



Corporate Social Responsibility Sustaining Empowered Communities

The Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of BCDA have now evolved into long-term, sustainable programs, designed not only to meet the immediate needs of project-affected communities but to give them more productive and long-term livelihood opportunities.



Free medicines and medical consultations for project-affected families

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) continues to help various communities in Central Luzon, mainly those whose livelihoods were affected when the SCTEX traversed their farms and homes. These outreach activities now form the core of BCDA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects.

Implemented mainly by the SCTEX Project Management Office, the CSR initiatives of BCDA have now evolved into long-term and sustainable programs designed not only to meet the immediate needs of the affected communities but to give them more productive and long-term livelihood opportunities.

Skills Training

Thus, in 2010, BCDA's financial support, amounting to Php1 million, for the operation of the BCDA-Floridablanca Skills Training Center in the town of Floridablanca, Pampanga easily stood out as one of its best CSR programs. Launched on July 23, 2010, the Center emerged as the answer to the need for livelihood of "priority-affected persons," defined as those greatly affected by the construction of the SCTEX.

The Center was conceptualized after a series of consultations between BCDA and the Local Government Unit-Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (LGU-MSWDO). It provides skills training to the town's constituents in various fields such as Computer Hardware Servicing, Computer Literacy, Barista Course, Massage Therapy, including courses conducted by the Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PHILSCA)—Computer Literacy, Practical Electricity and Radio Repair/Antenna making.

A total of seven skills training activities were conducted by the Center from July to December 2010, benefiting 217 trainees. Many of the graduates of the training programs eventually passed the trade tests conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), giving them enhanced opportunities for employment and preparing them to embark on their own small businesses.

With the success of the programs, the LGU-MSWDO of Floridablanca has requested BCDA to continue supporting the center as more residents have expressed interest in the training programs offered by the Center. Among the special beneficiaries of the project were persons with disabilities, unskilled parents, and out-of-school youths.

On the other hand, a seminar on welding conducted in cooperation with the TESDA Unit of the Public Employment Services Office (PESO), Angeles City, Pampanga, benefited 30 members of the Special Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary (SCAA).

Livelihood

Another ongoing livelihood program in 2010 was the Hog Fattening Project in Concepcion, Tarlac, which was started in 2008. Aside from providing funds for the activity, the program now includes organizing the beneficiaries into a cooperative, for which the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), in partnership with BCDA, conducted three seminar-workshops as part of the cooperative members' organizational training. This is a five-year program which aims to equip beneficiaries with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to sustain the program independently.



Hog Fattening Project in Concepcion, Tarlac

The Hog Fattening Project has a total of 19 individuals and the cooperative as beneficiaries in 2010. They availed Php2.6 million in loans extended by BCDA during the year.

Medical Missions

Aside from the skills training center, BCDA likewise continued providing other services to the affected communities, mainly in the form of conducting medical missions in four different barangays in Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac in 2010.

The medical missions benefited a total of 2,312 residents who were provided free medical consultations and medicines. The missions were held in Barangay Roosevelt, Dinalupihan, Bataan; Barangay Hacienda Dolores, Porac, Pampanga; Barangay Santiago, Concepcion, Tarlac; and Barangay Pagalanggalang, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Community Initiatives

The BCDA, through its subsidiary, the BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc. (BMHI), also conducted organizational strengthening activities in support of the Pamayanang Diego Silang (PDS) community in Taguig City. BMHI provided the leadership and resources in the

successful realization of outreach programs that benefited indigent families, women and children belonging to the community.

Among the socio-civic projects were its assistance to the local health center of Barangay Ususan for its free vaccine and anti-Measles project, coordination with the Korean Church for their "Back to School Project" benefiting 300 school children, organization of a donation drive for victims of the December 2010 Sitio Pusawan fire, and the conduct of seminars that would promote additional livelihood among the women.

Further, BMHI regularly monitored the implementation of the solid waste management program in the area with the objective of optimizing the inherent value of wastes and promoting reforms in solid waste management.

Overall, BCDA's corporate social responsibility initiatives in the areas affected by SCTEX, among other developments, continue to improve the lives of many. They not only benefit from the direct assistance being provided by BCDA but, more importantly, are reaping the rewards presented by the operation of the SCTEX, and the business activities set off by this infrastructure development.