

Thursday, July 9, 2009 | MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Corporate Bulletins

GTZ wins a Presidential Award at MSME Week Rites

Cited for best practice in creating a business and investment enabling environment

Mandaluyong City. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presented a presidential citation to the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in recognition of its Private Sector Promotion (SMEDSEP) Program's implementation of a best practice in creating a business and investment enabling environment.

The award was received today by the GTZ SMEDSEP Program Manager Dr Volker Steigerwald during the opening ceremony of the Go Negosyo o Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSME) Summit, the centerpiece event of this year's celebration of the MSME Week.

The plaque specifically cites GTZ SMEDSEP for "significantly contributing to the development of MSMEs through the creation of economic opportunities that helped achieve a better quality of life for Filipinos".

Since 2004, GTZ SMEDSEP has supported at least 40 local government units (LGUs) in the Visayas in streamlining their business permit and licensing systems (BPLS). The initiative has resulted to among others: 1) reduction in the business permit processing days to an average of 25 percent, 2) reduction in the amount of bureaucratic costs by 73 percent for new registrants and 74 percent for renewing registrants, 3) increase in the number of new registrants by 60 percent, 4) increase in the number of renewing registrants by 39 percent and 5) increase in the amount of business tax collected by 40 percent.

Other business and investment climate approaches promoted by the SMEDSEP are the local and regional economic development, value chain, financial services and business development services.

The SMEDSEP, a development cooperation project between the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany, aims to improve the business and investment climate for MSME in the Philippines especially in the Visayas. SMEDSEP contributes to the efforts of the Philippine government to improve the framework conditions for private sector development in the country. SMEDSEP is implemented in partnership with the DTI at national, regional and provincial levels and the GTZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The GTZ is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations owned by the German Government. For 30 years, it has been providing forward looking contributions to political, economic, ecological and social development in partner countries. GTZ supports reform and change processes in an increasingly globalized world, often working under difficult conditions. GTZ's major approach to facilitate change is promoting capacity development of people and partner organizations as well as improving institutions and frame conditions in partner countries. The joint projects and programs are outcome and impact oriented. They contribute towards socioeconomic progress.

Revolutionizing Classroom Learning to Improve Students' Academic Performance

Over the last few decades, concept mapping and visual learning have become all the rage in US schools. Gone are the days of assembly line education by memorization and regurgitation of information. Teachers today give more leeway and independence in exploring classroom concepts.

The Inspiration® and Kidspiration® Software program helps in the more personalized learning environment by allowing students to construct maps and outlines that reinforce the links between people, ideas or events. "They're the most flexible tools of their kind," said Lynne Anderson-Inman, director of the Center for Advanced Technology in Education at the University of Oregon.

Inspiration® and Kidspiration® are visual thinking and learning tools that help students of all ages organize their thoughts, brainstorm, plan, create and learn. These tools are revolutionizing visual learning in education.

Inspiration® and Kidspiration®, which use a plethora of visual prompts to encourage gains in writing, thinking and planning skills, have been a phenomenal hit with children. So much so that there are more than 10 million students using these software worldwide, developing stronger thinking and organizational skills and improving their academic performance. Recently made available in the Philippines, Inspiration® and Kidspiration® are now being used by international schools like International School Manila, Brent International School and International School Cebu and other prominent academic institutions in the country, such as St. Paul Pasig and La Consolacion Manila.

To know more about Inspiration® and Kidspiration®, you can visit the website of its exclusive Philippine distributor, Ascent Network Solutions, Inc.: www.goascent.com



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