



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
National Capital Region
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS
Quezon City, Metro Manila



July 29, 2009


Memorandum To :

Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Division District Supervisors
Elementary / Secondary Principals

**Subjects : Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation Inc.
Trainings and Activities**

For the information of the field, enclosed is the official newsletter of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, Inc. that contains write up on the different trainings and activities conducted by the organization.

Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


Ma. Violeta M. Tupas
Education Supervisor I
Officer-In-Charge

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School principals show increased leadership

HSBC Principals LEAD Program a success

A study by the Ateneo de Manila has indicated that principals and school heads who attended the **Principals Leadership and Development (LEAD) Program** sponsored by the HongKong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) showed a significant increase in leadership marked by more training activities made available and attended by teachers, principals increased presence in the school and classroom visits, a school mission-vision that is communicated to the students and teachers more clearly, and school activities that are seen to address the communities' needs better, among other indicators.

Pre- and post-conference measures for parent

involvement and community partnership, school vision and mission, professional development & human resource management, and principal leadership were compared for the study. Increases or decreases in key performance indicator variables six months after the HSBC Principals LEAD Program served as the primary indicators of the success or failure of the conference.

The HSBC Principals LEAD Program was held for four days on two consecutive weekends in September 2008 at the Ateneo de Manila. A total of 49 school heads from SAS partner schools selected by the Department of Education Regional Director for NCR participated in the event. ♦



HSBC Principals LEAD Program participants with guest speaker Dr. Fe Hidalgo at the Ateneo de Manila

The International School Manila welcomes SAS Group Facilitators

Nine very fortunate SAS Group Facilitators had the enriching experience of participating in the **International School Manila (ISM)-SAS Exchange** in April 13-17, 2009, which seeks to give partner public elementary school teachers of SAS the opportunity to observe classes and learn teaching methods and strategies used at the ISM.

For five school days, SAS Group Facilitators

were immersed in the beautiful ISM Campus in Taguig, allowing for them to not just observe but also actively participate in games and group activities, and have fruitful discussions with their ISM counterparts who graciously volunteered to open their classrooms for this exchange.

Preparations for the exchange began as early as October 2008 with a meeting between SAS and

CEMEX supports education in Donsol

CEMEX brings the SAS Reading Program to Donsol East Central and Donsol West Central Elementary Schools in Sorsogon Province. At the program launch on June 19, 2009, no less than CEMEX President Sergio Menendez did a storytelling session for grade 4 students, who thoroughly enjoyed the activity.



CEMEX President Sergio Menendez reading "Basura Monster" to grade 4 students in Donsol

The SAS Teacher Training Workshop was held at the East Central Elementary School in May 2009, participated in also by eager grade 4 teachers and principals from San Vicente, San Isidro and Sibago Elementary Schools in Donsol.

Donsol is known as the whale shark capital of the Philippines. CEMEX has adopted the whale shark for its Adopt-A-Species program, which aims to institutionalize a strong, science-based framework for a long-term species conservation program to effectively avoid the extinction of endangered species and the degradation of their habitat in the Philippines. Sponsorship of the SAS Reading Program in Donsol is an extension of CEMEX's commitment to the conservation of its adopted whale shark. ♦

ISM teachers Shannon Grabow and Wayne Hamaguchi, SAS Group Facilitators who took advantage of this special event were strategically matched with ISM teachers who teach the same grades and/or subjects, and had similar interests. The response from the ISM teaching community was very positive, with up to 20 ISM teachers volunteering to join the activity.

This is the second partnership between ISM and SAS for such an activity. In September 2007, three SAS Group Facilitators participated in what was then called the ISM-SAS Mentorship Program. ♦

Coca-Cola Foundation brings smiles nationwide

Through the generosity of the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc., (CCFPI) grade 4 classes in ten Little Red Schoolhouses in ten different provinces nationwide will begin to run the SAS Reading Program this school year.

At the SAS Teacher Training Workshop held at the SEAMEO INNOTECH in May 2009, a total of 31 teachers and principals from Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Quezon City, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Eastern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental and Saranggani Province converged for three days of active learning, fun, and forging new friendships. Training was capped off with a trip to the Manila Ocean Park.

On June 15, 2009, simultaneous program launches were held in each CCFPI-sponsored school, attended by Coca-Cola representatives, and for some, also by SAS personnel. In Bagong Silangan Elementary School in Quezon City, school principal Eloisa Opeña expressed her commitment to implementing the SAS Reading Program in all 19 grade 4 sections. The Vice Mayor of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya appealed to the parents present to support and encourage their children to attend school and read as often as they can.

Since 2003, CCFPI has supported reading by bringing the SAS Reading Program to schools all over the country. By the end of school year 2009-10, all 80 Coke Little Red Schoolhouses throughout the Philippines would have experienced the joy and wonders of reading, thanks to the kindness of CCFPI. ♦



CCFPI President Cecille Alcantara (right) with SAS Teacher Training Workshop participants from Zamboanga del Norte and SAS Trainers Zarah Gagatiga & Grace Cubacub and SAS Executive Director Coly Los Baños



(L): Bagong Silangan Principal Eloisa Opeña and Quezon City Division English Supervisor Porfiria Santos with CCFPI rep Vic Manlapaz and SAS rep Gladdy de Guzman at the program launch at Bagong Silangan ES in Quezon City; (R): Schoolchildren of Upo Elementary School in Maitum, Saranggani Province browsing through the books from CCFPI

MIT Poverty Action Lab Study Updates

Researcher from Columbia University arrives in Manila

The first stages of the MIT Poverty Action Lab survey study of the SAS reading program's effectiveness in cultivating the love and habit of reading among elementary school students began in the early part of June with the arrival of Todd Kumler, a PhD candidate in Economics at Columbia University. Kumler will oversee the implementation of a baseline reading exam of over 5,700 fourth-grade students in 100 schools throughout Tarlac Province, as well as the random assignment of the SAS Reading Program to 50 of these schools. He will also conduct the final analysis of the two-year survey along with Dr. Leigh Linden, an affiliate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Poverty Action Lab and an Assistant Professor of Economics at Columbia.

Mr. Kumler conducts research in development economics, with a particular focus on poverty alleviation policies and educational programs.

"Improving education is one of the best methods for empowering individuals and decreasing poverty. What's interesting about the SAS program is that it does not simply teach children how to read, but that it strives to foster a love of reading that will continue after the end of the program," Mr. Kumler says.



Todd Kumler with the principal and teachers of Lourdes Elementary School in Bamban, Tarlac

The SAS study is the first randomized evaluation of an education program in the Philippines.

"Randomized trials represent the gold-standard of analysis, which is why economists like myself utilize this methodology for evaluating social programs," states Mr. Kumler.

Mr. Kumler grew up in suburban Chicago and received his B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, *Summa cum Laude*, from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. While this is his first time in the Philippines, he reports that he is enjoying the sites of Manila and appreciates the hospitality of all of the SAS staff members. ♦

Tarlac province to show the way

An Orientation on the MIT Poverty Action Lab - SAS Study for School Principals and Supervisors of 100 elementary schools in Tarlac Province that will participate in the project was held at the Tarlac National High School on June 4, 2009.

Schools Division Superintendent of Tarlac Province Dr. Victoria A. Aguas was present at the event to show her full support to the study and point out the significant role the province of Tarlac will play in terms of defining the needs of Filipino schoolchildren and determining what can be done to address these needs, particularly for reading.

SAS Executive Director Coly Los Baños presented the objectives of the study and the methodology that will be used. The school heads raised questions and expressed their apprehensions that were answered and soothed by both Dr. Aguas and Ms. Los Baños.

On June 16 and 18, 2009, pilot tests simulating the administering of the survey tools were done in Remedios Elementary School and Lourdes Elementary School in Bamban, Tarlac. Researcher Todd Kumler of Columbia University observed the procedure to ensure a flawless administration of the baseline survey scheduled in July 2009.

SAS has commissioned TNS Philippines to administer the tool and gather data needed for this groundbreaking study. ♦