

# SUPPORTING THE K-12 REFORM: IMPROVING THE COUNTRY'S READINESS FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

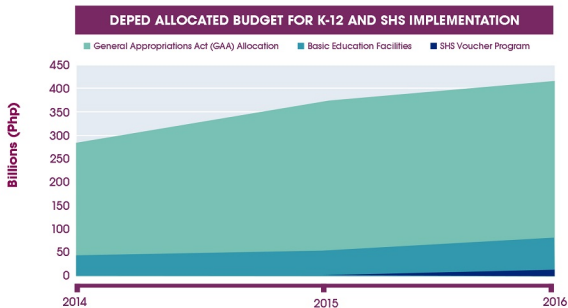
The Australian Embassy and The Asia Foundation, through its Coalitions for Change (CfC) flagship program, hopes to effect policy reform by encouraging civil society, the private sector, the academe, and the government to work together and contribute to transformative change.

One of CfC's key reform agenda is to support the Philippine Government's K-12 basic education reform (RA 10533)<sup>1</sup> focusing on Senior High School (SHS).

## THE PROBLEM

An estimated 3.1 million Filipino students<sup>2</sup> will enter public senior high schools in school year 2016-2017. While national government allocations<sup>3</sup> for SHS implementation have increasingly been programmed for school facilities as well as a specific allocation for SHS tuition discount vouchers for 2016, there is

opportunity to further leverage local government resources to invest in SHS. The increase in LGU revenues can help build school sites, provide equipment for technical courses, and train teachers in technical and vocational specializations.



## HOW CFC CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SHS has critical links to generating employment and providing the necessary skills to spur local economic development. CFC therefore works in key cities and

provinces to increase investments in SHS, encouraging the collaboration between local governments and local businesses. CFC also works with the Department of

<sup>1</sup>SHS features two additional years (Grades 11 and 12) intended to improve the competencies and learning of high school graduates.

The K-12 puts the required years of basic education in the Philippines at par with global standards.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Education (DepEd) data ([www.data.gov.ph](http://www.data.gov.ph))

<sup>3</sup>Department of Budget and Management (DBM) General Appropriations Act (GAA) FY 2014 to 2016

Education (DepEd) to contextualize the curricula so that it is more responsive to local industry needs.

CfC supports the formation of national and local coalitions to increase investments for SHS implementation. CfC also works to establish industry-linked models of SHS programming, where SHS graduates shall fill substantial employment demands of local industries.

CfC covers the costs of engaging technical specialists for evidence-based research, facilitating networking activities across stakeholders, conducting workshops for mutual learning, and generating advocacy to motivate other players to commit for a more effective SHS in the Philippines.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### Establishment of a coalition known as the City L.E.A.D.E.R.S. (Lead, Educate, Advocative, and Design Effective and Responsive Senior High School Programs).

The coalition of city local governments has become an important platform to motivate its members to share and commit to SHS implementation. Its nationwide membership grew from 11 to 21 in just six months (September 2014 to March 2015). The work of the coalition will benefit at least 297,000 SHS students (48:52 male:female) or 11 percent of the total students expected to enroll in SY 2016-2017.



### Local Governments through the CITY LEADERS coalition have invested an additional Php 1.87 billion (AUD 52 million) to SHS.

These funds will secure basic infrastructure, acquisition of land for classrooms, and purchase of equipment, augmenting DepEd's funding for classrooms, teacher salaries, curriculum training, and textbooks.



### Improved planning for SHS through better investment plans.

The 11 pioneer city Mayors enacted an Executive Order creating a multi-sectoral SHS-Technical Working Group (SHS-TWG) to operationalize planning and resource allocation for SHS. Plans for SHS are now grounded on evidence and solid estimates of future costs, avoiding duplication and waste of scarce resources.



### The 2017 Grassroots Participatory (Bottom-Up) Budgeting Program now includes a Php 10 million (AUD 282,609) allotment for each LGU project for SHS workshops, laboratories, and equipment.

A City LEADERS initiative that all LGUs will benefit from and reinforces the sustainability of the K-12 reform



### Tax Incentives for Local Businesses Who Commit to the Reform.

CfC helped develop the Implementing Rules and Regulations of tax incentives for local businesses who support QC public schools, thus adding more interested stakeholders to commit to SHS investments.



### Curriculum for Tourism, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)/Technical-Vocational tracks are now more responsive to local needs in Pilot Areas.

In Calamba, DepEd, and the city's semiconductor industry have worked together to review the curriculum. As a result, the SHS of Calamba City now offer new specializations that respond directly to the needs of local businesses and making future graduates more eligible for local employment.

CfC, with the Provincial Government of Bohol, the Municipal Government of Panglao, DepEd Bohol, and industry partners developed an SHS curriculum for tourism. Up to Php 6 million investment for SHS facilities (tourism laboratory) were leveraged as a result of this pioneering collaboration.

## PARTNERS

- Department of Education (DepEd) national and regional offices
- League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
- League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
- ICCP Group Foundation, Inc. (IGFI)
- Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants (BAHRR)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Erika Montero-Geronimo** | Portfolio Manager for Governance and Civil Society Engagement | Australian Embassy  
Tel: +63 (2) 757-8174 | Email: Erika.Montero-Geronimo@dfat.gov.au

**Christine Bantug** | CfC Program Leader | The Asia Foundation (Philippines) | Tel: +63 (2) 722-9999  
Email: mariechristine.bantug@asiafoundation.org

**Henry Grageda** | Theme Leader, CfC Basic Education | The Asia Foundation (Philippines) | Tel: +63 (2) 722-9999  
Email: henrygrageda@asiafoundation.org