

CITY LEADERS

SHAPING CITIES TO LEAD, EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, AND DESIGN EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE SHS PROGRAMS

Cities commit to implement Senior High School (SHS) education in 2016



"We support the senior high school program!" 10 Cities sign MOUCs with LCP-TAF for the City LEADERS Project. [Photos from top left: DepEd Secretary Armin Luistro delivers the keynote speech for the LCP General Assembly | TAF Country Director Dr. Steven Rood delivers the message of support to the project sites | LCP PRO and Dagupan City Mayor Belen Fernandez thanks the partners for their support | DHOM Mr. David Dutton of the Australian Embassy with Sec. Luistro, LCP Secretary General and Marikina City Mayor Del De Guzman, Dr. Rood, LCP Chairman and CDO Mayor Oscar Moreno, and DepEd Undersecretary for Regional Operations Rizalino Rivera]

With increased efforts to complement national government initiatives at the local government level, the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), in close collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) under their Coalitions for Change (CfC) Program and ten (10) selected cities committed to a strategic implementation of the senior high school (SHS) program in 2016.

The agreement was formalized through a Commitment Signing Ceremony held during the 61st General Assembly of LCP at Microtel UP-Ayala Technohub on November 18. The ceremony was followed by the keynote speech from Department of Education Secretary Armin F. Luistro, FSC.

Secretary Luistro said, "We deeply appreciate the efforts of our city governments to learn more about senior high school and complement the current initiatives undertaken by the Department. We are also glad that the League of Cities has taken the initiative to ensure that innovative senior high

school practices such as those done in Quezon City are shared to other cities. The Department hopes that this good example of fruitful collaboration between local government and local DepEd is emulated across the country."

The League of Cities estimates that 40% of all public high school students study in cities and majority of these are expected to enter Senior high school when fully implemented in school years 2016 and 2017. DepEd data shows that there were 5.8 million public high school students in the country in 2012.

For LCP National President and Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, senior high school education is a significant reform towards quality basic education.

"With only a year remaining before the nationwide implementation, it is natural for city governments to fear. But we're taking this as a perfect opportunity for national-local synergy on basic education. We are glad to be

spearheading this initiative and Quezon City is happy to share its experience with fellow cities," Mayor Bautista said.

Dr. Steven Rood, Philippine Country Representative of The Asia Foundation and Mr. David Dutton, Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy in the Philippines also delivered messages of support in improving education, specifically on the SHS program, in the country. **

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- February 9-20, 2015**
- 1st Monitoring Session in 10 Selected Cities
- March 16-31, 2015**
- 2nd Monitoring Session
 - 3rd Mentoring (In-City) Sessions with 10 Selected Cities
- April 22, 2015**
- Culminating Event of the City LEADERS Project
 - Legislative Caucus on SHS

NEWS BITES

LCP adopts resolution supporting senior high school education

On August 26, the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) National Executive Board (NEB) passed a resolution "Expressing Support for the Upcoming Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Program Under the K-to-12 Basic Education Curriculum in 2016." The resolution proposed by Region 6 Representative and Himamaylan City Mayor Agustin Ernesto Bascon was adopted during the League's 59th NEB Meeting held at Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel, Quezon City. The said resolution also signaled the continued collaboration between the League and The Asia Foundation (TAF) on senior high school education by identifying the first 10 cities that will form the national coalition for SHS implementation.

DepEd underscores the role of LGUs in SHS education

In a meeting between League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the Department of Education, Undersecretary Mario Deriquito emphasized the leadership role played by local governments in implementing senior high school. The meeting held last November 6, focused on how local governments can complement current efforts undertaken by DepEd on senior high school preparations. In particular, DepEd sought the help of local governments in forging partnerships with local industries as potential internship areas for the students. Following the discussion with DepEd and the current initiative of the League, Mayor Bautista expressed confidence that cities will find that SHS is a valuable basic education reform program worth supporting.

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

The SHS Bulletin is a monthly publication released by the City LEADERS Project Team, which provides news and updates regarding the project. It features the journey of ten selected cities towards SHS implementation in 2016.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The City LEADERS Project: A Coalition of Cities is an initiative implemented by the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), in collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the Australian Embassy. The initiative intends to raise awareness on the upcoming implementation of the senior high school program in 2016 and assist cities in designing effective and responsive investment plans.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

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IN-CITY SESSIONS: Understanding city SHS investment plans

To ensure the attainment of the project goals, the team will organize a series of in-city mentoring sessions, which intend to follow closely the local SHS planning and budgeting process. In-city mentoring sessions was done in Dipolog and Himamaylan on the second week of December 2014.

DIPOLOG December 8

The Dipolog Session held on December 7-9 focused on refining the city's infrastructure and budget plan for their proposed stand-alone technical-vocational center. Given the city's relatively small local sources, accommodating all tech-voc strands in one stand-alone SHS facility means minimizing the cost for special facilities and equipment.

During the discussions with Mayor Eve Uy and her SHS technical working group (TWG), the team learned that the city government still needs additional financial resources to construct the proposed stand-alone SHS. DepEd guidelines provide that the number of enrollees in a particular school determines the allocation for MOOE. Because there will be no enrollees for the tech-voc center until after SHS opens in 2016, the proposed stand-alone SHS has no budget. The city government is now working to seek advice from DepEd and also the League for alternative solutions on the matter. Further, the city is working to forge partnerships with local TESDA and private land owners to

secure identified lands and/or school buildings for renovation.

The first session with the Dipolog Team provided lessons on budgeting by identifying which part of the tech-voc center would be funded by the city SEF and the general fund. The city government's commitment is also important in encouraging more partners for SHS: the city has already allocated a significant portion of their local fund to acquire land for the proposed SHS tech-voc center. It is also noteworthy that the Dipolog Team identified their own indicators for SHS progress: for instance, the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the stand-alone tech-voc center means that the city has already acquired the land. The first session in Dipolog indicates a brighter outlook for the upcoming in-city sessions.



Hands-on. Mayor Uy works with her SHS Team on refining proposed stand-alone SHS.



HIMAMAYLAN December 12

The Himamaylan Session focused on finalizing the budgetary estimates for their SHS plan and convening the SHS- technical working group (TWG). The city has 11 high schools, eight of which are public while three are private-run. All high schools will offer academic and technical-vocational tracks. Himamaylan National High School will offer both academic (e.g. STEM, HUMSS, ABM) and technical-vocational tracks. The rest of the public schools will offer different strands under the technical-vocational tracks. The principals of all 11 high schools began SHS planning in 2012.

During the discussions, the participants shared that the city does not have a diverse pool of local industries to collaborate

with, given their geographic location. Further, their relatively low income limits their capacity to significantly support SHS needs such as additional land, school facilities and equipment. But while they lack the necessary financial capacity, there is enough willingness and passion to serve exhibited by the city government and their cooperative high school principals. The city is now working towards drafting an executive order formalizing the SHS technical working group comprised of the 11 high school principals. They have also revised their estimated budget allocations for specific SHS offerings to determine which can be funded through their SEF and those that will need help from potential partners. The project team is confident that Himamaylan will find the right industry partners and sister-cities to bolster their SHS programs.



Workshop Session. Himamaylan high school principals and selected city officials revise their budget allocations for SHS and identified the fund sources.

