Every Filipino Child a Reader

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Philippine Board on Books for Young People Sa Aklat Sisikat ("Books Make You Cool") Foundation Philippines

Thailand (TK Park) Conference on Reading 25 August 2011

When you give someone a book,

you don't give him just paper, ink, and glue,

You give him the possibility of a whole new life.

okmd สำนักนายกรัฐมนตรี Christopher Morley

First the bad news, before the good news

The Philippine public school system, often described as "overburdened and under-resourced".

- Not enough classrooms, Overcrowded classrooms
 - Large class sizes
 - Not enough teachers, Poor quality of teachers
 - Not enough textbooks
 - Poor quality of textbooks
 - Increasing dropout rates
 - Less than ideal classroom settings

The good news...

• the 2011 budget of the Department of Education has increased to a record Php 192 billion (US\$ 4.5b)

• 52% more than the Php 122 billion (US\$ 2.8b) budget in 2006.

Why the dropout rate?

- Marked from Grades 1-2 due to health & nutrition: poverty
- 100% enrollment rate in Grade 1 to 68.38% in Grade 6.
- A decline each year because of poor comprehension skills and inability to succeed in school
- Main academic problems: reading, math, science

•HS Year 4, the enrollment rate plunged to 42.50%, with only 14% graduating from college.

2004-05 Department of Education data

Overall, there is poor quality of teaching and learning. อทยานการเรียนร่

What has become clear is that ...

Reading proficiency is the key to early literacy success and eventual success in school and the work world.

What an irony...

- That keeping the students in school will mean an additional 1-1.2 million students to the system.
- A success that will breed new problems, even worsening the present shortages.

Basic Education Reform of the Aquino administration (2010-16)

- Part of the 10-point agenda:
- By 2015, children everywhere in the country will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

• By 2016, that every child must be a reader by Grade 1 by the end of the Aquino administration

The necessary infrastructure for this...

·libraries reading books •teachers trained in teaching reading

Department of Education (DepEd) in 2001

Every Child a Reader Program (ECARP)

• Grade 3: level targeted when every child must be a successful reader

Also known as the

enberenntene

Zero nonreaders goal by Grade 4

•Grade 3 found too late in the elementary level, especially with the mandatory Kindergarten program as preparation for Grade 1 this school year.

An ambitious goal?

Major institutional reforms are in order

the accompanying infrastructure

 the much needed teacher training for more effective reading instruction

There is no denying that...

There are many existing pockets of excellence, but not a mandated standard, uniform, sustainable program that every one adheres to.

What the DepEd has instead are...

 different initiatives from different divisions around the country

• a catalog of Best Reading Practices and Reading Intervention Projects from 30 schools in 17 regions as of March 2010.

Ten years after

- the very catchy Every Child a Reader slogan, our achievement test scores are nothing to crow about
 - Two concrete results:
- Philippine Informal Reading Inventory, a one-on-one reading assessment program
- The New Zealand Reading Recovery Program for Grade 1 low literacy achievers

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DepEd 2001 directive

every student should show written or oral evidence of having read at least two books a year, one per semester prior to promotion to the next level.

Reading and the medium of instruction

- President Aquino refers to an ambitious tri-lingual approach that poses a challenge:
 - "learn English well to connect to the world, learn Filipino well to connect to the country, retain your mother tongue to connect to your heritage."

Trilingual policy improves on the

 Old bilingual policy as medium of instruction: majority of students do not have the background in English and in Filipino, the national language to succeed in either language.

Build on the cultural and linguistic diversity of Philippine society

- Our rich cultural heritage and the archipelagic geography of the country's 7100 islands have given us
 - over 120 distinct languages
 - eight major regional languages which are widely spoken.

For school year 2011-12

- Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC
- Introduced the first-ever universal public kindergarten program for 5-year olds
- Initial step towards the K+12 program:
- 1. To address competencies in English, Math, and Science
- 2. To make graduates more globally competitive

How does one promote the love and habit of reading in a setting like the Philippines today?

 Philippine Board on Books for Young People or the PBBY

• Sa Aklat Sisikat ("Books Make You Cool")
Foundation

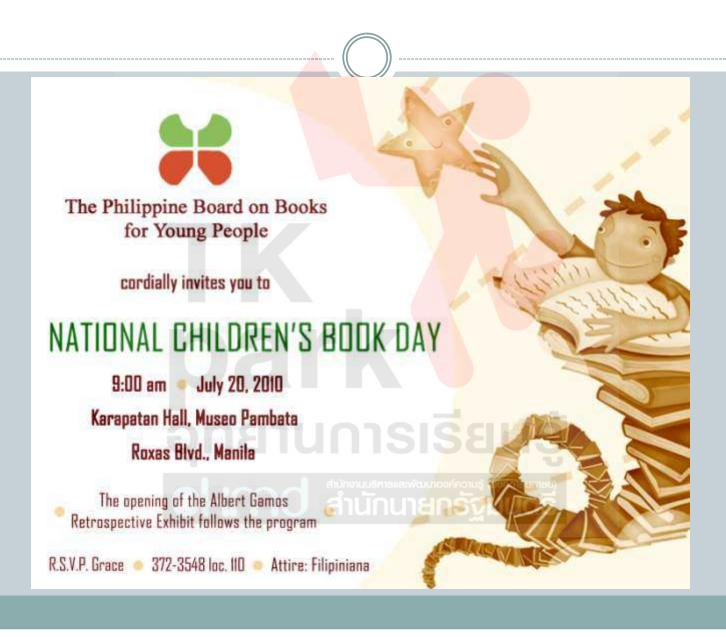
Both are impassioned with the crusade to make every Filipino child not only learn to read but love to read.

PBBY

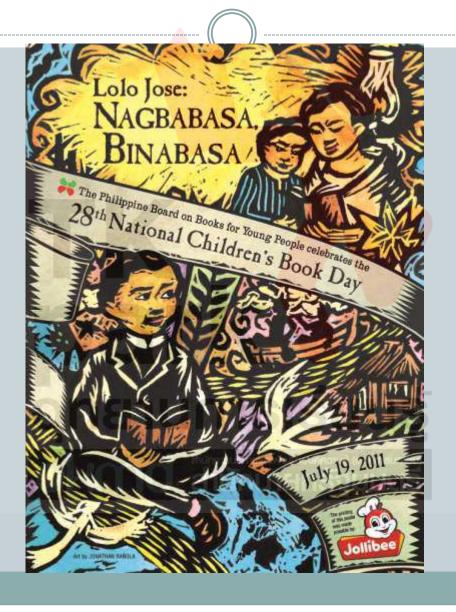
 lead agency in celebrating National Children's Book Day every third Tuesday in July

• the date marks the anniversary of the publication of Philippine national hero Jose Rizal's "The Monkey and the Turtle" in *Trubner's Oriental Record*, a London publication.





Grandpa Pepe Reads, Is Read



The Social Cancer/The Reign of Greed



J. Rizal

El filibusterismo

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Goal of SAS

- to build a nation of readers and to develop in the public school children the love and habit of reading through its 31-day Reading Program:
 - a two-day Teacher Training Workshop
 - Read-A- Thon
 - "Celebrate Reading"

Why 31 days & why Grade 4?

•For a habit to be formed, it will take continuous practice of a routine 21 to 28 times

 Age when the child begins to read comfortably

Over a decade, SAS has been in...

- 868 public schools. (only 1/4 of total no.)
- benefitting 24,619 teachers
- touching the minds of over one million Filipino students nationwide
- distributed almost 181,000 children's books.

ekmd สำนักงานบริหารและพัฒนาองค์ความรู้ (องค์การมหาชน)

In May 2011, SAS got an A+ rating...

•From the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Columbia University and the Department of Education



A feather on the mythical bird mural



Teacher Training



A print-rich environment



Culminating Activity



The independent study concluded that

• the short-term SAS reading program is an effective way of "cultivating good reading habits in children and, hence, improving their reading ability."

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The age-appropriate books

- improved reading skills
- the program had the largest and most persistent effect on word recognition
- boosted the reading habits of students, even outside school

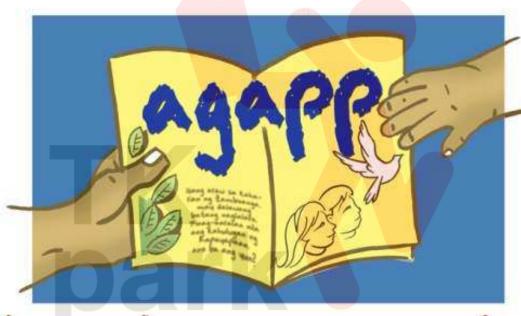
The Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund

Through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) gave a grant for SAS for:

The development of an online teacher training program

eneriannes

Creation of 25 computer labs nationwide



aklat, gabay, asuga tungo sa pag-angatuatupag-asa

AGAPP Foundation & Room of Dreams

- AGAPP: books, teacher training, feeding, livelihood and parenting support programs towards a better quality of life and hope
 - Presidential sister Pinky Aquino Abellada heads this foundation

• 100 preschools in a year's work and still counting



BEFORE Photos





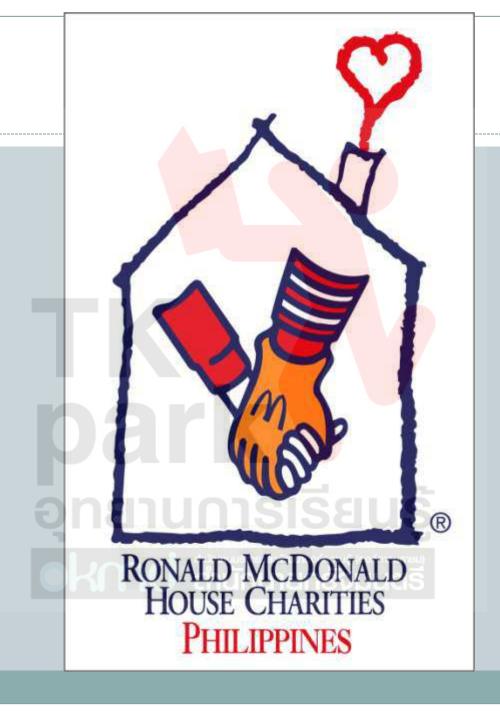












A special program for Grade 1: BMR

- Only 4% of the Gr. 1 students could read
- Developed by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)
- Bright Minds Read (BMR): 33 big storybooks
- 200 activity sheets
- lesson plans for basic reading, building comprehension and enriching language skills



Bright Minds Read program

- Not supplementary but basic curriculum materials
- Developed under the Basic Education Curriculum of the Department of Education
- Expanding to other grade levels

Four objectives of beginning reading

development of a genuine love for reading

 the development of comprehension and critical thinking skills

oral language development

the development of decoding skills



A program for Grade 2

 Union Bank of the Philippines Corporate Philanthropy and Social Responsibility (CPSR) Program

Values Education for Grade 2

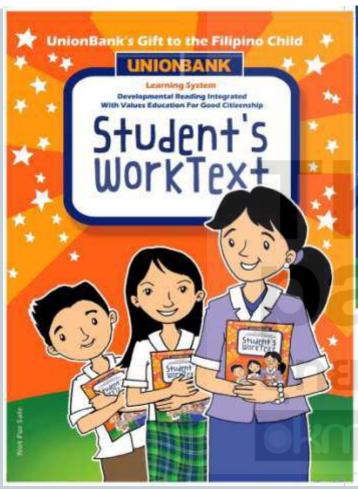
- Developmental Reading Integrated with Values Education for Good
 Citizenship
- To strengthen basic reading skills
- To instill the values enshrined in the Preamble of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

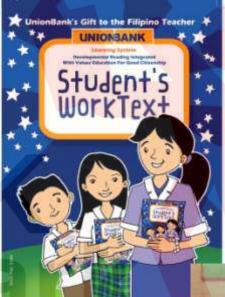
•Aims to make the Filipino child

more patriotic and dutiful citizens, taking pride in the Filipino heritage

The citizenship program was developed, guided by these...

- United Nations Millennium
 Development Goals (MDGs) of achieving universal primary education
- Department of Education's goal of zero non-readers through the Every Child a Reader Program





Program Components:

Student's WorkText for all Grade 2 Pupils

Teacher's WorkText for all Grade 2 Teachers

Teaching Video for all

บทารเรี ป สำนักนายก

In the words of a DepEd director

 "program improved not only pupil but teacher performance as well. It was the first time in the history of the entire Philippine educational system that the school children signed ownership on a book that was personally issued free to each



The UnionBank program

- Now on its 5th year of implementation
- Benefitted over 1.4 million Gr. 2 public school students and 24,000 teachers
- UnionBank Learning System: awarded for being the best corporate social responsibility program in education and responsible citizenship

What is the secret of its success?

- consults with the DepEd every step of the way, working with existing programs and procedures
- It shares its best corporate practices with the DepEd:
- 1. financial resources
- 2. cardinal virtues of business:

Creativity

building community

practical realism



Ateneo Teachers Center - Impact Evaluation Study*

Post Test Comp	etency	Increment
64.85 %	Mean Pe <mark>rcen</mark>	Achievement
70.66 %	Reading Com	prehension
	Decoding Skill	S
57.41 %	Language Skil	ls 16.41
	64.85 % 70.66 % 63.98 %	64.85 % Mean Percent 70.66 % Reading Com 63.98 % Decoding Skill 57.41 % Language Skil

There is a 41.59% increase in Reading Achievement

 "Reading is a survival skill. If you cannot read, you cannot learn; if you cannot learn, you cannot survive...."

Dedicated grade level programs

- *K*: 100 classrooms of Aquino-Abellada; KinderCollege
- Grade 1: Bright Minds Read
- Grade 2: UnionBank Values Education & Citizenship Program
- Grade 4: SAS (Books Make You Cool) Reading Program

Much more needs to be done

If only every grade would be "adopted" from K to 12!

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DepEd's Library Hubs

If students were to be encouraged to read and to love reading, there had to be an infrastructure for reading in every school. The students needed to have books in their hands.

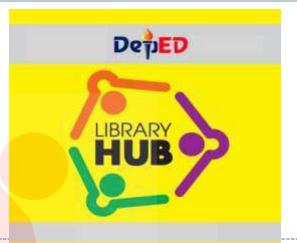
The problem: Setting up a library for...

37,000+ public elementary school libraries in the Philippines?

Thus, the concept of Library Hubs was born

warehouse or wholesale libraries established in different schools divisions in the country to service public elementary and high schools in the division.





LIBRARY HUB PROJECT

park

An Invitation to Invest in Literacy through DepED's Library Hub Project

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Department of Education Central Office
Office of Undersecretary for Finance and Administration



To date

There are 194 constructed Library Hubs for 117 schools divisions, out of a total of 204 divisions all over the country.



A BookMobile & Reading Program

- Bookmobile provides the students with the library that their schools do not have.
- Components of the literacy program:

book borrowing privileges guided reading programs

creative learning experi<mark>ences through arts and crafts and s</mark>torytelling

tutorials in English, Math, and Science values formation computer literacy









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 a training package for Reading teachers which is especially critical as 60% of teachers in 2007 did not have the proficiency in English, the medium of instruction in all public schools

Creative Learning Experiences
While some students line up
to enter the bus, others are
gathered by DLSL studentvolunteers for storytelling
sessions, arts and crafts and
film showing.



Story Telling

JI KK LI WAR PAR JO CE OR RC SS Tt UUV





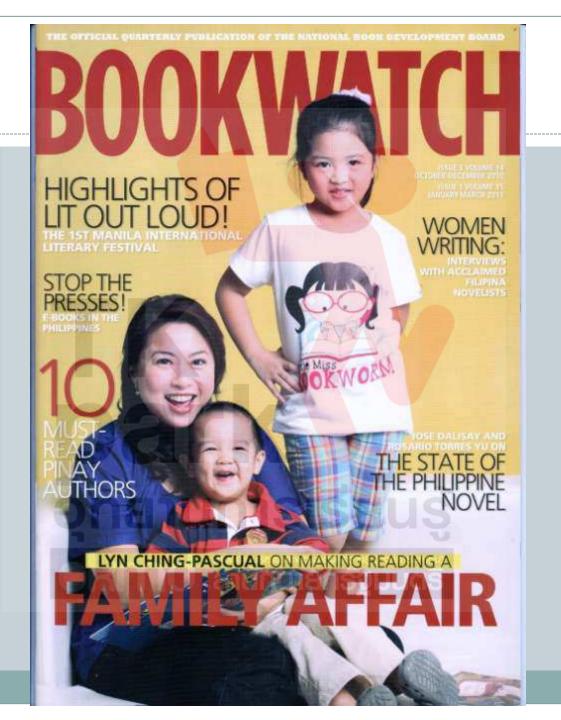


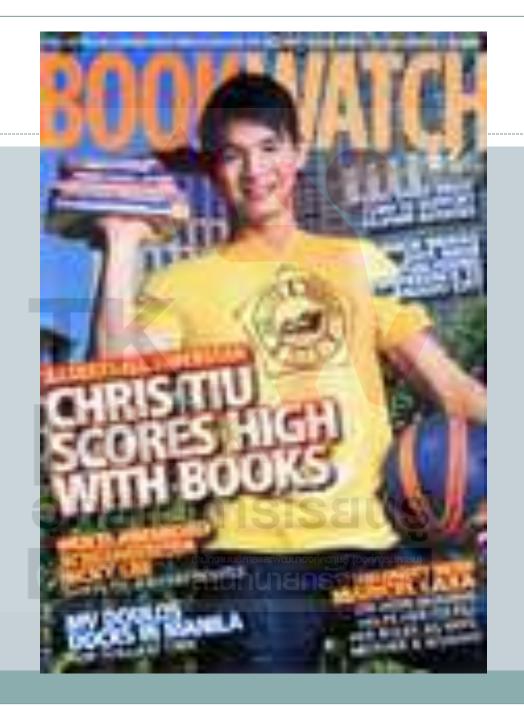
Film Viewing



National Book Development Board

- Booklatan sa Bayan
- Philippine Book Development Month: November -
 - LOL, Lit Out Loud!
- Book Club Meeting
- Get Caught Reading
- National Book Awards (since 1981): in partnership with the Manila Critics Circle
- National Children's Book Awards (2010): in partnership with the Philippine Board on Books for Young People
- Bookwatch







Inquirer Read-Along of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

- The country's leading broadsheet launched this in May 2007
- "simple, low-cost" idea aimed at encouraging public use of the Inquirer Library
- Originally "reading sessions" targeted at school children to get them started on the habit of reading

Format of Read-Along Program

Held twice a month, the format is:

- a read-along with a celebrity or role model
 - another session with a trained storyteller
- a third one with Junior Inquirer (the children's weekend supplement of the newspaper) readers who share reading tips

Read-Along conveys this message...



Led by the Book Development Association of the Philippines

- The Manila International Book Fair held every year in September for at least five days
- now on its 32nd year

3 major national broadsheets on books & reading

- Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star have weekly sections devoted to books & art
- Weekend children's supplements of the *Inquirer* and the *Star* feature children's work and book reviews

Other factors promoting reading...

• Philippine publishers who continue to publish quality books which sell and are well received

Despite competition the digital age offers and successful marketing strategies of foreign titles

Philippine publishing: an act of courage

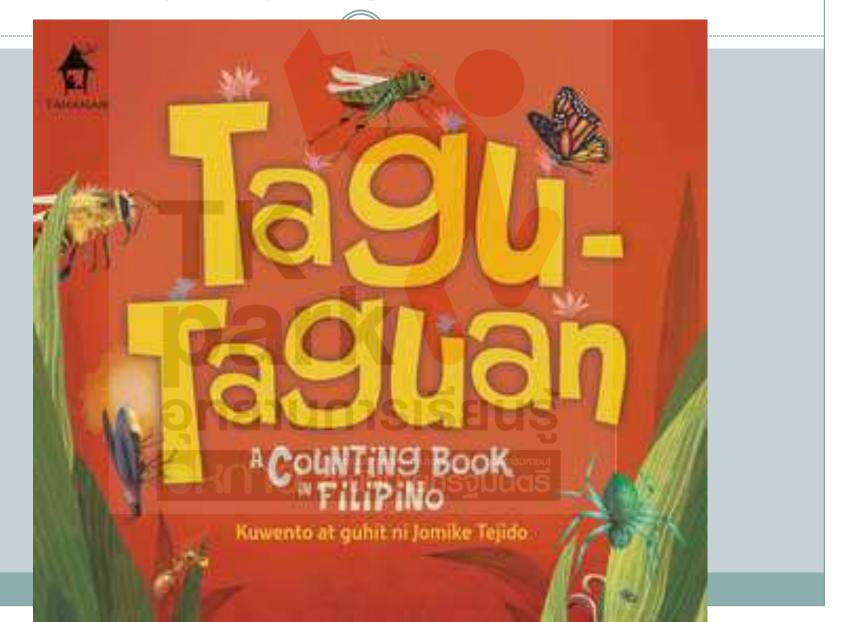
- 2009: 5900 trade books
- •2010: 5800 trade books
- •2009-2010: publishers of children's titles—less than a 100

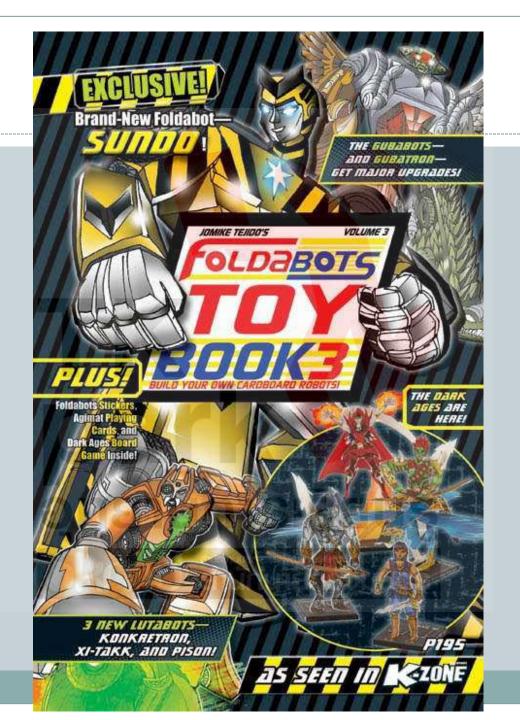
Karina Bolasco, publishing manager of Anvil Publishing, Inc.

"... as long as we make books that get children to read, this by itself is good, for the habit of reading... is what we aspire to develop among our young as a lifelong habit.

Book reading is a virtue unto itself, and if publishers succeed in turning it into a lifelong dependency or addiction, then that should be good, for truly and regrettably, book readers are today an endangered species."

Jomike Tejido, young brilliant illustrator





Every Filipino child a reader อทยานการเรียนรั

Teaching a child to read is like watching a flower

bloom.