

Grant Application to Members of the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines

Beneficiary Project

Philippines Dictionary Project | Nina Patawaran, Project Founder

Project Rationale

The Philippines Dictionary Project aims to improve the academic performance of underprivileged Filipino children by ensuring that they have access to well-designed children's illustrated dictionaries. The Project distributes age-appropriate dictionaries to public elementary schools (PESs) across the Philippines.

English, which is a foreign language to most Filipinos, remains one of the mediums of instruction, with textbooks for select subject areas written in English. Yet, most PESs have no more than 1 dictionary to serve the needs of an entire school of approximately 300 students (on the average). In general, the limited copies of dictionaries available in these schools are all in fine print, thus inappropriate for young readers. Combined with the fact that most public school children do not have access to adults with a good command of English, it should come as no surprise that these children have limited English vocabulary and thereby struggle to fully comprehend the English passages that they encounter in their textbooks. By enabling these children to access tools that can improve their comprehension skills, the Project hopes to be able to improve these children's academic performance.

Project Goals

- Rollout the Project to 20 Metro Manila PESs; (so far, 8 PESs have been pledged);
- Improve the (English) vocabulary of students at participating PESs;
- Impart good governance skills (such as inventory control) to PES teachers;
- Enable the sharing of know-how (through teacher training sessions) from the partner local center of excellence—De La Salle University—to PESs;
- Jump start a dialogue on education between the partner local center of excellence, PESs, DepEd administrators, donors and local political leaders;
- Extend support to groundbreaking community outreach programs of local universities.

Use of Grant Funds

To raise funds for 50 copies of *Scholastic First Dictionary (Revised Edition)* that will be used to sponsor one (1) PES which is a priority to the BMAP Member or its employees.

The Project selected this specific dictionary over others because of its many child-friendly features. Children have their own special needs that are addressed amply by *Scholastic First Dictionary (Revised Edition)*: large font, lots of pictures, generous use of color, foolproof phonetic pronunciation guides and definitions expressed in simple but full sentences, just to name a few.

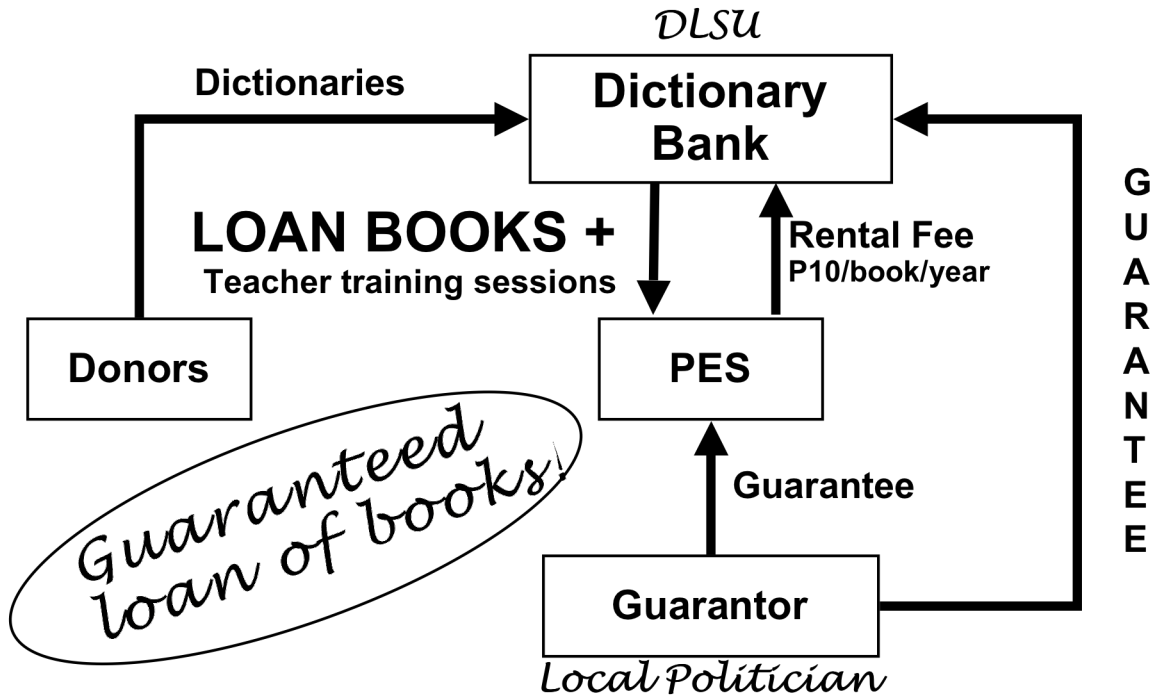
Proposed Project Cost

- 50 dictionaries at P450 each P22,500
- Administrative expenses None

Total Grant Requested: **P22,500**

(For total transparency, the BMAP member is requested to disburse the purchase cost of dictionaries directly to the dictionary distributor. Alternatively, De La Salle University will be pleased to receive check donations to the Philippines Dictionary Project; official receipts and BIR Certificates of Donation will be issued.)

Project Mechanics



De La Salle University (DLSU) will be Metro Manila’s dictionary bank and has agreed to include the partnership with Philippines Dictionary Project as one of their Centennial Projects.

DLSU shall perform three general roles: (i) the custodian of the dictionaries, (ii) the lender of such dictionaries to participating PESs and (iii) the provider of teacher training sessions at least once a year. The 1st role will include tasks such as the proper cataloguing of each dictionary, the application of donor/call number labels and the provision of protective plastic book covers. The 2nd role will include the preparation of loan documents and the administration of a Metro Manila-wide dictionary loan program. With respect to teacher training sessions, topics will be determined by DLSU in consultation with the participating PESs. In short, the dictionaries will serve as a catalyst for DLSU and Metro Manila PESs to start a dialogue and for these PESs to discover the know-how that is available (for free) at a local center of excellence such as DLSU.

PESs are invited to borrow 50 dictionaries per school for up to one school year at a time. They pay the dictionary bank a nominal rental fee of P10 per book (or a total of P500) per school year. The rental fee will go to DLSU as partial reimbursement of DLSU's loan administrative cost. Dictionary loans are renewable on a yearly basis provided that the borrowing PES took good care of the dictionaries and successfully integrated the dictionaries into their classroom activities.

Each participating PES will come to DLSU at the start of the school year to (pay their rental fee and) pick-up their set of dictionaries. To take advantage of the presence of PES teachers, DLSU will conduct the teacher training sessions then.

To encourage participating schools to act responsibly, a local political leader (such as a mayor or congressman) is enlisted to act as the schools' guarantor. The guarantor replaces books that are destroyed or go missing, thereby ensuring that the number of dictionaries remains intact. It will behoove PESs to take care of the dictionaries to avoid having the names of their schools and their principals, complete with telephone numbers and home addresses, included in the audit report / replacement bill that is sent to the guarantor at the end of the school year. Inclusion in such report/bill will trigger a loss of face vis-à-vis the local political leader, something school principals want to avoid at all cost since political leaders control public purse strings.

Benefits to the Project Stakeholders

- ***Participating schools.*** Access to lots of books to achieve a modified 1:1 student-to-dictionary ratio at fraction of retail cost; gratis teacher training sessions from DLSU; improved Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) of students; teachers' practicum of good governance skills.
- ***BMAP Members (and other donors).*** Philanthropy with low chance of waste or abuse; reassurance that funds will go to the intended beneficiaries. Each BMAP Member is urged to choose a PES that is close to their office(s), or a PES that holds special meaning for its employees. The first 8 Metro Manila PESs are being sponsored by a group of individuals who happen to be La Salle Greenhills/DLSU alumni; by co-investing along with these individuals, BMAP Members will encourage the general public to join hands with the business sector to effect education reform, even if only by donating one dictionary at a time.
- ***Political leaders.*** Political goodwill arising from entry of (donated) resources into their jurisdiction; can truthfully claim to have helped their constituents.
- ***DLSU.*** Heavily-subsidized multi-disciplinary outreach project—College of Education for teacher training sessions, student volunteers (under the supervision of librarians) for book processing—that complements already existing programs; practicum for collaborations across disciplines; opportunity to share DLSU know-how (through teacher training sessions) with more schools; expand contact with non-alumni of DLSU and engage them as donors.

Prior Rollouts

Province	Launch Date	Dictionary Bank	# of PESs	Beneficiary LGUs	Guarantor(s)
Negros Oriental	Nov 2008	Silliman University	30	Ayungon, Bindoy, Canlaon, Guihulngan, La Libertad, Manjuyod, Tayasan, Vallehermoso	Congresswoman Jocelyn Sy-Limkaichong
Capiz	July 2009	Filamer Christian College	27	All 18 LGUs in Capiz	Governor Victor Tanco
Leyte	Nov 2009	LIDE Learning Center, Inc. <i>(pending full formalization)</i>	8	Isabel	LGU of Isabel
Iloilo	Nov 2009	Central Philippine University	25	Anilao ¹ , Concepcion ^{1,2} , Dingle ² , Iloilo City ^{1,2} , Leon ² , Pototan ²	¹ LGUs, ² respective Mayors
Guimaras	Nov 2009	Central Philippine University	4	Jordan, Nueva Valencia	Governor Felipe Hilan Nava

Prior Corporate / High-Profile Sponsors

- **Mr. Washington SyCip.** (Please refer to attached endorsement.) Mr. SyCip sponsored 1 Negros Oriental PES and recruited his son and a friend to sponsor 1 PES each.
- **Jollibee Foods Corporation.** Jollibee sponsored 2 Capiz PESs.
- **Smart Communications.** Smart sponsored 1 Capiz PES.
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands.** Rather than sponsoring a specific school, BPI opted to sponsor 1 children's thesaurus for each of the schools in Negros Oriental and Capiz (total 57 copies).
- **Bato Balani Foundation.** Bato Balani donated 57 copies of their commemorative publication *The Best of Bato Balani* for distribution to the 57 participating schools in Negros Oriental and Capiz.
- **Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America.** These US companies matched donations from their employees.