

MEDIA RELEASE

Philam Life policies raise P2M to build new classrooms

The Philippine education system has been constantly beset with shortfalls in both human resources and infrastructure.

According to the Department of Education (DepEd), there were about 6.2 million out-of-school Filipino children back in 2011. DepEd also found out that for every 100 students in Philippine public schools, about 66 of them will finish elementary education, 42 will finish high school, and only 25 will eventually pursue college.

Aside from this, nationwide classroom shortage can also hike up to 152,000, DepEd said, assuming that there is a current student-teacher ratio of 1:45 among the country's public schools.

This setback, which has been stalling the progress of our education system, urged Philam Life, the country's largest and most trusted life insurance company, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm Philam Foundation, to start the Philam Paaralan program.

Philam Paaralan is the flagship program of Philam Foundation intended to help the country's public education system by building classrooms in typhoon and calamity-stricken areas as well as underserved or unserved areas around the country.

In the past two years, Philam Paaralan has been able to build 14 classrooms in three provinces --
- eight classrooms were built in four different towns in Isabela after it was hit by typhoon Juan; six classrooms were built in the cities of Cagayan De Oro and Iligan after they were greatly affected by typhoon Sendong.

An Educated Nation Empowered for the Future

Through the generosity of Philam Life, its clients, and policyowners, the life insurer was able to raise sufficient funds in just over six months to build several more classrooms in Mindanao.

As part of its 65th anniversary, Philam Life donated P65 for every new policy sold from June to December 2012 to the Philam Paaralan program. In just six months, the P65 campaign totaled P2.15 million, which is enough to build two (2) additional Philam Paaralan classrooms.

This year, Philam Paaralan plans to channel all its resources to build classroom buildings in the provinces of Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Agusan del Sur after typhoon Pablo ravaged the region.

All Philam Paaralan classrooms follow a blueprint standard that is above the minimum requirement for public school buildings, and are fully furnished with chalk boards, fans, armchairs for the students, as well as tables and chairs for the teachers. The classrooms are also equipped with restroom facilities, which are actually not a standard in a lot of public schools in far-flung areas.

In addition, Philam Paaralan will soon include Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facility and incorporate basic hygiene activities such as hand washing, oral care and de-worming in their curriculum to help students imbibe the importance of hygiene and sanitation.

“We understand that education is not the sole responsibility of the DepEd, or any single entity for that matter,” says Rex A. Mendoza, Philam Life President and CEO. “By allowing our clients to share in this noble cause, Philam Life is taking an active step in the education of the youth, which is something that we feel every Filipino is accountable for.”

To know more about the Philam Paaralan program and how you can help build more classrooms, please visit Philam Foundation’s webpage at www.philamlife.com or call (02) 526 9449.

Visit www.philamlife.com to know more about Philam Life, its products, and its quest to build an educated nation of empowered Filipinos.

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About Philam Life

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philam Life) is the largest life insurance company in the Philippines and the market leader for over 60 years. Philam Life offers an extensive line of products in the industry that provides solutions to various financial needs including life protection, health insurance, savings, education, retirement, investment, group and credit life insurance. Philam Life has the most extensive network of offices and sales agencies nationwide.

Philam Life is part of the AIA Group Limited, the largest independent publicly listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world.

About AIA

AIA Group Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively "AIA" or "the Group") comprise the largest independent publicly listed pan-Asian life insurance group in the world. It has wholly-owned main operating subsidiaries or branches in 14 markets in Asia Pacific – Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Macau and Brunei and a 26 per cent joint venture shareholding in India.

The business that is now AIA was first established in Shanghai over 90 years ago. It is a market leader in the Asia Pacific region (ex-Japan) based on life insurance premiums and holds leading positions across the majority of its markets. It had total assets of US\$119,494 million as of 31 May 2012.

AIA meets the savings and protection needs of individuals by offering a range of products and services including retirement planning, life insurance and accident and health insurance. The Group also provides employee benefits, credit life and pension services to corporate clients. Through an extensive network of agents and employees across Asia Pacific, AIA serves the holders of more than 24 million individual policies and over 10 million participating members of group insurance schemes.

AIA Group Limited is listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited under the stock code "1299" with American Depositary Receipts (Level 1) traded on the over-the-counter market (ticker symbol: "AAGIY").

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