



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION OF
PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT REPORT

with the support from

THE NIPPON FOUNDATION
Japan

INTERIM REPORT

January - June 2010

THE PHILIPPINES

I. ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

a. What activities were planned for the reporting period?

S. No.	Project Activities	Annual Target	Midterm Results
1	Workshop for College Administrators on Education as Human Right in the CRPD	30	48
2	Orientation for College Professors with Visually Impaired Students	200	55
3	Instructional Materials for Math and Chemistry College Professors	124	Ongoing
4	One Year College Scholarships for the Most Outstanding High School Students	3	3
5	College Preparation Course for Visually Impaired Students	30	30
6	College Semestral Break Check-Up	30	Scheduled in October
7	Student Resource Center (Cadiz, WBC, Manila)	43	54
8	Daisy Book Production and Player Loan	25	12
9	Equipment Loan for College Students with Visual Impairment	50	Ongoing
10	ON-NET Scholarships for 4 Blind students for a Degree in Computer Science	4	4

b. What activities have been implemented?

All scheduled activities above were implemented except the College Semestral Break Check-Up which is scheduled for (August) October 21-23.

c. What progress has been made towards the project purpose?

- Partnership among key stakeholders such as the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Dept. Of Education, Parent Advocates for Children with Visual Impairment (PAVIC) and others will increase opportunities for college students with special needs to access university information and services.

- We are recently joined by Mr. Ryan Operario, Low Vision, Bachelor Education graduate major in Math, as our fulltime Student Resource Center Coordinator.
- Mr. Operario aside from managing the center has also scheduled different trainings for college students. He also provided tutorial in High School and College Mathematics and 20 students have availed this tutorial service that ranges from 1 hour session to 1 week, depending on the students needs and availability.
- College students supported by our office recently established their own support group called VICNET or Visually Impaired College Network. With 5 core members regularly meeting in the students resource center, they plan to connect all students with visual impairment nationwide using social networking site called "Facebook".
- The Students Resource Center accommodated 755 number of students who visited from January to June.
- The Students Resource Center conducted series of trainings depending on the needs of the students, as per details given below from January to June this year.

Table 1: Trainings Conducted at SRC

Date	Duration	Trainings	Participants	No. of Participants
Jan. 20	1 day	Review Algebra Concepts	College students	2
Jan. 27	1 day	Review Algebra Concepts	College students	5
Feb. 20	1 day	Abacus	Parents	29
Apr. 19-23	5 days	College Algebra	Incoming 1 st year college students	5
Apr. 26-30	5 days	College Algebra	Incoming 1 st year college students	3
May 10-14	4 days	High School Geometry	3 rd year high school students	5
May 18-21	4 days	High School Geometry	3 rd year high school students	4

II. CHANGES IN THE PROJECT PLAN AND MANAGEMENT

a. Difficulties Encountered and Lesson Learnt

1. Which planned activities and results could not be achieved during the reporting period?

Equipment loan for college students with visual impairment was not yet fully implemented because the ordered equipment has arrived only recently. We are currently distributing the equipment to selected students nationwide and this will be included in the yearend report.

2. What are the lessons learnt? How could this be applied in the future?

- Currently enrolled students with special needs should form a support group representing and advocating their rights regardless of the nature of disabilities.
- The recently established students support group VICTA should have a representative in planning and consultative meetings conducted by National Council on Disability Affairs and the National Commission on Higher Education.
- Staff with visual impairment should have more involvement in all planned activities for students with visual impairment.

III. OUTLOOK TO THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

a. Please specify the results that you plan to achieve during the next reporting period?

We plan to complete all our target activities, which link up on increasing enrolment of college students with blind/visual impairment nationwide.

b. Which activities you plan to implement?

We will continue to implement all our planned activities throughout this year. The College Semestral Break Check-Up for 30 students is scheduled on forthcoming October 21-23, 2010.

We have also planned to implement the following target trainings for college students with visual impairment.

Table: 2 Target Trainings from July to December

Date	Topics	Target Participants	Resource Person(s)
Aug. 14, 21 and 28	Introduction to HTML	BSIT and BSCS Students	Joseph Tristan Marayag
Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25	Office Applications (Microsoft Word, Excel, powerpoint and Internet)	First and Second Year college Students	(to be determined)
Oct. 2	Open Book Application	First and Second Year College Students	(to be determined)
Oct. 9	Embossing using DBT Application	First and Second Year College Students	(to be determined)
Oct. 16	Introduction to Programming	First and Second Year BSIT and BSCS Students	(to be determined)
Nov. 6	Remedial Instruction in Trigonometry	First and Second Year College Students	(to be determined)
Nov. 13	Remedial Instruction in Statistics	Students who are/will be enrolled In the Subject	(to be determined)
Nov. 20	Quantitative Approaches in Physics	Students who are/will be enrolled In the Subject	(to be determined)
Nov. 27	Introduction to Programming	First and Second Year BSIT and BSCS Students	(to be determined)
Dec. 4	Quantitative Approaches to Chemistry	All Students who are/will be enrolled in the subject	(to be determined)

INDONESIA

I PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A. Sensitizing Events

During first six months of this project, the following two sensitizing events have been conducted with our local partner:

1. A Cultural event to promote inclusive education system in university was conducted on June 10 in Jogja State Islamic University. This event was also conducted to commemorate the third anniversary of “the disabled service center” within the university.

In this event, students with different type of disability were on the stage, performing dancing, music both modern and traditional one (gamelan), singing and poem reading. A well-known local cultural figure was also invited to make speech on the occasion.

Agreement between Pertuni and the University was signed, in order to promote Inclusive Education System in the university and to provide guidance on how to provide adaptive learning and service system for students with disability and how to manage a service center for students with disability within a university.

The main message of this event was to sensitize all the university stake holders that there have been a service center for students with disability in the university, and that the university should step by step develop itself into welcoming environment, both socially and physically.

2. A Seminar to promote inclusive education system in university was also conducted in Jakarta by Mitra Netra – Pertuni’s local partner, on July 28. This seminar was conducted in cooperation with the University of Indonesia, which has been a pioneering service center for students with disability since 2007.

There were four resource persons related with the issue who made presentation:

- The Dean of Social & Political Science Faculty, the one who decided to start a pioneering service center for students with disability in the University of Indonesia; he shared his experience how the university has been serving blind students and their plan to develop the center. In between his presentation, a blind student was invited to extend testimony on how he has been utilizing the center, and the challenges he has been facing till now in pursuing education in the university.

- Executive Director of Mitra Netra, Pertuni's local partner in the first year of higher education pioneering project; he shared his experience on how Mitra Netra has been developing services for blind students pursuing education in the university
- Vice Dean of Faculty of Education Science of Jakarta State University; this university has been functioning as Mitra Netra's partner in higher education since 2006; he presented several major issues faced by blind students who are pursuing education in the university and how the system should support them
- Secretary to Director General of Higher Education of the Ministry of National Education; it should have been the Director General himself who had committed to come and make presentation on how the ministry had evolved policy to support students with visual impairment in university; but due to sudden request from the Minister of Education, the Director General had to canceled his attendance to our seminar and sent his secretary.

Before the seminar, Mitra Netra conducted "essay competition" for university students throughout Jakarta and its surrounding areas on the selected theme of "The strategy to develop a welcoming campus for students with disability". There had been 27 participants competing to get the first, second and third price of the competition. To judge the competition, Mitra Netra nominated a senior editor from nation-wide on-line media Kompas.com and the Dean of Faculty of Politics and Social Science.

The best three of the articles had been published on **Kompas.com** and **VHRmedia.com**.

The main objective of this competition is to build awareness of the university students that there have been students with disability among them, and the campus and university environment should be developed into welcoming entities, both physically and socially. Building such awareness among young people is very important, since they would be our future leaders in any sector of our life.

B. University Preparation Training

One university preparation training was conducted in Semarang Center, Java by Pertuni local Chapter within the Province. Since this was a new program, the committee decided to invite 15 high school blind students to join the training. After the invitation was released, the committee got delightful response, especially from the rehabilitation centers for the blind that accommodate high school blind students, both from special schools and regular schools. Therefore, finally, 31 blind students from throughout the province participated in the training; which was more than double of the decided target.

This training was facilitated by a low vision lady, who is a psychologist, and has experience of doing similar trainings for sighted people.

Since Pertuni chapter in Central Java has been developing good relationship with their provincial government, actually this training was planned to be financed from by the government budget. But, since they had more than double of the expected number of participants, the higher education project covered the deficit of the training expenses.

Training method used was as follows:

1. General discussions; the committee invited selected resource persons to present selected topics, such as:
 - How university life is; presented by the PR Director of Dian Nuswantoro University
 - How blind students could survive in university life and get promising jobs; presented by Aria Indrawati and Yanto Pranoto, Pertuni Board Members.
2. Individual and group assignments that were directed by facilitators on selected topics:
 - What your dream is
 - SWOT Analysis
 - How to reach your dream
3. Games, both indoor and outdoor.

Objective of this training:

1. Helping the participants to know and understand themselves: strength (interest, potency/talent), weakness, opportunity, threat.
2. Developing awareness to build personal goals, both short term and long term, and design the route to reach that goal.
3. Developing awareness that basic education is important, but higher education is a strategic way to make a change within their life.

The training outcome seen on the spot is as follows:

1. Several students conveyed that now they had the courage to have dream.
2. Most of them tend to understand that they should “get out of the box”; up till now they have been blocking by negative mentality of being blind.
3. Most of the participants tend to know what their interests and potency are.

C Providing guidance on how to manage service center for disabled students and best practices on adaptive teaching and services for students with disability within university

During the reporting period, these activities are still going on, since it started only in July 2010, and therefore, we could not produce the result, so far.

Steps that have been pursued to produce those guidances are as follows:

1. Formulating the team
2. Doing literature researches
3. Drafting the guidance
4. Conducting workshop that would be participated by related stakeholders to ask for inputs
5. Finalize the guidance
6. Printing the guidance

After finishing the work, both The Jogja State Islamic University and Pertuni would promote and distribute those guidances to universities throughout Indonesia.

II PROJECT PUBLICITY

Up till this reporting period, publicity carried out on project activities are as follows:

1. Cultural sensitizing event in Jogja was covered by four local media in Jogja, including campus press.
2. Pertuni Press release on the event was forwarded to mainstream mailing lists, and was up-loaded in Pertuni website and blog.
3. Jakarta seminar on inclusive education in university was covered by nine media and among them is Kompas.com, a well-known on-line media in Indonesia.

III. CHALLENGE & LEARNING PROCESS

During the preparation for the Jakarta seminar, Mitra Netra together with Pertuni had met the Director General of Higher Education of The Ministry of National Education.

During the discussion, the Director General seemed to be surprised on knowing that there were only very few blind people who have graduated from the university.

On the seminar, the Director General's Secretary who represented him, mentioned that the Ministry would support the higher education campaign that has been promoted by Pertuni, in order to encourage universities to develop themselves as welcoming environment both socially and physically for students with visual

impairment. But, how they would support is still a “big question” for us, since he mentioned firmly that each university has its own autonomy.

During the discussion in the seminar, Pertuni Higher Education Project Coordinator had conveyed three proposals on how the Ministry of National Education could support this campaign:

1. Bringing the higher education campaign issues into regular rector meetings to sensitize them that universities should be developed as welcoming environment for students with disabilities.
2. Proposing to the National Accreditation body that the availability of a service center for students with disability within universities should be one of important requirements if they are willing to become “national and international standard universities”.
3. Awarding the universities who have their own idea and initiative to develop service center for students with disability; this award would be able to stimulate other universities to do similar thing.

To cope with the challenges concerning the “government’s goodwill” on this issue, there should be follow up meetings both with the Director General of Higher Education and with the Minister of National Education.

At the same time, university preparation trainings should also be done more widely to prepare blind students to be more ready for university life, and to diversify subjects that they could be pursuing.

VIETNAM

We have started the 2010-2011 program from May of this year. Followings are what we have achieved and on-going.

- 1.1 We have arranged with a local company to get 15 laptops with their support with Windows operating system and MS office, free of charge. We are going to select the students meeting our requirements to give them the laptop. Same as before, we continue working with VBA to process the application form from students in the North and Central areas. Blind students in the south area submit the application form directly to us at Sao Mai.

In addition, we are also collaborating with the Talking Library to get them involved into our project.

We are planning to organize a small event to present the laptops for students in early November.

- 1.2 School material production:

As stated in the proposal, in the first year, we are going to finish production of 70 book titles in accessible formats for the students and the 130 book titles in the next year. After 3 months, we got done almost 40 book titles and so we hope that we can produce extra number of book titles in the first year. We are also working with volunteer clubs in HCM, Danang and Hanoi to get them together and share their support for the blind students through our developing web portal. We already have one meeting with Green Dream volunteer club in HCM and will have other two meetings with the Song Han volunteer club and Hanoi volunteer club in September.

- 1.3 Higher Education web portal:

We are half way in developing the website for the higher education program. The system contains three main components, *1) The online library, 2) The content management system (features such as user management for students, volunteers, scholarship application forms, book request, scholarship requests, education related news etc), 3) forums.*

We are working with the existing online general library to get them share their books from their resource. They are ready to share the books with the blind students but they request us to show them our web system to make sure that the books are downloaded by visually impaired users. Therefore, we are waiting for the website done and show them how we manage the books shared from their site. For this, we must ask the registered blind students to certify they are legally blind before giving them permission to download the books from our shared partners.

- 1.4 From August 15, we are conducting the first 2 weeks training for the fresh students at Sao Mai with computer skills to apply that into their studies. The other two trainings will be conducted at Danang VBA and Hanoi in September.