deliver this year and in the coming years. Some of the proverbial winds behind our backs, which could be a number of things like high real estate prices, strong construction demand, elevated power prices and so on, are possibly gone, and the onus is on everyone to start rowing as the winds die down.

The crowd received the exhortation with a cheer, implying that they were all up to the challenge.

As a visibly pleased EIA ended his presentation, JRA took the microphone to propose a toast to EIA and IMA for their FinanceAsia awards as Best CEO and CFO, respectively.

Happily, all six independent directors of AEV and AboitizPower were able to join the event. They had a chance to interact with Group officers they normally don't have much contact with, giving them an idea of the caliber of people who work in the Aboitiz Group.

As the tucking in began in earnest, I could tell from the looks on everyone's faces that the evening was a tremendous success.



AEV's Creating the Future Organization for Team Leaders

An Amazing Adventure Experience

By Mia Borja

Joseph Campbell, the famed scholar of mythology and philosophy who wrote the groundbreaking book *The Hero of a Thousand Faces*, offered his readers the map of an archetypal hero's journey. Campbell wrote that in order for one to be a truly fulfilled modern-day hero, he must leave the comfortable to seek out experiences that will purposely test and stretch him.

The Creating the Future Organization seminar, or CFO as it is popularly called, has been offering exactly this adventure experience to hundreds of team members across the Aboitiz Group for many years now. Facilitated by Chief HR Officer Txabi Aboitiz himself, the CFO is a three-day affair highly anticipated by many team members.

This year, 20 team leaders from AEV and AboitizPower excitedly gathered for what many described as "one of the most profound seminars one would ever go through" in their corporate life. Their adventure was held at the Costabella Resort Hotel in Mactan last May 25 to 28.

Inspired by the workshop design of the US-based Pecos River seminar, the CFO experience has always been an amazing adventure for all who have attended it. Almost everyone who has graduated from the workshop are amazed at the profound learning and its impact gained through the Ten Tenets and the experiential course.

The team leaders' CFO adventure kicked off with dinner and an evening session with Txabi Aboitiz and the introduction to the 10 tenets. Valuable leadership insights on choice, chaotic leadership, success, and lifelong learning were shared among the participants well into the night.

Day Two was spent learning about the other eight key tenets of CFO through a mix of activities, individual reflections, and discussions.

It is Experiential Day Three, however, that has always been the highlight of the entire CFO experience, and even for team leaders, the magic of the ropes course revealed itself. The group of 20 was divided into two "tribes," and together they

took on the challenge of conquering the three "dragons" of the RAFI course in Mactan.

The usual fear of heights and humiliation gradually eroded as participants successfully climbed, crossed, and overcame the three "dragons." The experiential course lasted well into early evening, leaving everyone tired but very happy at the day's unexpected accomplishments. Day Three ended with a "bonfire" sharing activity where the leaders shared their realizations and insights with one another.

Day Four saw the birth of two of the newest CFO tribes: Tribu MANimal and Tribu WootWoot with Patrick Reyes and Hoton Elicano as their respective datus.

Undergoing the CFO experience is only the beginning. Tribes are formed so CFOers can provide a close and supportive network that would help each member achieve his personal and professional goals in the next few years. The tribes are also meant to maintain the momentum of team spirit and interdependence long after the CFO is over.

At the close of their CFO sessions, most of the team leaders agreed that it was one of the most enjoyable and most rewarding learning sessions they had attended in a long time. Many commented on how they realized that something as simple as the power of choice or thriving on change could





have such a profound effect on the way they can live their lives.

Others rediscovered their own potentials, revisited their forgotten dreams, and made new friends who can wholeheartedly support them in their quests to revisit long-forgotten goals.

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage," wrote the author Anaïs Nin. A refreshed view of work and life is usually the hallmark of a CFOer. It is keeping alive the passion to pursue the goals the leaders have set out for themselves that

is the next challenge. With the unrelenting support of tribemates and a renewed choice to live the life "in the direction of our dreams," the journey will continue to be more enjoyable and certainly be worthwhile.

The CFO training is available upon request, and is part of the Aboitiz Universal Training Plan for all employees in all levels within two years of employment. Please contact carminia.borja@aboitiz.com should you be interested in the CFO experience.

The 10 Tenets

Freedom of Choice
Thriving on Chance
Sense of Purpose
Recognition
Fair process

Lifelong learning
Cutting edge
Communication
Check & Balance
Interdependence



AEV names new scholars, partners with Manila schools

By Vianney Yap



AEV FVP Luis Miguel Aboitiz (center) and AEV Talent Attraction Manager Valerie May Cruz (leftmost) with Manila-based scholars, from left, Christopher Erwin Lota, Shirley Romano, Kim Baldonado, Dixie Ann Medina, Riqi Macapagal, Kristine Florita, Susan Salomon, Angie Lyn Diaz, and Rodrigo Rellama, Jr.



Chief HR Officer Txabi Aboitiz and AEV VP for HR Nancy Lim with the Cebu scholars (standing from left) Jay Joshu Rabaya, Arvin Padilla, Peter Nelson Avila, and Prince Descartes Jode Ciriaco, and (seated), Chumescene Rebadomia, Jezrah Salmayor, Mary Immaculate Ducot, and Angeli Monique Siladan

Out of 524 applicants, AEV has chosen 18 new scholars for 2011 under the Aboitiz College Scholarship Program (ACSP). Successful scholarship recipients signed a memorandum of agreement with AEV last June 4 at Casino Español de Cebu and June 11 at New World Hotel Makati.

Now on its fourth year since it was re-launched in 2008, the ACSP awards deserving undergraduate students with a scholarship,

which covers tuition expenses, other miscellaneous fees, books, and transportation allowances. The scholarship is renewable every semester as long as the scholar maintains the grade requirement and makes good progress towards earning a degree.

The ACSP is open to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in any accountancy, business/management, IT or engineering courses.

This year, the program extended its partnership to include Manila schools. Of the 18 new scholars,

nine are studying at the Technological Institute of the Philippines (Manila and Quezon), San Beda College, and Mapua Institute of Technology.

Other ACSP partner-colleges and universities are Cebu Institute of Technology–University, Central Philippines University (Iloilo), Silliman University (Dumaguete), St. Theresa's College, University of Cebu, University of San Carlos, University of San Jose– Recoletos, and University of the Philippines Visayas–Cebu College.

Aboitiz scholars attend Kool Adventure Camp

By Vianney Yap

Thirty-three Aboitiz college scholars participated in a three-day Kool Adventure Camp (KAC) last April 1–3 at the Boy Scout Camp in Lahug, Cebu City. The group was composed of 10 AEV, 7 VECO, and 16 Aboitiz Foundation scholars.

KAC is an adventure-based education program of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. that seeks to build character, develop competence, and inspire active citizenship among today's youth.

"This is the first time we gathered the scholars from different Aboitiz companies. We

wanted them to know and bond with each other and at the same time, learn important values," said Aboitiz Foundation Project Officer Christel Ponce.

The scholars shared their insights and learnings during the camp.

"Before I joined KAC, I thought that the principles I lived with in facing and solving the problems were okay but I realized that there are better ways to defeat and slay these 'dragons' in a way that it will be a win-win situation for everyone," says AEV scholar James Kemuel Ibañez.



Aboitiz Foundation scholar Rosell Quiño also shared, *"I can face my fears and conquer them if I would strongly think I can. I think that's the best thing I learned. I will be if I would just think I can be."*



SUMMER INTERSHIP PROGRAM. Ten scholars successfully completed the second run of AEV's Summer Internship Program (SIP) from April to May 2011. SIP, which runs for approximately six to eight weeks, aims to provide AEV scholars with valuable experience in their fields of interest or specialization such as accountancy, business management, IT and engineering. The scholars were given projects and process enhancements to work on in their assigned departments and were also closely mentored by Aboitiz team leaders. This year's SIP was actively supported by Cebu Private Power Corp., East Asia Utilities Corp., Pilmico Foods Corp., UnionBank and Visayan Electric Company, Inc. **–Vianney Yap**

Roberto E. Aboitiz is named 2011 CEO Excel Awardee

By Nancy Cudis

Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) President Roberto E. Aboitiz is among the awardees of the 2011 Communication in Excellence (CEO) Excel Awards conferred annually by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines.

The awarding was held last June 7 at the Enderun Colleges in Taguig City.

The CEO Excel Awards, the highest individual award of communication excellence given by IABC Philippines, is given to top-level Philippines-based business leaders who masterfully and effectively champion the use of excellent communication as a business strategy.

Aboitiz won the award under the non-government organization category for strengthening the Communications Team of RAFI, providing proactive information on the foundation and building partnerships with individuals and organizations that share the same passion for development work.

RAFI's Communications Team is structured to cover traditional media and digital media with four communication specialists each handling an area—public relations and tri-media publications, production and digital media—and equipped with the tools of the trade.

Aboitiz also established the RAFI Correspondents Awards conferred to employees who have “gone the extra mile” to advocate for the Foundation and its programs.



Roberto E. Aboitiz (center, with plaque), president of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., is among the winners of the 2011 CEO Excel Award. With him are (from left) Jeffrey Tarayao, IABC Philippines trustee; Ritzi Villarico-Ronquillo, vice president of IABC Philippines and head of 2011 CEO Excel Awards; Elpi Cuna, chairman of IABC Philippines; and Carmencita Arce, president of IABC Philippines.

Distinctive of Aboitiz is his *bugsay* philosophy of leadership that encourages all to pick up their *bugsay*, or paddle, and row forward.

“Receiving the award is a proud moment for all of us at RAFI. The recognition signifies that the Foundation is effectively bringing its programs and initiatives closer to the communities we serve through communication,” Aboitiz said.

He was accompanied during the awarding by his wife Ma. Cristina, also RAFI executive committee chairperson; his children Amaya, Tristan, and

Ana; RAFI Communications Officer Haidee Emmie Palapar; and Communications Assistants Nancy Cudis and Golda Epondulan.

This is the second award bagged by RAFI this year. The first was in February when it garnered the “Anvil Award of Merit for public relations program—sustained basis: arts and culture/heritage/tourism” for the “Gabi sa Kabilin (Night of Heritage) 2010” in the 46th Anvil Awards conducted annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines.

APPOINTMENTS



Luis Miguel Aboitiz
Director
ACO Board

LMA was elected director of Aboitiz & Co. last March 28, replacing Mr. Luis (Louie) Aboitiz. Mr. Louie, as ACO team members fondly call him, has been a powerful driving force for the company, being one of the main agents of change and innovation that

have taken the Group to where it is today. LMA has large shoes to fill but with his track record of excellence, he will also be a catalyst for value creation and change, and could help steer the Group towards greater success.



Iker M. Aboitiz
Advisor
ACO Board

IMA was appointed as advisor to the Board of Directors of Aboitiz & Co. last March 28. He started in the Corporate Planning, Treasury and Corporate Finance Departments and eventually moved on to become the Chief Finance Officer of the Aboitiz Construction

Group and FBMA. He is currently AboitizPower's CFO and FVP. With his vast experience, keen sense of finance and strong brand of leadership, IMA is undoubtedly an asset to the Board and could contribute in bringing the Group to greater heights.

APPOINTMENTS



Irwin Pagdalian
AVP-Special Projects
AboitizPower Distribution

Irwin joined the Aboitiz Group in 1980 as a staff engineer of Davao Light, where he rose from the ranks and eventually co-lead its Engineering Group. He also served as the AVP for VECO's Power Systems Design. Prior to his appointment in AboitizPower, he was the AVP/General Manager of

Mactan EnerZone Corporation and Balamban EnerZone Corporation. Irwin is a licensed engineer and has a degree in Electrical Engineering from Cebu Institute of Technology. He also studied Management Programs at the Asian Institute of Management.

NEW LAWYERS



Golda May Gabriel
Junior Lawyer
AEV

Golda joined AEV in January as a legal intern. She passed the Bar exam last March.



Tara Tsarina Perez
Junior Lawyer
AEV

Tara was a legal intern of the AEV-Cebu Legal team before getting hired as a junior lawyer. She passed the Bar exam last March.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM



Marilou Plando
AVP for Legal Business
Administrator
AEV

Prior to joining AEV, Marilou worked as an operations director and a senior account manager at Sykes Asia Inc.

She also used to work as quality engineer at Lear Automotive for 4 years. She is a BS Industrial Engineering graduate of University of San Jose-Recoletos. She is also a certified Six Sigma Green Belt.



Joshua Angelo Aquino
Applications Administrator
AEV-Makati

Huey is a Computer Science graduate of the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and used to work as an IT specialist of SM Prime Holdings, Inc. before he joined AEV on April 18.



Bengie Bayer
Corporate Auditor
Cebu

Prior to AEV, Bengie taught Finance subjects at the University of the Visayas (UV). He was a delegate of the 3rd Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit in 2008 and a member of the Aboitiz OJT Program for Corporate Audit Team. He is an Accountancy graduate of UV and is a certified public accountant.



Irene Heidy Francisco
Trader
AboitizPower

Irene was with National Power Corporation before she joined AboitizPower as trader. She graduated from University of the Philippines

with a degree in Social Work and holds a master's degree in Business Administration major in Financial Management.



Charles Conrad Lim
iCSD Security Administrator
AEV

Charles was previously a senior systems administrator of Xlibris Corporation. He also used to work as network engineer of Ng Khai Development Corporation and systems administrator of Basic Graphics Inc. Charles earned his diploma in Computer and Electronics Technology from Systems Technology Institute.

Khari Development Corporation and systems administrator of Basic Graphics Inc. Charles earned his diploma in Computer and Electronics Technology from Systems Technology Institute.



Edward Limosnero
Paralegal
AEV

Edward was a delegate of the 4th Aboitiz Future Leaders Business Summit. He also joined Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc.'s 1st

Emerging Pinoy Leaders Congress last December 2010. He finished his Political Science course at the University of the Philippines Visayas-Cebu College.



Cristina Maceda
Paralegal
AEV

Cristina is a Management Accounting cum laude graduate of the University of San Carlos and is a member of the Junior Philippine Institute

of Accountants.



Harmone Jay Naparota
Service Desk Engineer
AEV-Makati

Harmone is a cum laude graduate of Silliman University, where he finished his Information Technology degree. He is also a recipient of the Outstanding Student of the Year award from YMCA Negros Oriental.



Nicolo Maro Quimbo
Project Officer
Aboitiz Foundation

Nico is a Development Studies graduate of the De La Salle University. He reports to Jowelle Ann Cruz, senior project officer.



Glym Reuyan
Taxation Lawyer
AEV

A certified public accountant and lawyer, Glym worked with Lexmark International (Philippines) Inc. as finance manager before joining AEV.

She is an Accountancy graduate of the University of San Carlos and finished Law at the University of Cebu.



Raul Soriano
Senior Account Officer
AESI

Before he joined AESI, Raul was connected with Banco de Oro and Citibank, NA as credit card distribution manager. He finished his degree in Human Resource Management at the De La Salle University.

Talent attraction heads learn best practices

By Kim Villacrusis



The Recruitment-Talent Attraction heads of the different business units (BUs) gathered in Cebu last April 6 for the Talent Attraction Summit held at the Corporate Center AVR. The one-day workshop-forum allowed them to learn best practices and to know each other.

In his opening remarks, AEV Chief Human Resource Officer Txabi Aboitiz said, "*Talent*

attraction is everyone's challenge. We need to focus on what we need today and what we need tomorrow. And we make sure that we have the right people going in. We must adopt, learn, experiment and share new ways."

The Summeet sessions, which incorporated and presented new ways as well as best practices, included discussions on measuring recruitment turnaround time and what it means to the HR customer and to the company; real recruitment metrics that deliver

results; and providing hiring officers with a better understanding of PreVisor Online Test Reports to support targeted selection.

Also discussed were how today's social media helps address the search for talent; the different features of the Aboitiz Group Career Website; job advertisements that win the war for talent; and taking steps towards investing in the Gen Y talent.

You can't teach what you don't know, & you can't lead where you won't go.

—JESSE JACKSON

Inspired by passion

Davao City Council endorses AboitizPower's P25-billion coal power plant

The Davao City Council has endorsed the P25-billion, 300-megawatt (MW) Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFB) coal-fired power plant project of wholly owned AboitizPower subsidiary Therma South, Inc. (TSI). The endorsement was made during the council's regular session last June 7.

TSI will utilize Clean Coal Technology (CCT), which seeks to reduce harmful emissions in many ways, among them the use of CFB. This enables the highly efficient production of electricity while capturing harmful particulates (sulfur and carbon dioxide) with sorbents and precipitators to prevent them from entering the atmosphere.

Citing the city's needs for power to propel its growth and the need to address the looming power crisis in Mindanao, 23 of the 24 councilors present approved a resolution endorsing the project. One councilor objected to the resolution and another was on leave.

Council presiding officer Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the vote was for the future of the city.

"We need power for the city. This vote was about control. We want this plant inside Davao so we will have control and jurisdiction over it," he said.

The councilors earlier voted, 23-1, to adopt the joint report of the committees on energy, environment, health and trade recommending the endorsement of the project.

The council also approved on first reading the proposed ordinance reclassifying the area on which the proposed power plant will be built from protected medium-industrial to heavy industrial zone.

The four committees had held three different committee hearings on the project since April that allowed the project proponent to present the project as well as the oppositors to present alternatives and to question the proposal.

"The power crisis that the city of Davao and the whole island of Mindanao is facing is real and the government and the private sector must join hands to cushion the people of Davao from the adverse and debilitating effects of such a crisis," joint committee chairperson Pilar Braga read from the report.

"Given the advances of modern technology and with the direct and constant supervision of government, a coal-fired power plant is relatively safe for the environment and human health and shall follow appropriate emission standards," she added.

Seen as an enabler, the clean coal project can provide livelihood opportunities, and can help encourage the private sector to invest in greenfield initiatives in the region.

Davao City's approval came more than two months after the neighboring municipality of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur approved the project. Host barangays Binugao (Davao City) and Inawayan (Sta. Cruz) also issued separate resolutions interposing no objection to the project last April.

"The positive outcome of the council's deliberations reconfirms the joint effort of the public and private sectors in solving the power situation in Davao City in particular and Mindanao in general. We have been in Mindanao since the 1930s and remain committed to provide Mindanao with competitive power to support its development," AboitizPower President Erramon I. Aboitiz said.

The demand for electricity for Davao and the rest of Mindanao is growing steadily but the supply, unfortunately, has been lagging behind the needed

baseload capacity. Mindanao is already facing a power shortage. Government estimates that by 2014, the shortage will be around 480 MW—enough to cut off the entire power supply to the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Gen. Santos, Zamboanga and Butuan—unless power supply generation is increased soon.

A balanced mix

AboitizPower FVP for Mindanao Affairs Manuel Orig said the company is committed to finding the right balance of energy sources to meet the power needs of Mindanao, particularly Davao City. *"Our corporate philosophy is to provide safe, clean energy sources that benefit communities and protect the natural environment,"* he added.

AboitizPower operates hydroelectric plants in Davao and Benguet, and will build more hydro plants in the next two years. Five projects have already been started this year. In Davao, the company is set to construct Tudaya 1 (6.6-MW, upstream of Sibulan A) and Tudaya 2 (7-MW, downstream of Sibulan B) in August 2011. Expected completion is by December 2012. Two other plants in Kitawtaw, Bukidnon—the 18-MW Sita and 12-MW Simod—are due for completion in 2013. In Benguet, the Irlsan 3.8-MW hydro facility is expected to be completed by September 2011.

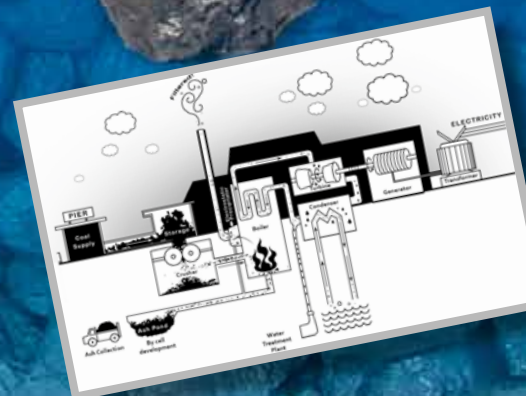
However, these hydropower plants are dependent on ideal water levels—something that is affected during dry months. Low water levels result in low power generation. Orig said, *"This is why together with these hydroelectric plants, clean coal-fired plants must also be ready to use. We need to get the right mix of power from different sources so that even in the summer or during El Niño, Mindanao will have reliable power."*

"We are happy to receive the endorsement from the Davao City Council. We shall now double our efforts in meeting the requirements of the local government and national agencies," Orig said. *"We are looking forward to delivering our promise of building and operating a clean and reliable clean coal power plant that the residents of Davao and Mindanao shall be truly proud of."*

The coal-fired power plant will be constructed in a 52-hectare property in Barangay Binugao in Toril, Davao City and Inawayan in the municipality of Sta. Cruz. No less than 1,000 people will be needed for the 40-month construction of the facility and 200 people will be employed during the plant's regular operations.

The Board of Investments (BOI) has granted tax incentives to the multi-billion project. Under the current Investment Priorities Plan, power generation projects are among the preferred business activities qualified for incentives such as income tax holidays and duty-free entry of imported equipment.

"The positive outcome of the council's deliberations reconfirms the joint effort of the public and private sectors in solving the power situation in Davao City in particular and Mindanao in general. We have been in Mindanao since the 1930s and remain committed to provide Mindanao with competitive power to support its development," AboitizPower President Erramon I. Aboitiz said.



Hydroplants beefed up for rainy season

Hedcor's 10 run-of-river (ROR) hydropower plants in Benguet are undergoing the final stages of rehabilitation in preparation for the coming wet season. The rehabilitation started during the summer months, when river flow is not sufficient to run the units.

During the rehabilitation, plants shut down their power-producing units one at a time for repairs and take turns to accommodate the water that still flows down to the system. Once one unit has been repaired, another generating unit is shut down and the newly repaired unit is then turned on to take its place.

Hedcor's power plants are exposed to natural calamities such as typhoons and monsoon rains. As an ROR setup, the systems rely on the natural flow of water to generate electricity. Though these constant showers can be beneficial to ROR systems, heavy downpours of rain can also expose the system to damage due to landslides.

The first showers of the year usually pose the most threat to the ROR systems because loose soil and debris flow inside the pipes clogging them up. The clogging can also cause a vacuum effect to occur within the conveyance pipes forcing shutdown.

To prevent this, manual desilting is conducted near the weir to remove loose soil and gravel before they enter the conveyance. Rivers also benefit from manual desilting as loose trash and debris are also removed from the river before they flow downstream.

The annual rehabilitation of plants is a regular program of Hedcor to assure efficient operation in the production of clean and renewable energy and will be completed by the beginning of May 2011.



A welder meticulously checks the inside of the 2-km conveyance line of Hedcor's Ampohaw plant for damages during shutdown. The annual rehabilitation of Hedcor's power plants assures that systems can run at optimum performance throughout the rainy season.

Hydro company named as KAPATID finalist

Hedcor, Inc. has been named finalist in this year's Kapatiran sa Industriya (KAPATID) Awards.

Nominated by the Department of Labor and Employment – CAR, this is Hedcor's first try at the KAPATID Awards. Hedcor received its trophy from Vice President Jejomar Binay last May 4.

The KAPATID Awards is a biennial event of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines. It aims to provide national recognition to companies that exemplify the best workplace policies and programs highlighted by industrial peace and harmony, quality and productivity, social accountability

and strategic visioning, and partnership for business and job survival.

Over 20 nominees underwent an executive committee screening, with only 11 making it to the finals.

Apart from the KAPATID awards, Hedcor has also been widely recognized for its initiatives in occupational health and safety. A three-time Gawad Kaligtasan at Kalusugan Awardee, Hedcor was awarded the Labor Secretary's Award last year as well as its safety officer Jose Tabanda who received the Individual Award. For its zero lost time incidents from accidents, Hedcor also received the Safety Milestone Award of 2010.

SNAP-Benguet achieves safety record

By Rhoda Santos

Hydroelectric power specialist SNAP-Benguet posted a combined 3.75 million man-hours of zero loss time incident (LTI) as of April 2011 for its Ambuklao and Binga hydroelectric power plants.

This LTI-free record of both power plants continues despite extensive facility upgrades since it took over the operation of the plants in 2008. The 75-MW Ambuklao has posted close to 1.6 million hours of zero LTI while the 100-MW Binga plant, first-time recipient of a safety milestone award from the Department of Labor and Employment last year, registered a zero LTI record of 1.17 million hours.

SNAP-Benguet's safety record can be attributed to employees' and contractors' adherence to international occupational and safety guidelines.

The company gave the staff regular toolbox sessions on behavioral safety issues, correct operational procedures, first aid trainings, and emergency evacuation drills. It also reinforced a strict policy on alcohol consumption after office hours plant-based on-site workers.

SNAP-Benguet also commemorated the International Labor Organization World Day of Safety and Health with a firefighting competition, report of unwanted occurrences recognition and awarding, and safety seminar.

It also held dialogues on proper driving practices, use of access roads, disaster preparedness, and flood warnings with neighboring communities to ensure their safety throughout the rehabilitation work.



Vice President Jejomar Binay (center) is joined by the Hedcor team, led by SVP Chris Faelnar (holding trophy), and members of the board of judges during awarding night.

Ambuklao plant unit 3 starts WESM trading



SN Power Country Director Bjorn Holsen, SNAP-Benguet CEO Emmanuel Rubio, and AboitizPower SVP Power Marketing & Trading Luis Miguel Aboitiz affirm their partnership as they announce the commercial operations of Ambuklao plant's Unit 3 Turbine on June 1, 2011. The plant underwent rehabilitation in 2008 and is set for full operations by yearend 2011.

The Ambuklao hydroelectric plant of SN AboitizPower Benguet (SNAP-Benguet) is now trading at the Wholesale Electricity Sport Market (WESM) as the plant's Unit 3 turbine has begun commercial operations.

SNAP-Benguet received a certificate of registration for the plant's Unit 3 as a participant in the WESM effective June 1. In May, the Ambuklao underwent a successful rotation and synchronization to the Luzon grid.

Located in Bokod, Benguet, the plant now has 35 MW of capacity after two years of rehabilitation following a 12-year shutdown. Purchased in 2008 by SNAP-Benguet, plant rehabilitation began that same year to increase its capacity from 75 MW to 105 MW. The rehabilitation is due for completion in the third quarter of 2011, enabling a fully operational Ambuklao plant by yearend.

The plant's upgrade is considered an engineering feat as it entailed the construction of a new intake, headrace and penstock, the elevation of a tailrace tunnel outlet, the de-silting of the tailrace tunnel and the replacement of electro-mechanical components.

SNAP-Benguet's renovations on its other facility, the Binga hydro plant, are ongoing. The refurbishment, which began in 2010, will increase the plant's capacity from 100 MW to 120 MW, one unit at a time within three to four years.

Despite extensive plant rehabilitation, the Ambuklao and Binga plants have a remarkable safety record. As of April 2011, these power facilities posted a combined 3.75 million man-hours of zero loss time incidents arising from workplace injury.

Open access to start in December

Large electricity users will finally be able to choose their own power suppliers when government implements the open access system starting Dec. 26, 2011.

In a decision dated June 6, 2011, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) declared that Dec. 26 would "mark the commencement of full operations of the competitive retail electricity market in Luzon and Visayas."

"All electricity end-users with an average monthly peak demand of 1 megawatt for the 12 months preceding Dec. 26, 2011 should have the right to choose their own electricity suppliers and are, thus, enjoined to exercise such right to their full benefit," the ERC said.

Initially, only large power users will be able to choose their power suppliers but eventually, households will also enjoy the same arrangement. Large-scale customers will be allowed to obtain electricity from Retail Electricity Suppliers (RES) licensed by the ERC.

Under the current system, consumers are left with no choice but to get power from suppliers that have jurisdiction over their respective areas.

The open access regime is expected to further encourage competition among power industry stakeholders, resulting in fair electricity prices.

The ERC decision further assured the public that there is sufficient power supply to meet the surge in demand that will be brought on by the open access regime.

For the Aboitiz Group, this is a much-anticipated development upon which the entire business development strategy has been anchored. The entire AboitizPower team eagerly awaits the commencement of open access.

The ERC also directed the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) to submit its list of projects aimed at improving the transmission capacity of the Luzon and Visayas grids.

The customer switching system was identified as another important component of the retail market. This should be supported by a business-to-business (B2B) system to be maintained and operated by an entity managing the central registry for the retail market.

The B2B system is intended to be an information technology-supported hub for retail market participants mainly for information exchange for switching, billing and settlement purposes.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA) had specifically laid down pre-conditions for the commencement of the open access system. These are:

- (a) Establishment of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM);
- (b) Approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges;
- (c) Initial implementation of the cross subsidy removal scheme;
- (d) Privatization of at least 70% of the total capacity of generating assets of the National Power Corp. (NPC) in Luzon and Visayas; and the
- (e) Transfer of the management and control of at least 70% of the total energy output of power plants under contract with NPC to the independent power producer (IPP) administrators.



AUTHORITY. SNAP President & CEO Emmanuel Rubio receives the RES license from ERC Chairperson Zenaida Cruz-Ducut. The RES allows the power generation firm to compete in the contestable market once open access and retail competition are implemented. Also present at the awarding are ERC commissioners (from left) Jose Reyes, Atty. Maria Teresa Castañeda, SNAP's Alberto Canlas, and ERC commissioner Rauf Tan.

Therma Mobile acquires four power barges

Therma Mobile, Inc., acquired four units of the barge-mounted floating power plants moored at the Navotas Fish Port Complex in Navotas City last May 27. This P2.3-billion deal with Duracom Mobile Power Corp. and East Asia Diesel Power Corp. is seen to help alleviate the electric power shortfall in Luzon.

The Navotas barges are bunker C-fired diesel plants designed for peak load application, and will contribute to the region's power supply needs. When fully operational, the barges will have an aggregate deliverable generating capacity of 242 MW. The units had not been operating for almost five years.

"We believe these assets have a strategic value for AboitizPower's generation portfolio. The power barges' mobility and quick-start capability help complete the balanced mix we are trying to create," said AboitizPower President and CEO Erramon I. Aboitiz.

A power barge is essentially a floating power plant that can be towed to and moored in different areas. Transfers, however, require meticulous preparations and permits from various agencies although AboitizPower has no immediate plans to relocate the units. The company's priority is to have the barges rehabilitated and foresees completion of rehabilitation by December 2011, and for the facilities to start generating power within the first half of 2012.

Therma Mobile will handle the operational needs of the Navotas barges, and will be selling to the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market and offering ancillary services.

APRI signs agreement for green power supply



AboitizPower and SteelAsia partner for a long-term power contract to protect the environment by maximizing the use of renewable energy. Present during the signing are (from left) AboitizPower VP for Marketing Roland Gaerlan, AboitizPower SVP for Power Marketing & Trading Luis Miguel Aboitiz, Steel Asia President Benjamin Yao and SteelAsia COO Antonio Lorenzana.

AP Renewables, Inc. (APRI) is set to provide 70 MW of power to SteelAsia Manufacturing Corp., a world-class steel maker based in the Philippines. SteelAsia supplies more than 70 percent of the Philippines' infrastructure, including high-rise buildings, shopping malls, schools, factories and power plant construction.

"We commend SteelAsia for their strong business sense and we look forward to having this business relationship with them. We have great respect for them; they are a company with tremendous foresight for the country's future and with an inspiring commitment to protect the environment. AboitizPower shares this commitment,"

said Luis Miguel Aboitiz, AboitizPower SVP for Power Marketing & Trading.

The contract between AboitizPower and SteelAsia was signed last April 15 and will be in effect from Dec. 26, 2012 to Dec. 25, 2024.

SteelAsia president Benjamin Yao said the new partnership represents the mutual advocacy of both companies to push for Philippine progress while making sure that the environment is protected.

"SteelAsia has great faith in the country's future. To have plans is great but taking action is just as important. This contract with AboitizPower is one action that hopefully, will also spark confidence among possible investors," he added.

Therma Marine supplies energy to Davao Oriental

Therma Marine, Inc. (Therma Marine) has agreed to supply 3 MW of electricity to Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DORECO).

Signed by Therma Marine COO Jovy Batiquin and DORECO President Luisito Gregorio last March 25, the Energy Supply Agreement aims to help DORECO ensure its operations and services to its Davao Oriental Province franchise.

The average monthly contract energy is 553,000 kWh based on the Contract Energy Schedule. The contract will take effect a year after the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission.

DORECO Chief Executive Officer-Engineer Gregory Dukil said Therma Marine would help the cooperative in servicing its 76,000 member-consumers within its area coverage.

"The decision to contract with Therma Marine is one of the most important decisions ever made by the Board of Directors during this time of crisis and uncertainty," said Dukil, who witnessed the signing between the two companies.

With its stellar track record, DORECO had chosen Therma Marine to solve the cooperative's problems regarding the power shortage from the hydro plants of National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR).



Unit II, one of the four barges



Management Conference 2011

Strengthening ties

By Ruann May Pogado & Gerard Castillon

Distribution utilities Davao Light and Cotabato Light held their respective Management Conference (ManCon) recently not only to foster ties between management and employees but also identify how the whole team can help achieve the companies' goals for the year.

Davao Light, with its core value of teamwork, aims to continually strengthen the management-employee relationship to improve the company's performance and image. To help achieve this goal, the company organized this year's ManCon around the theme Building Bridges. More than 100 team leaders and supervisors attended the one-day event held at the Waterfront Insular Hotel last March 11.

Davao Light President Jaime Jose Aboitiz explained the directions for 2011 of AboitizPower's distribution utilities, while EVP & COO Art Milan presented the company's overall 2010 performance. Team leaders of the different departments then discussed their respective teams' 2011 directions and strategies.

Also present at the ManCon were AboitizPower's Raul Lucero, VP for Engineering-Distribution Group; Jun Cubos, VP for Special Projects; and Dante Pollescas, SVP and COO for the Enerzones. All three previously worked at Davao Light.

A few weeks later, the ManCon presentations and discussions were cascaded to the Customer Retail

Services, Engineering and Administration groups. Milan; Rodger Velasco, VP for Engineering; and Lito Ortiz, VP for HR presided over the sessions.

Cotabato Light, on the other hand, had the theme Better Ways for Better Days during its ManCon held last April 13 at its conference room.

Plans and targets for the year were laid during the presentations. A commitment rite was also held, where participants made pledges while lighting candles to signify their passion for better ways.

Gracing the affair were Milan, also Cotabato Light COO; AboitizPower AVP for HR Sye Aniga; Davao Light AVP for Branding and CorpCom Ross Luga; HR Manager Champ Yared; Cubos; and Ortiz.



Veco spreads anti-illegal tapping law in Cebu City dense barangays

By Rebecca Eufan

The Visayan Electric Company, Inc. (VECO) conducts weekly forums in different barangays within its franchise area as part of its effort to lower systems loss by protecting its assets and lowering incidence of electricity theft and pilferage. The forums, or pulong-pulong, organized by VECO's Revenue Protection Department headed by Engr. Noel Modesto, reminds the public of the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 7832, or the "Anti-electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994." Modesto and his team informs consumers on the consequences of meter tampering and illegal tapping to electrical lines, which was one of the causes of fire in dense areas of Cebu and Mandaue cities last year. VECO also emphasized that violation of RA 7832 has its corresponding penalties and that probability of fires and eventual loss of life and property is high. Aside from the weekly information campaign, VECO also relocates meters to keep pilferers from tapping to the secondary lines.

The meter relocation and elevation, called



VECO Revenue Protection Department Supervisor Louie Malig-on educates customers in Barangay Tinago, Cebu City on the consequences of illegal tapping.

as Elevated Clustered Metering (ECM) project, was done in Barangays Mantuyong and Guizo, Mandaue City last March 18 and 22, respectively. ECM will also be done in areas in Cebu City where

illegal connections are reported rampant, such as Barangays Duljo Fatima, Mambaling, Ermita, Carreta, Tejero, Lorega, San Roque, Tinago, Day-as, Kamagayan and public markets.

VECO contractors renew deals

By Rebecca Eufan

VECO contractors Centro, Countrywide, Cereli, Copper and MCISCO renewed their contracts with the power company, enabling them to continue serving the distribution company's customers in Metro Cebu.

Robert Timogtimog, VECO's Customer Retail Service Department (CRSD) manager, stressed the contractors' value during a briefing with them,

mentioning VECO's sales growth, parallel to the increase of customers in 2010.

"2011 is another important year for us," Timogtimog said. "We have to maintain the customers' trust and you are part of that solution. We are willing to share our technology with you, as our partners, for you to speed up, to become faster and efficient in service delivery. It is essential to

include you in our continuous trainings as part of our people development."

The CRSD will focus on three areas—operations efficiency, regulatory compliance and people development.

"A fast and efficient operation would gain a higher revenue and reduce losses, which would also mean proper allocation of resources," Timogtimog said, adding that they are now reviewing their operational procedures to improve existing standards and create new ones.

Coming up with a training module for contractors is also being considered.

Also present during the discussion was VECO's VP for Customer Services Group and Admin Ricky Lacson, who expressed his gratitude to the contractors.

"We were and are happy to have you as our service partners, and we acknowledge that you are part of the organization," Lacson said. "Now, we would like to know how we can help you. For this year, we want to raise the bar in customer service."

Countrywide manager Mera Kintanar and the other contractors said they were open to Lacson's idea but said that they would know inputs from their employees as they are the ones on field.



Contractors renew their contracts to continuously serve VECO's customers. In the photo are (from left) Veco Billing and Collection Manager Bong Sanie, Copper's BOD Chairman Ronie Awing, VECO CRSD Manager Robert Timogtimog, Cereli Gen. Manager (GM) Celso Lavador, VECO VP for CSG & Admin Ricky Lacson, MCISCO GM Jay Deloso, Copper GM Hazel Espina, Centro GM Aldren Sanchez, Countrywide's Mera Kintanar and Gualberto Villaver Jr., VECO's Jill Hamoy, VECO's MRD Supervisor Ronnie Gonzales, VECO's CSG Staff Meryll Yuamador, MCISCO's Ariel Abaquitia and MRD Supervisor Lloyd Ybañez.

Pearl project goes live in Cotabato Light, SEZ

By Re Perry Gallos & Yolanda Cawagas



Cotabato Light's customer service group and frontliners learn the ropes of the newly implemented Customer Care & Billing System or Pearl 3 project.

Distribution utilities Subic EnerZone Corporation (SEZ) and Cotabato Light implemented last March 25 and May 11, respectively, the Customer Care & Billing System (CC&B) as part of their continuing effort to improve their services.

Some features of the CC&B, which was developed by Oracle, include optimized customer satisfaction, precision billing for multiple products, modular architecture, and low cost of ownership.

The distribution utilities are using the CC&B to help reduce paper flow, provide easy access to files, and ensure efficiency in their operations and customer satisfaction.

SEZ's go-live period has gone very smoothly with the help of VECO team members. Cotabato Light, on the other hand, was assisted by a team from Davao Light.

Oracle Utilities' CC&B handles every aspect of utility customer information—service connection, meter reads, rating, and billing, among others, while also undertaking associated functions like payment processing, collections, field service, and meter management.

MEZ transfers NGCP metering...

By Kim Khyber Anton Niño Ang

Mactan EnerZone Corporation (MEZ) transferred last April 24 its metering setup from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) to its new location, adjacent to the company's substation control room.

The transfer involved the dismantling of the old metering structure, hauling of meter instruments, and tapping of overhead lines. NGCP, for its part, did the wiring and installation of the potential transformers, current transformers, and revenue meter.

NGCP supplied the metering equipment in advance to ensure minimum downtime during the power interruption. Before the actual transfer, MEZ also did preparation works such as fabrication of new steel platforms, pole erection, and pole dressing.

...to implement substation road concreting

This year, MEZ will conduct a bidding for its road concreting project within the compound of its substation.



Site development was done last year when the company backfilled its existing leased area to maximize the full use of the lot. Currently, the area is now the site of the new NGCP metering.

The project will allow easy access for company and visitors' vehicles.

The project is handled by MEZ project engineer Kim Khyber Anton Niño Ang and supervised by MEZ head for technical operations Ronald Allan Petilo.

SEZ installs additional SF6 breaker for substation

Subic EnerZone Corp. (SEZ) has installed an additional 69kV SF6 circuit breaker for its 100MVA Subic Substation along Causeway Road Extension, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The operation aims to increase reliability and flexibility of the substation's 69kV line supplying the company's Maritan and Cubi substations.

Civil works were awarded to JC Lee Construction; these include foundation construction, steel support for electrical equipment, and additional lattice frame structure.

The existing circuit breaker at the Cubi substation was temporarily removed to give way to the construction of foundation works. Existing primary lines of the structure were also revamped.

SEZ has also installed two Automatic

Circuit Reclosers (ACR) along Argonaut Highway, Kalayaan Heights, at the Freeport Zone.

ACRs provide electric service continuity by removing from the system a faulted circuit brought about by natural causes.

Subic Bay has a large wildlife population, including monkeys and bats that regularly touch electric lines, causing power interruptions. ACRs will eliminate such lengthy power outages for a more reliable and stable power distribution system in the freeport.

ACRs are designed to reconnect power after detecting and interrupting a line fault. If the fault is temporary, the equipment will allow power to be restored instantly without human intervention. *—John Louis Ducos*



'FIRST' LEAP. Cotabato Light brand champions get updates on Aboitiz Group branding initiatives through the Learn and Experience AboitizPower (LEAP) activity. Topics during the two-day activity, the first for Cotabato Light, included an AboitizPower refresher, Earth Hour campaign, Alter Space launch and the Human Energy photo contest. *—Mary Mae Siang*

City Savings Bank opens 27th branch, brings services closer to Samar folk

By Rianne Tecson



Traveling from Borongan City and Arteche town in Samar to Tacloban City in Leyte takes at least five hours. From Maslog and Jipapad towns, you need at least a day to get to Tacloban.

Just until recently, for City Savings Bank (CitySavings) clients, this meant leaving their homes the night before or early dawn just to be able to transact with the bank as soon as it opens at 8:30 a.m.

Other clients would borrow money for fare, lodging and meals in case bank transactions took more than a day to complete. Student depositors, on the other hand, skipped school on days when they needed to go to the bank.

All these concerns, however, have since been addressed.

Upholding its commitment to serve clients at its best, CitySavings recently opened its Borongan City branch, its 27th nationwide, providing more convenience to the thrift bank's borrowers in the area.

CitySavings AVP-Marketing Harry Abellana led bank officials during the April 12 opening attended by Borongan City Mayor Ma. Fe Abunda and Department of Education (DepEd) 8 Director Luisa Yu. On opening day alone, the branch was able to facilitate the release of loan applications.

The new branch caters to the banking needs of clients from 16 of Samar's 22 municipalities.

Natividad, a depositor, shares that with the new branch she can save more as she only spends for lunch every time she goes to the bank, unlike before when she had to spend for a full day on meals. She also likes the fact that she is now able to get a good night's sleep before a bank visit.

With distance and travel time no longer a problem, clients now start coming in as late as 10 a.m. and can even submit their loan applications just before closing time at 5 p.m.. There is no more need to worry about catching the last bus or jeepney trip back home.

Adonis, another depositor, says he feels a lot safer now that CitySavings has a branch in Borongan City. He doesn't have to worry about going home late, and more importantly, his loan proceeds remain intact because he no longer has to spend on meals and accommodations.

Borongan is the sixth branch of CitySavings, an Aboitiz company, in Eastern Visayas. Other branches in the region are in Ormoc and Sogod in Leyte, and Calbayog and Catarman in Samar.

CitySavings Borongan has deposit products like regular savings, Kaugma-on Savings, Savings Plus, and ATM accounts, as well as high-yield time deposits. It offers DepEd salary loans to public schools teachers, its main market, under the Education Department's automatic payroll

deduction system. The bank also grants salary loans to government and private sector employees, home mortgage and home improvement loans, as well as small business loans.



ANOTHER AWARD. CitySavings-Iloilo branch was among the 30 public and private institutions that were awarded with the Pearl of Excellence in Public Service award. The giving of the award by Iloilo City-based newspaper Panay News last April 30 highlighted the paper's 30th anniversary celebration. Opened in 2004, the Iloilo branch is CitySavings' first branch in Region 6. More branches have opened since, bringing to seven the total number of branches in the region.

UnionBank awarded by Megalink

UnionBank has been recognized by Megalink for being the Top 1 Bank with the Highest Controllable Approval Rate for 2010. The award signifies that among Megalink's 18 member-banks, UnionBank has the least scheduled/shortest downtime (that is, being temporarily disconnected to the Megalink system for regular system maintenance). This translates to a high accessibility or availability of the bank's automated teller machines (ATMs) for use by customers and the general public.

UnionBank SVP-BNMG Head Dennis Matutina received a silver-plated wooden replica of an ATM from Megalink President & CEO Benjamin Castillo during Megalink's recent Members Appreciation Gathering. It was the first time Megalink honored its members with special awards.



Megalink President & CEO Benjamin Castillo hands the ATM replica award to UnionBank SVP-BNMG Head Dennis Matutina.

How it Works

EON, E-wallet and ePayCard are the debit cards available for receiving remittances. Filipinos working in UAE can visit any UAE Exchange branch where they will simply provide the recipient's UnionBank Visa debit card number, give the remittance amount and pay the remittance fee to initiate the funds transfer.

The UnionBank Visa debit cardholder beneficiary in the Philippines then receives the funds in minutes and can start to shop or use it to pay for bills immediately. If the UnionBank debit cardholder has a valid mobile number registered with the bank, a text message will be sent by UnionBank shortly after receipt of the transferred funds.

The service does away with the need for senders to fill out complicated forms and provide routing information such as bank codes and branch addresses. Funds are credited directly to the recipient's Visa debit or Visa prepaid card in minutes, freeing recipients from having to visit agent locations to collect cash.

UNIONBANK STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING. UnionBank held its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27 at the Edsa-Shangri-La Hotel. Chairman & CEO Justo A. Ortiz and President & COO Victor Valdepeñas addressed the attendees with their respective reports. UnionBank ended 2010 with a net profit of P5.4 billion. The bank's profitability ratios strengthened and continued to exhibit higher performance than industry. Return on shareholders' equity (ROE) at 15.5% and return on assets (ROA) at 2.2% were better than industry's 12.7% and 1.4%, respectively. With prudent expense management initiatives, the UnionBank kept its revenue-to-expense ratio at its target level of 2:1. Gearing up to Basel III implementation, the capital adequacy ratio exceeded the 10% regulatory minimum on a wide margin as it ended at 17.0% from 16.1% last year. In terms of market position, among private domestic commercial banks last year, UnionBank was 7th largest in assets; 3rd in ROE; and 2nd in ROA and revenue-to-expense ratio. In photo, (from left) UnionBank Chairman & CEO Justo Ortiz fielding questions as SVP/Corporate Secretary Fe Macalino, President & COO Victor Valdepeñas and Vice Chairman Jon Ramon Aboitiz listen. *-Malu Evaristo*



A FIRST IN ASIA

Fund remittance via UnionBank's Visa debit cards

By Mags Surtida

Visa, in partnership with UnionBank, has launched a service that is the first in Asia. The service enables UnionBank account holders with UnionBank Visa debit cards to receive funds from overseas straight to their cards quickly and securely through the Visa Money Transfer facility.

This facility is more convenient than other alternatives as recipients no longer have to visit an agent location to collect cash. Instead, funds are deposited directly into the UnionBank cardholders' Visa debit cards. Funds can then be used to make purchases at millions of local and global establishments that accept Visa cards, as well as

withdraw cash from more than 1.8 million ATMs in the Philippines and around the world.

Iain Jamieson, Visa country manager for the Philippines and Guam, said: *"Adding a remittance feature to Visa cards makes a lot sense as the Philippines is one of the world's most sophisticated remittance markets. Visa cards offer the best way to make purchases and withdraw cash, and they are now the best way to receive overseas remittances as well, literally within minutes."*

He added, *"It is fitting that our first rollout of this service in Asia is in the Philippines, and is further proof of Visa's ability to deliver world-class products and services to its customers here, in partnership with innovative banks like UnionBank."*

UAE Exchange, a leading provider of remittance services in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a network of 90 branches across the country, will be the first remitter to offer the service to the Philippines, with other key markets for Filipinos working overseas to be added in the coming months.



UnionBank President & COO Victor Valdepeñas, Chairman & CEO Justo Ortiz, and Iain Jamieson, Visa country manager for the Philippines and Guam, show a remittance-ready UnionBank EON Card during the Visa-UnionBank Money Transfer Service launch at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on June 8.

Gov't, biz leaders ink pact for better infrastructure for Cebu

By Rianne Tecson

AboitizLand President and CEO Andoni F. Aboitiz (AFA) joined private and public stakeholders in supporting a partnership that seeks to provide better infrastructure facilities for Cebu.

The project, dubbed as Public-Private Partnership for Better Infrastructure (PBI), brings together civic, business and government leaders in supporting infrastructure investments that seek to promote economic development and poverty reduction.

It will be implemented by the Research Educational Institutional Development Foundation in partnership with the Cebu Business Club (CBC). AFA heads CBC's infrastructure committee.

"I am extremely excited about the project.



Infrastructure is a fantastic way to get the economy going. The benefits go down to the lowest level (of society)," AFA said in his message.

Government officials led by Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia and Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama were also present to signify their support, along with

representatives from the Department of Tourism and Department of Public Works and Highways.

Garcia welcomed the project, saying partnerships like this are what have made Cebu the top province in the country.

"It is not only the leaders who define the direction of Cebu. There are also Cebuanos with a strong sense of volunteerism who partner with the government and do what is best for Cebu," the governor said.

As stated in the agreement, stakeholders hope that with the PBI, they could help the province in attaining a more sustainable and inclusive growth.

The agreement was signed last May 13 at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel.

Ajoya opens 1st model house

Delan, the first of the Ajoya house models, was recently opened for viewing at the project site in Cordova, Mactan. Ajoya is an emerging riverside community developed by AboitizLand and is Cebu's first and only Asian Filipino-themed residential project.

The Delan is a two-bedroom single-story detached unit with living and dining areas. It is generously provided with ample room for planned expansion.

Ajoya is designed to encourage an easy lifestyle, with wide roadways, abundant greenery and the breezy

atmosphere within the riverside environment. The 15-hectare community has an open-type clubhouse, standard-sized basketball court, a community assembly area, children's playground, al fresco picnic area with barbecue station and a recreational pool. AboitizLand community shapes are integrated into the village's lush landscaping.

Ajoya is within minutes from the Mactan International Airport, the Mactan Economic Zones, the beaches and commercial areas. It is less than an hour's drive from key points in Cebu City.



More shops open at Persimmon Plus

Pueblo Verde, The Persimmon Plus AboitizLand's commercial centers, now give Cebuanos high-quality dining and shopping options similar to those found in malls with the recent opening of ThreeSixty Pharmacy, Pan de Manila and Dong Juan.

The Persimmon Plus and Pueblo Verde are set to open more food outlets in the next few months. The Persimmon Plus is located on M.J. Cuenco Ave. in Barangay Mabolo, Cebu City while Pueblo Verde is found in Barangay Basak, Lapu-Lapu City. *—Arianne Jenille Manzo*



Pilmico signs Notes Facility Agreement



Present during the Pilmico notes signing were (standing, from left) Angelito Evangelista, EVP–Robinsons Savings Bank; Auralyn Torres, VP–Bank of the Philippine Islands; Mayo Jose Ongsingco, President–Insular Life; and Anna Maria Ylagan, VP–Chinabank Savings Bank. Also present were (seated, from left) Renato Carpio, FVP–Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation; Arlene Lotilla, Head of Global Markets–ANZ Philippines; Stephen Paradies, Chief Finance Officer–AEV; Sabin M. Aboitiz, President & CEO–Pilmico Foods Corporation; Gabriel Mañalac, SVP/Group Treasurer–AEV; Ma. Lope Mabatid, CFO–Pilmico Foods Corporation; and Margarita San Juan, SVP–China Banking Corporation.

For the first time, both Pilmico Foods Corporation (Pilmico Foods) and Pilmico Animal Nutrition Corporation (PANC) have tapped the debt capital markets. The two companies signed last April 5 a Notes Facility Agreement for the issuance of a P1.29-billion Multi-Tranche Fixed Rate Notes for Pilmico Foods and a P600-million 5-year fixed notes for PANC.

Issue Manager and Bookrunner is the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group with the following as note holders for Pilmico Foods: Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Robinsons Bank Corporation,

Banco de Oro Unibank–Trust & Investments Group, BPI Asset Management and Trust Group, The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd. and Chinabank Savings Bank Trust.

For PANC, the note holders are China Banking Corporation and Robinsons Bank Corporation. Notes Facility Agent is Security Bank Corporation Trust Division.

Proceeds of the notes will be used to fund Pilmico's investments in various projects including capital expenditures and acquisitions, working capital requirements, and refinancing existing obligations.

A day of strong partnership with PANC's AgriPosts

PANC once again gathered its AgriPosts in Visayas and Mindanao to introduce its new product, give them an outlook for 2011 and strengthen partnerships.

In Cebu, the gathering was held last Feb. 12 at Stakili Estaca Beach Garden Resort. In Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay, AgriPosts held their first

gathering last April 30 at Buug Inland Resort and Restaurant. Hundreds of AgriPosts attended.

One of the highlights of both events was the introduction of PANC's latest product, the SALTO gamefowl feeds.

Alan Cuico, territory business manager for north Cebu, thanked AgriPosts for joining the event and urged them to be more aggressive in their effort to become profitable in the market.

In Buug, top selling agriposts in the area were recognized and given cash rewards.

This annual gathering of AgriPosts has been a tradition for four consecutive years now. This activity is another way of recognizing all AgriPosts. Raffle items and Pilmico souvenir items were then given out to all lucky participants. –*Elvin Millan & Mark Yamson*



AgriPosts from north Cebu gathered as one for a strong partnership with Cebu Atlas Corn Mill Corp. and PANC.

Pilmico holds baking courses

By Rhea Embalzado

Pilmico Foods continues to help entrepreneurs and those aspiring to be one by regularly conducting baking courses.

Last April 5, Pilmico conducted a baking seminar for bakery owners, bakers, baking enthusiasts and students from Jimenez town and the nearby areas of Tudela town and the cities of Oroquieta and Tangub, all in Misamis Occidental.

The participants learned the basics of baking and were introduced to the complete line of flour products offered by Pilmico and their usage. Pilmico trainers demonstrated how to bake *pan de sal*, spanish bread, marble muffins, *ensaimada*, moist chocolate cake, among others.

The following day, a baking contest was held, where contestants competed in six categories. The baking contest aims to sustainably develop the interest of the people of Jimenez in going into the bakery business.

Aside from the baking seminar and contest, Pilmico also held a three-day baking course specializing in cakes last April 27 to 29.

The cake course, facilitated by Pilmico technicians who were trained in advance bakery training in the USA and Thailand, taught participants the art and science of baking cakes. The course also included practical and technical topics from bakery management to cake baking.



Pilmico's Territory Business Manager Dan Labucana and QA technician Nestea Sacil (in Pilmico apron) conduct the baking seminar in Jimenez.

Preparing kindergarten kids for K+12

By Rianne Tecson

In the mountain barangay of Pulangbato in northern Cebu City, 5-year-old twins Koko and Gam-Gam sit comfortably in their spacious classroom, going through colored storybooks, and playing with educational toys.

But it's a totally different scenario in the upland barangays of Bonbon and Guba, where an average number of 30 students, divided into two classes, are cramped in one dilapidated and humid classroom. With just a rolling board separating both groups, pupils in one class would often hear and answer the questions being asked by the teacher in the other class.



"We just end up laughing at the situation. We have no choice but to maximize our (limited) resources just to accommodate all incoming kindergarten pupils," said Bonifacia Oybenes, a Kindergarten 2 teacher at Bonbon Elementary School.

A situation like this is commonplace not only in the mountain barangays but also in urban areas like Barangay Opao in Mandaue City.

Opao Elementary School principal Rita Cabahug said they make do with makeshift classrooms just to accommodate the increasing number of kindergarten enrollees.

Public school teachers expect the problem to worsen now that government has implemented the universal mandatory kindergarten program in preparation for the K+12 system. (*see separate story*)

With classroom shortage a perennial problem among public schools every opening of classes, the private sector and non-government organizations have banded together to help address the problem and provide pupils with a more conducive environment for learning.

Last May 26, Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. formalized its partnership with the Aklat, Gabay, Aruga tungo

sa Pag-angat at Pag-asa (AGAPP) Foundation and the Department of Education (DepEd) to build a total of 45 school buildings across the country within two years.

Aboitiz Foundation President Jon Ramon Aboitiz, AGAPP Chairperson Pinky Aquino-Abellada and DepEd Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro were the signatories to the agreement.

In the agreement, Aboitiz Foundation will appropriate funds for the construction of the school buildings, 26 for 2011 and the remaining 19 to be built next year. AGAPP will provide age-appropriate instructional materials and training for teachers while DepEd will field in the teachers.

Business units across the country have already identified the schools in their respective areas that will receive a classroom. (*see table*)

The school building construction effort is modeled after AGAPP's "Silid Pangarap" project, which involves constructing one-storey, two-room school-library facilities in depressed and disadvantaged communities. One room is for holding classes while the other room may be used as a school library. *—With Beryl Ann Manching, Arianne Jenille Manzo & Michelle Prudente*



Aboitiz Foundation President Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Education Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro and AGAPP Chairperson Pinky Aquino-Abellada (3rd, 4th & 5th from right, respectively) lead the signatories to the agreement that allows the construction of 45 classroom buildings nationwide. The project aims to prepare kindergarten children for basic elementary education as government implements the K+12 educational system.

WHERE THE SCHOOLS ARE (schools constructed in 2011)

LOCATION	BUSINESS UNIT	RECIPIENT SCHOOL
LUZON		
Benguet	Hedcor	Ampucao Elementary School
Laguna	APRI Geo	Limao Elementary School
Metro Manila	Aboitiz Foundation	Dagat-Dagatan Elementary School
Pagbilao	Therma Luzon	Malicboy West Elementary School
Subic	SEZ	Kalalake Elementary School
Tarlac	PANC	Aranguren Elementary School
Tiwi	APRI Geo	Nagas Elementary School
VISAYAS		
Balamban	BEZ	Abucayan Elementary School
Cebu City	Aboitiz Foundation	Bonbon Elementary School
Cebu City	Aboitiz Foundation	Guadalupe Elementary School
Cebu City	Aboitiz Foundation	Guba West Elementary School
Cebu City	AboitizLand	Mabolo Elementary School
City of Naga	VECO	Cepoc Central School
Cordova	AboitizLand	Gabi Elementary School
Lapu-Lapu City	MEZ	Agus Elementary School
Liloan	VECO	Tayud Elementary School
Mandaue City	Aboitiz Foundation	Opao Elementary School
San Remigio	Aboitiz Foundation	Bancasan Elementary School
Talisay City	AboitizLand	San Isidro Elementary School
MINDANAO		
Compostela Valley	TMI	Maco Central Elementary School
Cotabato City	Cotabato Light	Cotabato City Central Pilot School
Davao	Davao Light	Lt. C. Villafuerte Sr. Elementary School
Davao	Davao Light	Maa Central Elementary School
Davao	Davao Light	Mudiang Elementary School
Iligan	Pilmico Foods	Kiwalan Elementary School
Nasipit	TMI	Sta. Ana Elementary School

Understanding K+12

Beginning this school year, all 5-year-olds in public schools in the country are required to attend kindergarten classes. Failure to do so means they will not be able to enter Grade 1 in the next academic year.

This new policy is the start of the government's implementation of the K+12 program. Although still awaiting legislation, the program seeks to undertake major reforms in the country's current educational system and eventually prepare students for higher education and global employment.

Below are the major highlights of the proposal:

- K+12 means kindergarten and 12 years of elementary and secondary education
- Following the K-6-4-2 model for basic education, the program involves kindergarten, six years of elementary, four years of junior high school (or Grades 7 to 10) and two years of senior high school (Grades 11 and 12). During senior high school, students are expected to have in-depth specialization of academic skills and competencies, depending on the career track they wish to pursue
- K+12 will be implemented, starting with Grade 1 students, in school year 2012-2013; in school year 2018-2019, incoming first year college students must have completed 12 years of basic education
- The Department of Education (DepEd) is proposing the reform for the following reasons:
 - Decongest and enhance basic education curriculum, being the only Asian country with a 10-year basic education program
 - Provide quality education
 - Insufficient mastery of basic competencies due to congested curriculum
 - High school graduates below 18 years old lack basic competencies and maturity (cannot legally enter into a contract, among others)
- The proposal will need an estimated P150 billion for 152,569 new classrooms, 103,599 additional teachers, 95.6 million more books, and 13.2 million seats
- The proposal does not include private schools yet

-Rianne Tecson

Source: Office of the President (www.gov.ph)



Aboitiz Foundation, Pilmico Foods hold free circumcision in Cebu, Iligan

By Rianne Tecson



A total of 339 children and adults in Liloan, Cebu availed themselves of free circumcision and dental services provided by Aboitiz Foundation last May 21, 2011 at the Panphil D. Frasco Memorial Gym.

More than 200 boys, with ages 6 years old and above, were circumcised; more than a hundred residents enjoyed free dental care services. The beneficiaries came from the 14 barangays that have been beneficiaries of the Foundation's projects, like microfinance packages and water systems.

Volunteer surgeons, dentists, nurses, midwives and barangay health workers attended to the patients while AEV team members provided other forms of assistance.

The activity, dubbed "Astig Ka Boy," was held for the first time in Cebu as a component of the

Foundation's primary health and child care program. Two more medical-dental missions are being planned within the year.

Meanwhile, Pilmico Foods Corporation, in coordination with the Iligan City Health Office and Barangay Dalipuga Health Center, also held its own free circumcision activity last April 16, 2011.

A total of 92 boys below 14 years old, most of them residents of Sitio Tag-ibo, availed themselves of the free circumcision held at the Donald Moraza Park in Iligan City.

Doctors and midwives from the City Health Office led by Dr. Livey Villarin, Precila Ortojan, midwife staff of Barangay Dalipuga Health Center, CPL



John Zamoras (MC) of the Philippine Army and volunteer nurses comprised the working team that helped in the success of the activity. **-With Amor Badelles**

Helping improve people's health

By Jun Ivan Covacha & Danny Cerence

For people living in far-flung areas, having a health center nearby means more than just being assured of getting medical care in times of emergency.

For residents of Busay, a mountain barangay in Cebu City, the two-storey building donated by Aboitiz Foundation in November 2007 has helped them save their hard-earned money for other equally important needs.

"Poor people like us no longer spend a thousand pesos to seek medical care in the city since the Aboitiz Foundation gave us our own health center," said Theodula Reyes, a volunteer health worker from the barangay.

The health center has a full-time midwife, six volunteer health workers, a nurse and with weekly

visits by a medical doctor and dentist from the City Health Department. Since it started operations, the health center has already helped over 2,000 patients from indigent families in the barangay.

The health center caters mostly to pregnant women for checkups; children treated for fever, flu, wounds and other minor illnesses; and treatment for adults for non-major cases. Most medicines are provided by the City Government and the City Health Office. Other patients with severe cases are immediately referred to government hospitals in the lowlands.

"I was fortunate because this health center provided me free consultations and medicines for my tuberculosis. Happily, I felt that I've regained my health and is now fit to work," said Dante Rosaldo,

45 years old with five children, who was a regular patient of the health center.

The second floor also hosts the barangay day care center, where an average of 30 children from poor families benefit every month. The health center officers play a role in the day care center, as they help develop a curriculum for small children and their parents to promote healthy lifestyles, especially for children at this crucial age.

"The health centers enabled indigent residents get access to medical assistance. This is also a showcase where corporate social responsibility works in partnerships with the local government units to provide basic social service to the communities," said Jon Ramon Aboitiz, president of the Aboitiz Foundation.

Aboitiz Foundation welcomes 15 new college scholars

By Beryl Ann Manching

Fifteen top-performing students are now part of the Aboitiz Foundation's growing pool of scholars under its Purposive College Scholarship Program. The scholars, all valedictorians from public high schools across Cebu Province, will enjoy a full scholarship grant for the duration of their college education.

The new scholars are Davy Ann Jane Benitez, Charry dela Cruz, Aimee Sevileno, Catleen Teves, Jecel Villacorte, Jade Cayas, Rommel Llesol, Maika Montayre, John Edward Ramirez, Marda Joyce Rayco, Rosedell Villocido, Jojo Denlauso, Harold Sapues, Johanna Fretz Bayking, and Marchel Bentoy.

Last May 30, the scholars and their parents gathered together to sign a memorandum of agreement with Aboitiz Foundation at the Cebu Country Club in Banilad, Cebu City. The event was graced by EVP & Foundation Managing Trustee Sonny Carpio and AEV Chief Reputation Officer Sebastian Lacson. Representatives from the University of San Jose-Recoletos, Cebu Institute for Technology University, Colegio de San Antonio de Padua and University of Cebu also came as witnesses. The students chose to pursue their degrees in these schools.

In his keynote speech, Lacson encouraged the scholars to *"find something that you are very good at, work on it and make it your competitive*

advantage and personal brand—the thing that sets you apart from everyone else."

Aimee Sevileno, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, said the scholarship was a "gift" and thanked the Aboitiz Foundation for the chance to continue her studies. Liberty Bayking, on behalf of the parents, assured to do their part and support their children all the way until they graduate.

To inspire the scholars, Niña Faith Awe, an Aboitiz Foundation scholar who just graduated magna cum laude and passed the CPA board exams this year, shared her nine-year journey throughout the scholarship. *"I was recently in immense pressure because of the board exams, quite afraid of the uncertainty [of passing]. But I pictured this moment in my mind—speaking to a lot of hopefuls and young, vigorous spirits, who are eagerly listening to my own journey. And that just uplifted my fighting spirit as well."* Awe started as a scholar in high school and was one of the pioneer batches of college scholars.

Today, Aboitiz Foundation sponsors a total of 38 scholars. *"We usually get about five to eight scholars per year,"* said Carpio. *"This year we are lucky to be granted a rather generous budget for corporate social responsibility (CSR). So we took it as a good chance to send more deserving students to college and help them pursue their dreams."*

Six Cebu coops receive P1.4 mn in loan grants

By Jennelyn dela Cerna

Six more cooperatives received P1.4 million worth of microfinance packages from Aboitiz Foundation last April 19, 2011.

Among the recipients were Tabla Multipurpose Cooperative (MPC), Paknaan MPC, Tina-an Neighborhood MPC, LLC Muslim Ambulant Vendors MPC, and Paknaan Community Credit Cooperative. One recipient is the Foundation's current partner cooperative, the Purok Sili Urban Poor MPC.

Twelve members of Tabla MPC and 10 members of Tina-an Neighborhood MPC will go into swine fattening, while Paknaan Community Credit Cooperative will go into rug making. The remaining three MPCs will use the funds for various livelihood development projects.

Foundation EVP & Managing Trustee Sonny Carpio thanked the MPCs for their continuous commitment and cooperation. *"Our microfinance program's success is because of you, who have*

responsibly made sure that each centavo we lend counts," he said.

Vicente Domasian, member of Purok Sili MPC's board of directors, expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the Foundation's intervention. *"We are very grateful...The cooperative should have been dissolved, but because Aboitiz came to us, we recovered and gradually progressed,"* he said.



Gloria Pocot (3rd from right), Tina-an Neighborhood MPC chairperson, receives from Foundation EVP & Managing Trustee Sonny Carpio the check for the loan that has been granted to them.

Helping children realize their dreams

By Danny Cerence & Jun Ivan Covacha

Lisa is an ordinary Badjao girl who lives in the resettlement area in Alaska, Mambaling. And like other girls her age, she dreams to finish school and get a stable job. Her parents have exactly the same dream for her.

But with their meager income, Lisa's parents are unable to send her to the best schools. Still, they are thankful that there are day care centers where Lisa can attend classes.

"We don't have treasures to give our seven children. It is only education that we can leave them behind. I am an ordinary housewife and taking care of seven children; doing household chores everyday is daunting. Since I only finished Grade I, I cannot help my children learn at home. The presence of the day care center given by Aboitiz is a big help to my children, especially to Lisa," her mother said.

The Aboitiz Foundation is just among the many organizations from the private sector that has responded to the government's call to help address the lack of educational facilities in the country.

A recent study released by the National Youth Commission revealed that one in four barangays in the country has no elementary school, depriving some 1.6 million children of basic education. A third of the country's barangays do not even have complete elementary schools, making primary education still inaccessible.

Since 1994, the Aboitiz Foundation has helped 18 barangays in Metro Cebu by constructing 18 day care centers that have benefited 1,207 children. Lisa attends classes at the day care center in Sitio Alaska, which the Foundation built in partnership with the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which manages the project. At present, this day care center takes care of 90 children ages 4 to 5 years old.

"The day care centers are a big help to the mothers who had nowhere to leave their children with when they had to go out to earn a living. In the process, the children learn a lot," said Sonny Carpio, EVP & Managing Trustee of Aboitiz Foundation.

AEV team members spearhead Adopt-a-School activities

SKILLSFEST

Livelihood Project Culminating Activity

Banilad Elementary and Night High School

Cebu City

March 19, 2011

The 3rd and 4th year students of Banilad Night High School showcased their cooking abilities through a Skillsfest, the culminating activity of the Livelihood Project under the Adopt-a-School Program.

The Timbukto CFO Tribe and some other AEV team members spearheaded the livelihood project training. Every Saturday afternoon for eight months, they would spend time teaching the students livelihood skills and values formation. Their objective is to help students learn to be self-reliant in case they do not pursue a higher education.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

Presentation Skills Project for SY 2010-2011

Aboitiz Corporate Center

April 5, 2011

Thirty students from Banilad Night High School graduated from the presentation skills training conducted by the Aboitiz Toastmasters Club (ATMC). The 1st to 4th year students were members of the school's English Club.

It was the second year for ATMC to do the project; club members conducted three-hour sessions every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. The graduates successfully delivered basic speeches 2 to 4; the evaluators were also from ATMC. Special awards were given to students who excelled during the training. *-Olyzza Olangoren*



Cotabato Light TLs train future leaders

By Oliver B. Makilang

Some 80 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials and out-of-school youth from four municipalities in Maguindanao province took part in the Youth Leadership Summit 2011 last May 24.

The summit, organized by the 6th Infantry Division through the 22nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, was held at the Pendililang Elementary School in Datu Saudi Ampatuan in Maguindanao.

The organizers believe that peace can be attained if the youth are educated and involved in community service, instead of participating in armed confrontations.

Invited to speak on leadership and team building were Cotabato Light Branding and Corpcom Officer Donjie Vertuoso and Material Management Supervisor Oliver Makilang. The two also conducted workshops that taught participants to trust their teammates and on how to excel in what they do, given the right leadership and strategic team efforts.



Cotabato Light MMD Supervisor Oliver Makilang and Brand Officer Donjie Vertuoso speaks before 80 Sangguniang Kabataan officers, student-leaders and out-of-school-youth during the 2011 Youth Leadership Summit.

69 OSYs complete barangay bridge course

By Arianne Jenille Manzo & Danny Cerence

A total of 69 out-of-school youths (OSYs) and adults were among the first batch of students who completed the e-Skwela bridge course of Barangay Mabolo in Cebu City. One student finished elementary, 30 finished high school while 38 completed the basic computer literacy course.

The closing exercise, held last April 11, 2011 at the barangay cultural center, was attended by Cebu City Councilors Alvin Arcilla and Edgardo Labella, barangay officials, and representatives of e-Skwela supporting agencies and organizations.

AboitizLand, through its Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, provided 15 units of personal computers and refurbished an area in the barangay hall to be used as classroom. The Department of Education, on the other hand, provided the e-Skwela curriculum, teachers and licenses to the graduates.

The graduates should pass the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Exam of the Department of Education-Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) so they can get the ICT license equivalent. They will obtain a certificate and diploma of learning achievement comparable to formal education. They will also acquire a Civil Service Sub-Professional Certificate.

Corazon Baybay, AboitizLand's Community Relations Officer, said the ceremony was not just a celebration of the "efforts of the stakeholders"



Sixty-nine out-of-school youth completed the E-skwela and Computer Literacy Programs implemented by AboitizLand in partnership with the Department of Education and Barangay Mabolo.

but also a way of "giving hope to the graduates and showing other out-of-school youth and adults that education can be attained with sheer determination."

Dubbed "Ang Kwelang Eskwela" or the cool school, e-Skwela has been conceptualized to provide OSYs and adults the opportunity to earn diplomas, regardless of age or circumstance. It is a pilot undertaking of the barangay and supported by AboitizLand, Aboitiz Foundation, Mabolo Elementary School, Cebu City Government,

Department of Education through its Alternative Learning System, Commission on Information and Communications Technology, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The information-communications technology-based curriculum takes nine months to finish. It is composed of 89 modules and requires students to report to two three-hour sessions every week. Graduation from the course is equivalent to completing the curriculum of a regular elementary, high school or Basic Computer Literacy Course.

Foundation scholars receive top honors

By Christel Ponce

Three scholars of Aboitiz Foundation graduated with top honors from the Science and Technology Education Center High School (STEC-HS) last April 2 at the Mactan Air Base Amphitheater in Lapu-Lapu City.

John Edward Ramirez, Orlando Fortaliza and Angela Vilbar were named valedictorian, salutatorian and first honorable mention, respectively.



Aboitiz Foundation trustee Romy S. Ronquillo proudly congratulates STEC's class valedictorian, John Edward Ramirez, and awards him with a plaque of academic excellence. Ramirez has been an Aboitiz Foundation scholar since first year high school.

In his speech, Foundation board trustee Romy Ronquillo encouraged the students to develop the habit of reading and to always think about their future.

"Dream. And when you dream, dream big! Because to dream is free," Ronquillo said.

As for the parents, Ronquillo requested them to make the students decide for their future so that they would always have the motivation to pursue what they want in life.

Also present during the commencement exercise were officials from the Department of Education and the Lapu-Lapu City Government.

5 Davao Light scholars get P5T cash reward

By Vic Sumalinog

Five of 15 Davao Light college scholars at the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) under the company's Customer Dependents Scholarship Program who graduated with honors last April 2011 have been given cash awards from the company.

The financial reward of P5,000 for each scholar was in recognition of their exemplary performance in their respective courses.

The cash grantees were Marvin Leones, Charlyn Mae Balbuena, Mitos Milana, Nellan Balili and Dave Philip Cajes. The five brought to 15 the number of cum laudes from among Davao Light scholars at UseP.

Leones and Balbuena graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Mathematics, Cajes with a degree in Agricultural Economics major in Farm Management and Production Economics, and Balili and Milana with a degree in Community Development.



Davao Light EVP & COO Art Milan, Carmen Mayor Marcelino Perandos, and Davao del Norte DepEd Division Superintendent Aurora Cubero sign the agreement governing the construction of a three-classroom building inside the campus of Carmen Central Elementary School in Carmen, Davao del Norte.

Davao Light, Carmen town partner to build schools

By Vic Sumalinog

Carmen Central Elementary School in Carmen, Davao del Norte will soon get a brand-new, 3-classroom through the joint efforts of Davao Light, Aboitiz Foundation and the local government of Carmen.

The partnership was formalized recently with the signing of a memorandum of agreement that will govern the implementation of the school building construction. The signing was held at Davao Light's Panabo branch office in Panabo City.

Signing the agreement were Davao Light EVP & COO Art Milan, Carmen Mayor Marcelino Perandos, and Department of Education Davao del Norte Division Superintendent Aurora Cubero.

The Carmen Central Elementary School project is the 12th building donated by Davao Light for the entire north sector of the company's franchise since 2000. Last May 18, Davao turned over a new school building to Tanglaw National High School in Tanglaw, Braulio E. Dujali. It was also a joint project with the local government.

Mandaue school gets new classrooms

By Rebecca Eufan



VECO VP-Administration and CSG Ricky Lacson and Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes do the ceremonial ribbon cutting during the turnover of Leonard Wood Elementary School building last May 27. Joining them were (from left) AEV Chief Reputation Officer Sebastian Lacson, LWES Principal Joverlie Canoy, and DepEd Mandaue School Division Superintendent Virginia Zapanta.

The Visayan Electric Company (VECO) turned over a newly refurbished single-storey, three-classroom school building to the Leonard Wood Elementary School (LWES) in Barangay Jagobiao in Mandaue City, its fifth school building project in just three years.

During the turnover, VECO VP-Administration and Customer Services Group Ricardo Lacson Jr. encouraged the teachers and students to use the facilities wisely. VECO will provide more chairs for the newly refurbished rooms in the next two months.

Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes, for his part, expressed his continued support for VECO and Aboitiz Foundation's projects for the benefit of Mandauehanons.

DepEd Mandaue School Division Superintendent Virginia Zapanta thanked Cortes, the Aboitiz Foundation and VECO for their support and concern for the needs of schools.

LWES Principal Joverlie Canoy highlighted the importance of the new classrooms, saying "the three classrooms will produce pupils who can read and write. This replaces the wooden Bagong Lipunan building constructed 31 years ago. Without the support of the private sector like VECO and Aboitiz Foundation, DepEd and the National Government cannot answer the needs in educating our people. Be assured we will take care and maintain the school building. We will give every pupil the maximum benefit of education."

Davao Light completes another school building

Davao Light turned over another three-classroom building to Tanglaw National High School in Tanglaw, Braulio Dujali, Davao del Norte last May 18. It is the first to be completed and turned over this year by the electric utility to the Department of Education using the new standard design adopted by the Aboitiz Foundation.

As in previous school infrastructure donations, the building is provided with facilities like ready-to-tap electrical installation, armchairs, black boards, and lighting paraphernalia. All windows are in steel-cased glasses and have built-in iron grills. Each room is also provided with lavatory, and the flooring is tiled.

Davao Light's Community Relations Department, the unit that oversees the company's social responsibility program, said the Tanglaw National High School building donation was implemented in cooperation with Aboitiz Foundation and the local government unit of Braulio Dujali.

Davao Light EVP-COO Art Milan, AVP and North Area Manager Reynold Felix, and Comrel Manager Vic Sumalinog with Dujali Mayor Lolita Moral are expected to turn over the symbolic key of the building to the DepEd and school officials of Davao del Norte, as well as to the officials of Barangay Tanglaw.

The Tanglaw project is the 29th building constructed by Davao Light since 1996, and the 10th in the company's northern franchise area. It is part of Davao Light's continuing support to the Department of Education's Adopt-a-School program. **-Vic Sumalinog**



The newly completed school building inside the campus of Tanglaw National High School in Tanglaw, Braulio Dujali.

SNAP–Magat revisits Ifugao water, road projects

By Kris Vargas

SNAP–Magat, together with local officials, undertook a joint inspection of the water system in Barangay Halag and the road improvement project in Barangay Itab in Agualdo, Ifugao.

The water system project in Barangay Halag, which established the water source and distribution lines, has benefited a total of 50 households. The water was tested to be potable, or safe for drinking. Since the project was completed in 2010, residents have been able to engage in animal raising and gardening activities, boosting their productivity and giving

them additional sources of livelihood.

Barangay Itab's road project consists of surface improvement on critical portions that were difficult to pass through particularly during rainy days. Since the improvements were implemented in 2009, the road has withstood the typhoons that hit the area.

SNAP–Magat's Community Relations Officer Veronica Adsua assured local officials of the company's commitment to community development through its CSR program. The group visited the sites on May 3 as part of the monitoring of its CSR projects.

A young resident of Barangay Halag in Agualdo, Ifugao Province does household chores with a smile. Through SNAP–Magat's water system project, distribution lines that bring water directly to households have been installed.



Barangays give consent to hydropower plant expansion

By Lloyd Revilla

Barangays Astorga and Sibulan in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur gave their consent to AboitizPower's wholly owned subsidiary Hedcor to build two more plants in Sta. Cruz with a total capacity of 13.6 MW.

Simultaneous to the giving of consent, Hedcor, with the barangay councils of Astorga and Sibulan, signed a memorandum of agreement where benefits of the project to the host communities were specified.

Dubbed as the Tudaya Hydropower Project, the Tudaya 1 Hydropower Project is proposed to be located upstream of the Sibulan Hydro A Power Plant while the Tudaya Hydropower Project is to be built below the Sibulan Hydro B Power Plant. Hedcor is now working on the permits before construction starts.

Astorga is the second largest barangay in the Municipality of Sta. Cruz with a population of approximately 11,000.

Residents will start to enjoy the benefits in the next few months, with community services, scholarship grants, and reforestation to their barangay. After the first operational year of the plant, they will also receive royalty from Hedcor.

"Hedcor is indeed a blessing to us. We availed ourselves of free medical services, we have sent many children to school, we have developed our reforestation program and we received an annual royalty," said Sibulan Barangay Captain Lydia Ang.



Hedcor Tudaya, Inc., and its host barangays sign the memorandum of agreement (MOA) as proof to the agreed responsibilities and obligations of both parties. The MOA signing gives consent to the construction of Tudaya 1 and 2 plants.

Ambuklao stakeholders sign implementing MOA on heritage site



Community stakeholders in Sitio Sombrero, Barangay Ambuklao in Bokod, Benguet will now take over the administration of schools, sports facilities and a municipal building following the recent signing of a multi-party implementing agreement.

Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan, Bokod Mayor Mauricio Macay, SNAP VP for Corporate Services Michael Hosillos, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples–Cordillera Region Director Amador Batay—an led the signing ceremonies on May 13 in La Trinidad, Benguet. They were joined by Ambuklao Barangay Captain Arthur Solano and Eugene Alipio, head of the Shakilan ni Ikulos Indigenous People's Organization.

The agreement formalizes the use and administration of the Ambuklao Elementary School, Tublay School of Home Industries, basketball and tennis courts, chapel, and municipal building by the host community, including the indigenous peoples' group. The areas used to form part of the hydropower complex then managed by the National Power Corporation.

Ambuklao is host to the 75-MW Ambuklao hydroelectric power plant that was bid out in 2007 along with the 100-MW Binga plant in Tinongdan, Itogon. SNAP–Benguet took over the plants in 2008 following a successful bid in 2007.

Fongwan described the Ambuklao implementing agreement as "historic" and acknowledged SNAP–Benguet's contributions in the development of its host communities.

The implementing agreement concretizes the May 29, 2009 memorandum of agreement that aimed to establish, among others, an Indigenous Peoples' Cultural Heritage Site in Barangay Ambuklao in Bokod and Bry. Tinongdan, Itogon. A similar agreement for Binga community was signed in March 2010.



NEW CLASSROOM. Forty-eight preparatory students of Don Calixto Yongco Sr. Elementary School witness (from left) Teodora Flores of the Department of Education; Xavier Aboitiz, Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. trustee; Mandaue City Mayor Jonas Cortes; Roman Ronquillo, Aboitiz Foundation trustee; Jeanne Ouano, Aboitiz Land, Inc. AVP-Corporate Planning and Corporate Social Responsibility; and Allan Alfon, AVP- External Affairs & Special Projects sign the agreement formalizing the turnover of the one-storey preparatory classroom to the Don Calixto Yongco Sr. Elementary School in Mandaue City. The signing was held last March 29, 2011.

Nasipit elementary schools given library kits by Therma Marine



and motivation to read, learn and conduct research must be developed at an early age, so that these kids can use such skills when they go to higher education. Such skills are also useful when they work at their future jobs... These kids are not just receiving books—they are

More than 2,000 students from two schools in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte stand to benefit from the library kits given by Therma Marine, Inc. (Therma Marine) to help them develop appetite for reading, learning and research.

The library kits, consisting of various reading and reference materials, were turned over to Sta. Ana Elementary School last April 1, while Camagong Elementary School and Nasipit Central Elementary School received their kits last April 4.

"These library kits are investments for the future of these school children. The capacity

receiving the chance to learn more and acquire more skills for their future success," said Jan Risager, Therma Marine VP for Mindanao Operations.

Risager added that Therma Marine is committed to helping in the development of surrounding communities in its areas of operation through various social projects. These include projects related to education, enterprise development, primary health and child care and environment.

The social programs of Therma Marine are in line with AboitizPower's core business philosophy, which aims to benefit not only its investors and stakeholders, but also people in its host communities and the environment.

Education gets larger allocation: Bagobo-Tagabawa

The indigenous group of Bagobo-Tagabawa is paying forward the goodwill it has received from Hedcor Sibulan, Inc. by providing financial support to two college students from their community.

"We will give P5,000 financial (educational) assistance per semester," said Datu Rogelio Manapol, head of the Sibulan-based indigenous people community that received a royalty share of P1 million last April 1.

Aside from the educational assistance, the community also allotted funds for livelihood opportunities like goat dispersal, and medical assistance of P5,000 per severe illness to its members.

Barangay Sibulan received the first royalty share amounting to P1.5 million last March 30. The shares are over and above what is mandated by law and part of Hedcor's commitments to its host communities.

"It is at the core of AboitizPower's business philosophy to operate its companies in a sustainable manner. For operations to be sustainable, the company has to make sure that community and social development are an integral part of how the company does business," said Hedcor President Rene Ronquillo.



Datu Rogelio Manapol recounts the progress seen in his community since Hedcor started operating in the area. He delivered his speech after the Tribal community receives its first royalty annual share amounting to P1 million.

5th RAFI Triennial Awards finalists bared

By Junette Dawn Baculfo



Finalists of the 5th RAFI Triennial Awards meet for a teambuilding session and interaction last May 5 to June 1.

The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) presented the top five finalists per category of the 5th RAFI Triennial Awards for Visayas and Mindanao in a public forum last June 15 at the Eduardo Aboitiz Development Studies Center.

The public forum was organized to formally present to the public the top five finalists for the two categories—Ramon Aboitiz Award for Exemplary Individual and Eduardo Aboitiz Award for Outstanding Institution. The event was an opportunity for the finalists to present their work, advocacies, and contribution to the community, and to answer questions from the audience.

The forum, which was open to the public, was attended by local government units, national and regional government agencies, non-government organizations, academe, youth

and civic organizations, business, and media, among others.

The top five finalists for the individual category are Fr. Angelo Buenavides, Prof. Estrella Cantallopez, Mr. Apolinario Leyson, Sr., Fr. Dennis Tamayo, and Mr. Rene Vendiola. The top five finalists for the institution category are SOS Children's Villages Philippines, Negros Women

for Tomorrow Foundation Inc., The Great Physician Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc., Agri-Aqua Development Coalition-Mindanao, and Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation Inc. (AIDFI).

The top five finalists per category were selected after a seven-month screening and assessment process.

The RAFI Triennial Awards aims to provide a platform in recognizing individuals and institutions that are instrumental in leading change in their respective communities. Established in 1996, the awards honor the men and women who, through their efforts to bring about change and improve the lives of the less-privileged, reflect the humanitarian and holistic ideals of the RAFI founders, Don Ramon Aboitiz and Don Eduardo Aboitiz.

RAFI launches brand, education program to education, business stakeholders

By Jicel Reve Gabriel



Roberto E. Aboitiz, president of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI), explains to education partners and stakeholders of RAFI the refreshed identity of the foundation.

The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) introduced to its education partners its refreshed brand and launched its comprehensive program for education last May 3 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu City.

RAFI President Roberto E. Aboitiz introduced to their stakeholders the refreshed RAFI brand while RAFI Vice President Jon Ramon Aboitiz presented the foundation's initiatives for education.

The event sought to inform the public of RAFI's new education initiatives, one of them being the restoration of broken-down public school buildings. Through the School Rehabilitation Program, RAFI aims to create more conducive environments and help foster the love of learning.

The Department of Education (DepEd), one of RAFI's major partners, participated in the launch, along with local government units, other non-government organizations, the academe, and the business sector. Francisco Varela, DepEd undersecretary for finance and administration, was the keynote speaker.

RAFI will implement initiatives for education in the fields of school governance, such as developing a scorecard on education; access and delivery, through scholarships and support to non-formal education; capability-building, such as developing a "super" teachers program, and existing RAFI programs for the youth and children; and in tools and infrastructure, like the School Rehabilitation Program.

RAFI and DepEd signed a memorandum of agreement that renewed their partnership in the repair and rehabilitation of public school classrooms. Signing the agreement were Roberto Aboitiz, Jon Ramon Aboitiz, Undersecretary Varela and DepEd 7 Director Recaredo Borgonia.



NEXT WAVE. Artist Leeroy New installed a replica of a balete tree using flexible conduits outside the Casa Gorordo Museum. The installation is part of The Next Wave Exhibit that features works of 2009 Ateneo Art Awards winners New and Kiri Dalena. The exhibit, a second collaboration of Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. and Ateneo Art Gallery, opened last April 28 and is open to the public until July 10, 2011. The initiative of bringing contemporary artists—winners of the Ateneo Art Awards, one of the most prestigious art competitions in the country—to Cebu is a way of providing an opportunity for young aspiring artists to learn from the works of other artists and encourage viewers to open their minds to other media of artistic expression. *—Karl Damayo*

Cebu, Mindanao BUs take part in



More than 500 team members from AEV, CitySavings, Cotabato Light, Davao Light, Hedcor, Metaphil and VECO helped selected public schools in their respective areas prepare for the incoming school year by repainting school buildings and conducting other repair and maintenance works.

AEV team members went to Banilad Elementary and Night High Schools last May 28 to paint and do other maintenance works. They painted the Gabaldon building and over a thousand armchairs. They also did maintenance works on the repairs they started in the last three years.

Serving a total of 102 schools, all CitySavings employees in the different branches nationwide painted and repaired selected areas in the schools.

Employees gave up their rest days to help out these schools and some even have to travel several hours and take boat rides just to reach these schools.

In Mandaue City, Metaphil *kaubans* donated cans of paint and paint brushes, and helped in the painting, cleaning and carpentry works of the classrooms at the Cornelio S. Melgar Elementary School in Balamban town last May 21.

On June 2, another set of *kaubans* went to Subangdaku Technical Vocational School to repair and refurbish its computer laboratory.

VECO employees, on the other hand, did minor repairs for Tayud Elementary School in Consolacion last May 28. A total of 22 employees repaired and repainted walls, ceilings and doors. They also replaced and repainted dilapidated roof sheets.

AboitizLand sent its volunteer officers and employees to Gabi Elementary School in Cordova town. They brought cleaning and painting equipment and supplies and repainted the classrooms and entrance gates.

Nearly 200 Davao Light team members, for their part, went to Calinan National High School while 90 went to Sto. Tomas Central Elementary School to fix and repaint three buildings and 12 classrooms.



Brigada Eskwela

2011

Those who went to Calinan did some repairs of ceilings and windows, repainted interior and outer walls, as well as window grills of seven classrooms and roofs of two of the buildings inside the campus. They also fixed some portions of the plant boxes fronting the buildings.

Davao Light EVP Art Milan, VP for HR Lito Ortiz, VP for Engineering Rodger Velasco, AVPs Mark Valencia and Ronald Chan led the electric utility's Brigada volunteers in Calinan.

At the Sto. Tomas Central Elementary School, AboitizPower VP for Customer Services Bien Garcia, and AVPs Arzy sacamos, Rey Cabalan, Reynold Felix, Ed Tan and Arnold Arsolon were at the forefront. They led Davao Light *kaibigans* in repainting a five-classroom building as well as cleaning the school vicinity.

Cotabato Light team members, meanwhile, proceeded to LR Sebastian Elementary School for their Brigada Eskwela activity after participating in the NDBC "A-Run-kada" 8K Fun Run.

About 50 Cotabato Light team members cleaned dengue-prone areas. Six classrooms were also cleaned, repaired, repainted and re-wired.

In Davao City, Hedcor team members conducted their own Brigada Eskwela at the Catalunan Pequeño National High School, one of its adopted schools.

They repainted classrooms, repaired chairs and desks, replaced broken windows and busted bulbs, and spruced up gardens. — **Rogie Abala, Vic Sumalinog, Ivan Jones Colita, Donjie Vertuoso, Elliezer Simega, Keith Michael Jann Alasco, Rebecca Eufan, Arianne Jenille Manzo, Maila Quijano & Lloyd Revilla**



Aboitiz Group goes 60+ and beyond

Aboitiz Group companies nationwide made a resounding call to help make the world a better place to live in by holding different activities to celebrate Earth Hour last March 26.

This year's celebration went with the theme "60+: Go Beyond The Hour" as the Aboitiz Group's way of asking participants to do more than just shutting off their lights for an hour.

AEV's Corporate Center in Cebu started the celebration with an eco-bazaar at The Persimmon Plus in Barangay Mabolo, Cebu City where selected exhibitors sold items made of recycled materials and organic fruits and vegetables.

Cycling enthusiasts, runners, students and Aboitiz Group team members also participated in a "walkathon" as their way of signifying their support for efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

A cosplay competition inspired by characters or images featured in Alter Space, the first Filipino environmental awareness game on Facebook produced by AboitizPower, was also held.

Aboitiz Group President & CEO Erramon I. Aboitiz led Group executives in the shut-off ceremony. He was joined by Miss Cebu 2011 Mia Zeeba Ali Faridoon, and student leaders.

VECO recorded an increased drop in power consumption in its franchise area during the shut-off hour, from 18 MW compared with last year's 14 MW. For the entire Visayas area, the drop was pegged at 25.96 MW.

AboitizLand's commercial and industrial developments—Mactan Economic Zone II (MEZ II), Pueblo Verde, Cebu Industrial Park Development (CIPDI), and The Persimmon Plus—also held their respective celebrations.

MEZ II had a weeklong celebration that included activities that tapped on the youth to emphasize their role in this global issue.

When the lights went off, 400 lanterns were used to light up the 60+ sign.

Over in Balamban town, CIPDI team members planted 120 seedlings in Barangay Cansomoroy, Balamban as a joint celebration of Earth Hour and World Water Day.

In Subic, SEZ held a series of activities for two days in observance of Earth Hour.

On March 25, SEZ team members joined hundreds of volunteers for a beach cleanup at the beachfront area of the Moonbay Marina Complex at the Subic Bay Freeport.

The activity was followed by a junk art workshop, where participants used trash collected during the



cleanup as materials for their junk art.

During Earth Hour itself on March 26, acoustic performances and dances kept guests at The Lighthouse entertained.

In Mindanao, Davao Light, Cotabato Light and Therma Marine also held activities in support of Earth Hour.

Cotabato Light embarked on a multi-media campaign—TV, radio, newspaper, online and mobile—to inform its customers about Earth Hour.

For the duration of the switch-off,

Cotabato Light noted a 0.55-MW drop in electric consumption, or an equivalent of 2,600 residential customers who turned off their lights.

Davao Light, on the other hand, sounded off its siren at exactly 8:30 p.m. to alert its consumers to switch off their lights.

Earlier in the week, Davao Light displayed Earth Hour signs in conspicuous areas of its offices. **-Rianne Tecson, Ross Luga, John Ruben Bulosan, Raymund Tamayo & Arianne Jenille Manzo**



This Earth Hour, Go Beyond the hour

PBSP lauds VECO's support for Buhisan watershed project

By Rebecca Eufan

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) Visayas has acknowledged VECO's support for the Save the Buhisan Watershed Project.

VECO is the single biggest donor to the reforestation park project in the Central Cebu Protected Landscape (CCPL) where the Buhisan dam is situated, donating P19.4 million in 2010 to fund the undertaking.

The Save the Buhisan Watershed Project aims to contribute to a sustainable water supply for Metro Cebu, improve the quality of life of the poor families by mainstreaming environment-friendly livelihood activities, and promote the Buhisan watershed as an excellent ecotourism destination.

The watershed project is Cebu's response to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals to eradicate poverty and worst forms of human deprivation by 2015. It counts on 20 donors who partnered with PBSP for the realization of its goals. Funds provided by the donors also help in building four people's organizations on sustainable livelihood, establishment of communal water system, and environment rehabilitation, conservation and protection.

In 2010, VECO and PBSP entered into a memorandum of agreement for the rehabilitation, protection, and conservation of the CCPL.

As a token of its appreciation, PBSP gifted VECO with a seedling of the banilad tree. VECO Corporate Communications Manager Ethel Natera received the seedling on behalf of the company. An indigenous



PBSP Visayas Executive Committee Chairman Antonio Y. Aboitiz gives a 1-ft. Banilad tree sapling to VECO Corporate Communications Manager Ethel Natera as a token of appreciation for VECO's support to save the Buhisan Watershed Project.

specie, *sterculia comosa* (or *serculia philipinensis*) is the tree that Barangay Banilad in the cities of Cebu and Mandaue is named after.

The Buhisan Watershed and Forest Reserve (BWFR) is one of five protected areas within the 29,062-hectare CCPL. It is a facility of MCWD in Barangay Buhisan that provides safe drinking water

to Cebu communities. The other four protected areas are Mananga and Kotkot-Lusaran Watershed and Forest Reserves, and Central Cebu and Sudlon National Parks, where VECO employees have been planting seedlings of Cebu's native trees since 2009, even before the start of the Reforestation Park Project.

Davao Light, AboitizPower, DENR sign MOA for 500-ha. reforestation project

Two companies under the AboitizPower group signed last May 20 a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the adoption of a 500-hectare permanent

reforestation area in Upper Kibalang, Marilog, Davao City.

The two companies are Davao Light, under AboitizPower's Distribution Group, and the newly registered Therma South, Inc. (Therma South) under the Generation Group.

The MOA is with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Upper Kibalang Agro-forestry Farmers Association (UKAFA), an organization of settlers with tenurial occupation in a designated Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) area. It has a lifetime of 25 years, with option to extend or expand coverage.

Davao Light EVP Art Milan, AboitizPower FVP Mindanao Affairs Manuel Orig, DENR Regional Executive Director Jim Sampulna and UKAFA board chairman Idilfonso Pama signed the MOA. The MOA signing was the highlight of the regional launching of President Aquino's National Greening Program.

Under the agreement, DENR is authorizing Davao Light and Therma South to utilize uncultivated or vacant lots within the 500 hectares of the CBFM area for tree planting activities that maybe undertaken by the companies' employees or by settler families.

Davao Light and Therma South will also use the adopted area as the showcase of their sustainability program that will include environment and biodiversity protection as the umbrella project, with components on education, livelihood and health. The component projects are geared to ensure that the trees are not just planted by Aboitiz team members and by the UKAFA members but also maintained and protected.



Davao Light EVP Art Milan, DENR Regional Executive Director Jim Sampulna, AboitizPower FVP for Mindanao Affairs Manuel Orig, and UKAFA's chairman Idilfonso Pama join hands to formalize the granting of authority by the DENR to the two Aboitiz companies to use an area of 500 hectares in Upper Kibalang, Marilog, Davao City as their permanent tree planting site.



More offices join R2R

The Aboitiz Race to Reduce Challenge continues with business units (BUs) like SNAP enrolling their other offices into the program.

SNAP has included four of its offices and power plants in the race, with its plants in Ambuklao, Binga and Magat already submitting their monthly consumption results.

The biggest reduction for the month of April came from APRI-Tiwi for energy, Subic EnerZone for water, and SNAP/MORE for paper.

The earliest BU to submit the monthly information was Mactan EnerZone/Balamban EnerZone through sustainability steward Ronald Petilo. **-Marge Gravador**

RACE TO REDUCE HONOR ROLL (April)

	BUSINESS UNIT	CONSUMPTION PER EMPLOYEE	PERCENTAGE REDUCTION
Energy	APRI - Tiwi	48 kWh	15%
Water	SEZ	2.32 m ³	40%
Paper	SNAP/MORE	0.39 reams	86%

MOST PROACTIVE BUSINESS UNIT

(earliest to submit Race to Reduce consumption data)

MONTH	BUSINESS UNIT	SUSTAINABILITY STEWARD
April 2011	MEZ BEZ	Ronald Petilo

Passion for A Better World

Aboitiz Race-to-Reduce Challenge

Change in consumption per person for the month of April 2011



The dilemma of garbage segregation

By Elena Carnacer

Cebu City is now imposing the “no segregation, no collection” policy for its garbage. But with the limited knowledge of most residents on the kinds of waste to segregate, there is very little the government can do to effectively implement City Ordinances 1361 and 2031.

Waste segregation is the process of sorting garbage and waste products in an effort to reduce, reuse and recycle materials.

According to the city ordinances, garbage must be segregated based on the following types:

biodegradable, non-biodegradable and residual.

Biodegradable items are those that can be naturally broken down. Often, these items can be used for composting purposes and converted into organic fertilizer. These include food and garden wastes, and paper or paper products.

Non-biodegradable materials include plastic products like cups, spoons and forks, junk food foil packs, scotch tapes, staple wire, styrofoam, tetra packs and soda cans.

Examples of residual garbage are glass bottles,

used batteries and fluorescent or CFL bulbs.

Ultimately, garbage segregation boils down to waste management, which is the process of disposing, processing, recycling and refining waste materials. Segregation is therefore a big and crucial part of the waste management process.

“No segregation, no collection,” that’s the rallying call of Cebu City ordinances 1361 and 2031. Remember, ignorance of the law excuses no one.

Let’s be vigilant and do our share to help Mother Earth!



Race to Reduce CHALLENGE A RACE FOR THE NEXT GEN

Race to Reduce Run goes to Davao

By Jovy Tan

The Mindanao leg of the Aboitiz Race to Reduce Challenge: A Race for the Next Gen held in Davao City last May 8 was a huge success, thanks to the nearly 3,000 runners and volunteers who participated.

The race, held in partnership with the Davao City Government, was one of the events of the 1st Davao City Summerfest, a series of sports, eco-adventure and entertainment activities for locals and tourists to enjoy.

More runners took part in the Davao run, with 2,800 registered runners and 200 volunteers. The first Race for the Next Gen held in Cebu last Aug. 21, 2010 saw a total of 2,500 runners and volunteers.

Champ Yared and Rodger Velasco, working chairperson and co-chairperson, respectively, steered the working committee composed of representatives from AboitizPower, Hedcor, UnionBank, CitySavings, and Davao Light.

One of the features of the race was a finisher's medal/keychain for the 21K runners. Each runner was also awarded a certificate.

A photo contest was also held to encourage photography enthusiasts to capture photos that shows running as a sustainable sport and the runners' stamina and strength.

The Mindanao leg is the reference point for the 2nd Visayas leg of the Race to Reduce Challenge: A Race for the Next Gen on Aug. 14, 2011 at the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City. This race will be a full marathon and is in partnership with the Cebu Provincial Government. *-With Ruann May Pogado*

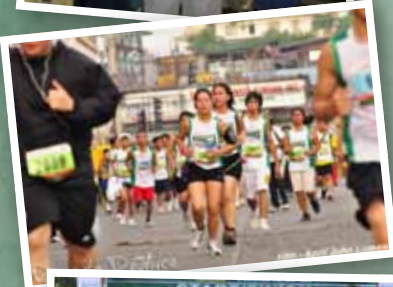


Photo Contest WINNERS

- 1st Prize – Roland Jumawan
- 2nd Prize – Jesus Tinapay
- 3rd Prize – Michael Wee Li



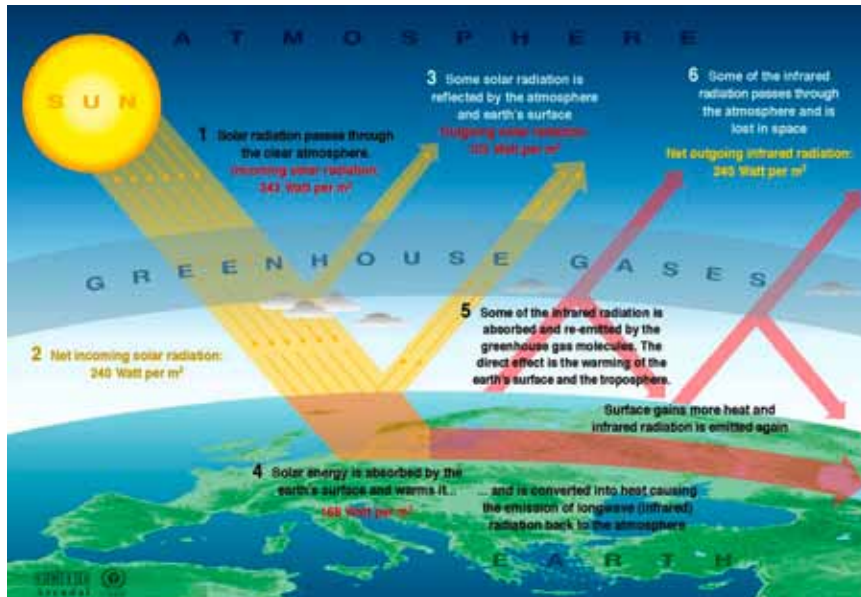
Sustainability Info Kit

The Sustainability Info Kit will be a regular portion in Aboitiz Eyes that will contain relevant information on sustainability-related matters.
By Marge Gravador

ABOUT GREENHOUSE GASES

The Earth's atmosphere can be compared to a huge greenhouse.
A greenhouse is a structure where plants are grown. It is usually covered in glass that allows in and traps heat that is absorbed by the plants.
Greenhouse gases surround the Earth and trap the right amount of heat to enter the planet. However, too much greenhouse gases trap too much heat and

prevent them from being reflected back into space. These gases are like the roof and walls of a greenhouse that confine the heat within the Earth's atmosphere.
Without greenhouse gases, the temperature of the planet would be 0°F. However, too much of these gases increases the Earth's temperature, resulting in the global warming phenomenon.



The more common greenhouse gases are the following:

Carbon dioxide	(CO ₂)
Nitrous oxide	(N ₂ O)
Methane	(CH ₄)
Perfluorocarbons	(PFC)
Hydrofluorocarbons	(HFC)
Sulfur Hexafluoride	(SF ₆)

Carbon dioxide comprises 80% of total greenhouse gas emissions.



Passion for A Better World

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Race to Reduce CHALLENGE

A RACE FOR THE NEXT GEN

8 • 14 • 2011

Registration forms will be available on **July 1 - August 5**
@ One Cebu Expo secretariat office at the **Cebu Provincial Capitol, Runnr (Ayala), Toby's (SM), and Cebu City Sports Center**

Assembly Point :
Cebu International Convention Center
at **3:00am**

ENTRY FEE:

	CHIP ONLY	CHIP & SINGLET
42k	P550	P700
21k / 10k	P450	P600

	FUN RUN	SINGLET ONLY	CHIP ONLY	CHIP & SINGLET
5k	P150	P300	P350	P500
3k	FUN RUN P150	SINGLET ONLY P300		

4:00am Gun Time for 42k

4:30am Gun Time for 21k

5:00am Gun Time for 10k

5:30am Gun Time for 5k/3k

Distribution of race packs will be at The Persimmon Plus, Mabolo on August 10-13, 2011

For more information, contact (032) 411-1800 or check www.aboitiz.com/race2reduce,
www.aboitizpower.com/race2reduce or add us @ www.facebook.com/race2reduce

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CEBU ON POWER

EAST ON ASIA

METAPHIL

Only runners with chip are entitled to win

You can also join the **PHOTO CONTEST**

More people at RAFI's 2011 Gabii sa Kabilin

By Karl Damayo & Arianne Jenille Manzo

More than 2,500 participants attended the fifth annual Gabii sa Kabilin last May 27, which featured 11 museums and seven heritage sites.

The number of attendees was a significant increase from last year's 1,800 participants, while the attractions were more than the nine museums and heritage sites opened in 2010.

This year's participating museums include the Casa Gorordo Museum, Cathedral Museum of Cebu, Fort San Pedro, Yap-Sandiego Ancestral House, Museo Sugbo, University of Southern Philippines Foundation (USPF)-Rizal Museum, Museo Parian sa Sugbo (1730 Jesuit House), Sacred Heart Alternative Gallery, Cebu Normal University (CNU) Museum, Cebu City Museum, and Mandaue City Central Plaza. The heritage sites include Plaza Independencia, Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral, Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño, Sacred Heart Church, Heritage of Cebu Monument (Plaza Parian), Plaza Hamabar, and Plaza Sugbo.

That night, activities and attractions ranged from traditional to contemporary. The Asian Troubadors performed at Cathedral Museum of Cebu; an arnis demonstration was performed at Fort San Pedro; a food festival featured delicacies from different towns and cities in Cebu at Museo Sugbo; Sandiego dancers showcased a Santacruzian cultural show in the Plaza Parian; Spanish dances by the Cebu City Children Performing Arts were shown at the Cebu City Museum; a concert by Izarzuri Vidal held at the Casa Gorordo Museum; a Quiz Night took place at the Cathedral Museum of Cebu; fire dances were performed in Plaza Independencia; and performing arts presentation by Russ Lightas was featured at Sacred Heart Parish Alternative Gallery.

Gabii sa Kabilin seeks to promote local museums

as venues for the understanding and appreciation of Cebuano history and culture. It also aims to abolish the stereotype of museums being merely vaults for "dead objects" and instead introduce them as venues for live cultural activities.

The only one of its kind in the Philippines and even Asia, the event is also organized every year to celebrate National Heritage Month and International Museum Day in May.

AboitizLand and Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa partnered with RAFI for this event.

AboitizLand President and CEO Andoni F. Aboitiz said they actively participated in the program *"because the past can be the common element that binds communities together."* It was the first time for AboitizLand to join the Gabii sa Kabilin.

Aboitiz served as curator at the heritage show, one of the activities for the night.

Curator-historian Madrileña de la Cerna, who co-hosted the heritage show said, *"The way people look at a place, say Cebu, may not have changed, but a place is always transformed according to how the people there act, either as law-abiding, thoughtful citizens or residents or as a visiting friends."*

Her insights on history and culture were punctuated with a traditional *"harana"* (courtship song) by Parian Barangay Councilor Allan Dilao, a musical rendition of the story of *puto balanghoy*, the Parian dancesport artists' performance and *bayle* and *balak* numbers.

Aboitiz also provided images of old Cebu from his personal collection in the photo exhibit *Kabag-uhan: Now and Then*, which run parallel to the heritage show. Other images of old Cebu were from Lucy Urgello Miller's *"Glimpses of Old Cebu."*



ABOITIZ SPORTSFEST AND FAMILY DAY

Reliving high school fun



Some 400 team members of Cebu-based Aboitiz companies reminisced the fun and excitement of their high school experiences during the Sportsfest and Family Day at the University of San Carlos Montessori field last April 16. It also marked the opening of the Aboitiz inter-company sportsfest.

There were fun booths that gave the feel of being in a high school fair, with the marriage and karaoke booths as the most popular.

The event kicked off with a welcome message from Erramon I. Aboitiz, AEV president and CEO, followed by the oath of sportsmanship led by Xavier Aboitiz, chief HR officer.

Twelve teams, named after high school organizations, competed for the top three spots in the Amazing Race, one of the event's highlights. The team members' strength, perseverance and intelligence were challenged as they hurdled the seven stations of the race within time limit.

First-place finishers were the Maroon Techies, followed by the Yellow Socialites, and the Blue Officers coming in third. Prizes were also given to the Pink Campus Crushees for being the best dressed team, and the Orange Gleeks for having the most number of participants.

Despite the summer heat, everyone enjoyed the half-day event filled with camaraderie and teamwork.

—Andrew Mordeno



SUMMER in Stripes

By Andrew Mordeno & Dario Ramirez

Rain was not a hindrance for AEV and AboitizPower teams in Cebu to join the Summer Stripes Outing at the Be Resort in Punta Engaño, Mactan Island last May 7. With much excitement, everyone, who all came in stripes, had their fill of fun, games and prizes.

Participants were at their busiest during the “Treasure Hunt” as they had to move around the beachfront to look for items hidden in the area. “Mutya Went to Town” had everyone laughing out loud seeing fellow team members run their fastest from base-point-base and wearing funny summer outfits. “Lion-Samson-Delilah” measured the participants’ teamwork, as they had to deliver the action they collectively decided on to their opponent, on the spot.

“Pinoy Henyo” had the executives unleash their strategic skill of guessing the word on a sheet of paper based only from the ‘yes’, ‘no’, or ‘maybe’ answers of the audience. It was a lot of fun!

New team members also presented an upbeat dance number to the tune of J Lo’s On the Floor.

Exactly a week later, it was the Makati teams’ day of fun and excitement, as they embraced the summer heat at Club Punta Fuego, Nasugbu, Batangas. The relaxing view, fresh air, two-dimensional infinity pool plus other amenities at Club Punta, were worth the three-hour trip from Manila.

The highlight of the outing was the much-awaited “Trivia Night”—Day Edition Challenge. Hosted by Carminia Borja and Sandro Aboitiz, it was undoubtedly a great bonding activity for the entire group. It was a close fight among the teams; winners brought home wines and the distinction of being the first winners of the Makati Trivia Night series.

Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous buffet lunch with lechon and beer by the bay. Gift certificates to spas, restaurants and movie tickets were raffled off.

Everyone cheered as Raymond Roseus, Mia Bontol, Erika Gonzales and Mary De Guzman were crowned Mr. and Ms. A-Summer Outing.





Metaphil celebrates Kauban days

By Zeny Novabos



Metaphil celebrated Kauban1 Days in Asturias, west side of Cebu, on April 30 and on May 28 in Liloan, Cebu. About 3,500 kaubans, along with their spouses and children, joined the Asturias event while about 200 attended the one in Liloan.

The beaches were ala-Boracay in look and feel, thanks to Metaphil's creativity. There was a dance number, messages from management, games and music from a live band. The participation in games, reinforced by the sharing of food and drinks, the fun and laughter, were proof of the kauban spirit and simplicity.

VP for Operations Anton Perdices and Senior AVP for Operations Jonathan Bendebel encouraged everyone to have fun. President and CEO Napoleon Pe, Jr. thanked all participants for taking time out to be part of the celebration, which was intended to be a break for everyone from work pressures.

Chairman Roberto E. Aboitiz remarked, "It was a great day with lots of fun."



BIGGEST CONTINGENT, BEST CORPORATE TEAM. VECO sent the biggest contingent to the 4th Olango Challenge, the open-water marathon swimming event held in Lapu-Lapu City last April 30. A total of 33 VECO Kaibigans conquered the event and brought home the Best Corporate Team award. VECO EVP and COO Jim Aboitiz led the team. The annual Olango Challenge highlights the importance of having a clean marine environment, raises awareness on the magnitude of preventable drowning incidence in the Philippines and promotes open-water marathon swimming as a sport in which Filipino swimmers should excel.

SEZ goes on a summer getaway

By Ethel Navarro

SEZ team leaders and team members headed for El Puerto Marina Beach Resort and Spa in Lingayen, Pangasinan for their annual summer getaway party last May 6 and 7.

The group was divided into two teams and eagerly participated in different beach games like sand castle-making, tug-of-war, ATV relay, catch-the-snake's-tail, and sponge-dress relay. The games elicited much fun and laughter.

In the evening, dinner along the shore was highlighted by a videoke singing contest with Jerry Paul Mendez and Mark Silos of the Customer Service Group taking home the top prizes.

On the second day, the group went to Alaminos for the Hundred Islands boat tour and saw unique islands including Bat Island, host to a population of nocturnal fruit bats, and Cathedral Island with its large cave. The boats docked and the teams swam on Quezon Island, where most of the water activities and facilities were located. They had lunch at Governor's Island.

VECO Kaibigan Summer Programs

VECO employees and their children had the chance to have a productive bonding during the summer break by attending free summer programs on basketball, swimming and cooking.

The month-long summer programs were offered as part of management's goal to make VECO a family-oriented organization. These also became a venue for the kids to bring out their creativity, develop their social skills and learn the value of self-discipline.

Aside from the summer program, VECO employees and their children also went on an eco-tour at VECO's reforestation park in Barangay Tabunan, Cebu City. Dubbed as "EcoTour," the second outing of the annual ecological tour visited the Mananga Watershed Reforestation Site last May 21. They also went to Buhisan Dam and Cemex's Ecological Vegetable Garden.

Held in coordination with the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the eco-tour oriented participants on the different species of Cebu's native and endemic trees, how to plant and take care of them.

To Pad or not to Pad ?



I'm not here to talk about an illicit practice of putting unnecessary items in one's budget. Nor will I tackle the sudden influx of "discoveries" by our government of how GOCCs pad their annual budgets. No, that is not my thing and I won't dare touch those subjects with a 10-foot pole.

I'm here to continue what I started in my last column, which hopefully stirred enough interest among you readers. Let me talk about the Pads, the future of office computing! The politically correct term for these devices is Tablet.

After the success of the first generation iPad, tech companies from all directions started jumping into the Pad bandwagon. I'm sure you've seen the different ads for Samsung Galaxy Tab, Motorola Xoom, BlackBerry Playbook, and more. But the question most (if not all) of you are asking is "Which one is right for me?"

Well, here are some guide questions that will help you find the right Pad computer for you.

What are my Pad computing needs?

I always ask this question before choosing what to buy. I think of the different reasons for needing a Pad and match them with the features of each product out in the market. My sample list of features would look something like this:

1. Light/mobile pad with a powerful processor and graphics chip
2. Has productivity tools to use for work
3. Wide range of applications that can be installed
4. Long battery life
5. Multiple Internet connectivity options
6. Multiple communication features (e.g., email, chat, videoconferencing, etc.)
7. Easy-to-use interface
8. Good 3rd-party accessory support
9. Ample storage

It is my list of qualifications for a Pad that can be used, not only for work, but in practically everything I do. You can come up with your own list to help you choose what's best for you.

Model	Apple iPad	Apple iPad 2	Motorola Xoom	Samsung Galaxy Tab 7"	Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1"	HP Slate 500	BlackBerry Playbook
Manufacturer	Apple Inc.	Apple Inc.	Motorola	Samsung	Samsung	HP	RIM
Weight	Medium (Wi-Fi) Medium (Wi-Fi+3G)	Light (Wi-Fi) Light (Wi-Fi+3G)	Medium	Very Light	Light	Medium	Light
Display size	9.7 in	9.7 in	10.1 in	7.0 in	10.1 in	8.9 in	7.0 in
Display resolution	HD	HD	Wide	Wide	HD Wide	Wide	Wide
Display technology	Best	Best	Good	Good	Better	Good	Worst
Input technology	Touchscreen	Touchscreen	Touchscreen	Touchscreen	Touchscreen	Touch screen HP Slate Digital Pen	Touchscreen
Operating system	iOS 4	iOS 4	Android 3.0	Android 2.2	Android 3.0	Windows 7 Professional	BlackBerry Tablet OS
CPU model	Apple A4	Apple A5	Nvidia Tegra 250	Cortex A8 Hummingbird	Nvidia Tegra 250	Intel Atom Z540	Ti OMAP 4430
CPU frequency (MHz)	1	1	1	1	1	1.86	1
CPU cores	1	2	2	1	2	1	2
Wi-Fi	802.11a/b/g/n	802.11a/b/g/n	802.11a/b/g/n	802.11a/b/g/n	802.11a/b/g/n	802.11b/g/n	802.11a/b/g/n
Cellular	Optional 3G (UMTS/HSPA) & GSM/EDGE	Optional 3G (UMTS/HSPA) & GSM/EDGE	CDMA, LTE	GSM/GPRS/EDGE, HSPA, HSPA+, CDMA	Optional 3G & 4G (HSPA, LTE, WiMAX)	N	Optional LTE, HSPA, WiMAX
Phone Function	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Bluetooth	2.1+EDR	2.1+EDR	2.1+EDR	3	2.1+EDR	3.0+HS	2.1+EDR
GPS	3G version only	3G version only	Y	A-GPS	Y	N	Y
Storage capacity (GB)	16, 32, 64	16, 32, 64	32	16, 32	16 or 32 or 64	64	16, 32, 64
Storage expansion	Wireless storage	Wireless storage	microSD	microSD	microSDHC	SDXC	Wireless storage
RAM (GB)	0.25	0.5	1	0.512	1	2	1
Battery life (h)	10	10	10	7h video, 10h talktime	10	5	10
Thickness (mm)	Thick	Thin	Thick	Medium	Thin	Thick	Medium



Which Pad fits my needs?

For practicality's sake, I will not feature all 40 (yes! there are now 40 Pads or tablets available in the market). I have narrowed down the list to 7. We have the Apple iPad (both versions 1 and 2; there is not much difference in terms features since most of the upgrades are just aesthetics); the Motorola Xoom; the Samsung Galaxy Tab (both the 7-inch and the 10-inch versions); the HP Slate 500, and last but not the least – the Blackberry Playbook. Since Aboitiz is a big supporter of Blackberry phones, a lot of people from the Group have asked if it is a good product to buy.

Now that you have seen the specification comparison of the Pads, you probably may already have a chosen brand/model. It's time to check out the next guide question.

What do other users say about my chosen Pad?

It's always good practice to check credible review sites on the Internet such as Engadget (www.engadget.com) or even Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_tablet_PCs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_tablet PCs)). These sites give you a complete blow-by-blow comparison of the Pad of your choice and also some comments and/or news that can make you reconsider your choice (such as the review about the Blackberry Playbook – www.engadget.com/2011/04/13/blackberry-playbook-review/).

How much is my Pad of choice?

There is a reason I did not make this the first guide question. If you really WANT something, you will do everything (legally, of course) to get it. Nowadays, there are so many ways to come up with the cash you need to buy what you want. (If you are an Aboitiz employee, I highly recommend that you take the Financial Fitness course offered by AEV HR.)

So money is not really the issue but the value you get versus the hard-earned money you pay for your Pad of choice. Just a word of caution though, it is normal to ask others for their opinion of your chosen Pad. Always remember that each person has his own criteria on what is expensive and what is a great deal. You may step back and consider what other people have to say, but at the end of the day, you have to make your own choice.

Also, it's always a good practice to check every store you can find that sells the Pad of your choice and compare prices. Saving a few pesos on a purchase is always a good thing but be careful not to fall into the discount/sale trap where you will just wait until the Pad is on sale.

If owning a Pad is not that important to you and you don't mind not getting the latest model, then it's okay to wait. If you already have an answer to questions 1 to 3, then no matter what the answer is for these guide questions, your Pad of choice is already worth every dime and penny that you spend for it.

A lot of people have asked me which pad I want and why. My Pad of choice is the Apple iPad2 and here's why:

After considering everything on my Pad computing needs-list, I simply found all the right answers with the iPad2. The first generation iPad is okay except that I want to use Skype in my Pad. Although the Motorola Xoom or the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1" may seem to have the better specs, I did not choose them because LTE is not yet well established in the Philippines (therefore I will be forced to stick to wifi connectivity). The A5 processor of iPad2 still wins by a mile over Xoom's Nvidia Tegra 250 processor. Most tech sites are of the same opinion.

The HP Slate failed my criteria simply because it is running Windows 7 (I no longer believe that Windows is a good operating system despite being a Windows-user for 20 years now). The Samsung Galaxy Tab 7" version is more of a replacement for your mobile phone than a replacement for a computer. Last but not the least, the Blackberry Playbook is nothing more than a failed attempt of RIM to stop the Pads from conquering their niche market, which is enterprise-email-support on a phone/mobile device. What RIM failed to realize is that you need more than just the enterprise-email-support to win in this battle. They made things worse when they decided to remove the phone function in the Playbook.

For me, the iPad2 has the right balance of speed, features, application availability and support, connectivity, value (or I like to call it "Bang-for-the-buck") and most importantly, I can use it for work. To prove my point, starting June 24, I will only use my iPad2 for work. And you can definitely count on reading an article about my (work) experience with the iPad2.

I'll give you a detailed account of what works, what doesn't work, all the sweet stuff and the hard stuff. You can read it all in the next Aboitiz Eyes or better yet, watch out for the launching of the iCSD blog site that's going live very soon. You can post your tech questions, article comments or just visit the site to get the latest tech updates from your friendly neighborhood iCSD guy or gal.

The Web as a tool for continuous learning

The following is the message of Sabin Aboitiz written for The Partner, the quarterly newsletter of Pilmico. He wants to share it with Aboitiz Eyes readers.

Dear Partners,

Everybody now relies on the Internet as a quick source of all information required at work, in school, or even when making important decisions in all other areas of life. One or two words typed in the search window and you get a variety of choices, and sometimes when lucky, you get exactly what you need.

The advancement of information technology changed the way we do things, and the way we learn. We are no longer dependent on classrooms to learn everything. We can now search for anything and master whatever we need to learn. Master, yes.

I recently stumbled upon the website www.khanacademy.org. It's a virtual school that teaches math, science, financial knowledge and even history, online. You can make use of their extensive video library, practice exercises, and assessments from any computer with access to the web. It has a system of grading and you can go from one level after another, earning badges after badges. It is like a classroom. They have done testing of the modules in various schools in California, USA, and the results were enticing.

Now, with the Web and with Khan Academy, you and/or your children can always go online, practice over and over, and master mathematics, science and all other things contained in the Khan Academy website.

The reason I am informing you of this is because Partners for Leadership is also about continuous learning. That is the reason we send our staff to trainings and seminars, so that we remain competitive and above average, if not excellent.

I invite you to use the Khan Academy or similar websites in enhancing your knowledge and skills and become more and more competitive in our world of unending challenges and improvements. Remember our mother company's brand mantra: "Passion for Better Ways."

More importantly, your children now have a way to review for their exams and even learn in advance to be more prepared for their upcoming lessons. They will be at par with anyone else in the world. I recommend strongly that you invest in a fast Internet in your homes to give this advantage.

Let's make use of all the tools that are available. Sometimes, we just need to have a little bit of patience to look around and realize that solutions to everything are just within reach.

We are partners for growth. Let's learn more and grow together!