



TROMPA

The voice of the Xavier Ecoville community
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Community Bulletin Board

PagBAG-o Project Runway

Exhibit: November 15 to
22 at the 2nd floor of
Lim Ket Kai Mall

Runway: November 23
at Rotunda, Lim Ket
Kai Mall

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XU students' enterprise bags British Council grant

By Niña Bea Cadorna

SKETCH Bags, a social enterprise by Business Administration seniors of Xavier University for the benefit of the Xavier Ecoville (XE) community, was awarded a Php100,000 seed grant at the British Council's *I am a Changemaker* camp in Tagbilaran City, Bohol on October 25.

The Changemaker camp was initiated by the British Council, an international organization for educational opportunities and cultural relation, in partnership with the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF), a staunch supporter of social entrepreneurship.

"It was a great experience. It was overwhelming," said Zuein Guantero, general manager of the *SKETCH bags*. With this year's theme "Resiliency, Reconstruction and Recovery," the Changemaker camp gathered young social entrepreneurs throughout the Philippines in a 7-day ideation camp to widen their knowledge in social entrepreneurship through seminars, trainings and site visits.

The five best social enterprises were awarded with seed capital for either the improvement or establishment of their respective social enterprise.

Xavier Ecoville mothers at the frontline

"We will use the money to provide more skills trainings, production equipment and financial literacy trainings for the sewing enterprise of XE. These will hopefully enhance the quality of the bags" Guantero answered when asked about their plans for the grant.



Anne Sebastian and Zuein Guantero were the winners of the *I am A Changemaker 2014*

SKETCH aims to provide livelihood opportunities for the families affected by Typhoon Sendong in December 2011. They tapped 30 mothers from the XE community for the production of the recycled bags. These women are paid for every bag they produce.

**“We are not just building houses.
We are building a community.”**

“We chose to help XE community because, like the XE residents, two of our group mates are also Sendong survivors. The XE community is also close to our hearts” said Anne Sebastian, Guantero’s partner in the camp. “We wanted to help the society and the community” Guantero added.

They also admitted that they drew their inspiration from Arsenio Sebastian, Ann’s grandfather, who takes active involvement as the livelihood development consultant of the XE Project.

Hope for a bigger market

SKETCH bags started as a feasibility study requirement for their course. The bags were made from *katsa* cloth. They were then chosen by School of Business and Management to represent XU in the camp.

Currently, SKETCH bags have already produced and marketed a total of 470 bags. They are targeting to sell 900 bags by the end of this year. They will be distributing the bags to various organizations and companies.

They are hoping that through their efforts, the sewing enterprise will be sustained and the market for the bags will expand.

The other members of the SKETCH bags feasibility study group who were not able to join the camp due to the limited number of participants were Raymond Sabio, Lichelle Salgados, Ted Povadora, Ian Son and Mark Amper.

Other social enterprises from XU were *Knots and Woods*, another FS group who produced shoes made out of abaca fiber, and *ROOFosition* of the XEP staff which aimed to develop a technology for urban gardening and maximizing the spaces on the roofs. **T**



Young entrepreneurs behind SKETCH Bags



Bags made at Xavier Ecoville



Pakisayod

SLB visits Xavier Ecoville

By Niña Bea Cadorna

The *Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan* (SLB), the social-political arm of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus visited Xavier Ecoville on October 22 to learn from the experiences of the Xavier Ecoville Project (XEP) and to adopt its framework in the implementation of their own rehabilitation project.

As a component of their Typhoon Yolanda rehabilitation project in Culion, Palawan, SLB intends to relocate around 300 families from vulnerable areas near the coastal line.

During the site visit, the XEP management team toured them around Xavier Ecoville. SLB was able to interact with some of the community members, including the Xavier Ecoville Homeowner’s Association (XEHA) officers.

SLB is a non-paritsan, church-based and Jesuit-led organization concerned with the socio-political affairs of the Philippines. They are aiming to see and learn from other relocation projects successfully implemented by the Jesuit network. **T**



XE conducts first block elections

By Niña Bea Cadorna

Xavier Ecoville conducted its first block elections on October 26, electing their president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer for each block.

The block elections aimed at creating a functional and effective policy-making body at XE. The newly elected block presidents are qualified to become members of the Board of Directors in the upcoming BOD Elections this December.



A volunteer facilitates the block election

The block elections were facilitated by members of the XU faculty and staff, including the *Kristohanong Katilingban sa Pagpakabana - Social Involvement Office* (KKP-SIO) volunteers and other selected members of the XU community. There are now 28 new sets of block officers at XE. **T**

What's new at Xavier Ecoville?

By Niña Bea Cadorna

Since the Xavier Ecoville (XE) Project started in January 2012, the XE residents and stakeholders have already made several efforts to establish a self-sustaining and value-laden community. These efforts include the construction of their own chapel, multipurpose hall, daycare center and livelihood center. Now that it has been three years since XE was built, what have been the recent accomplishments and developments in the community?

PANbag-o Bakery

The PANbag-o bakery was initiated by the Xavier Ecoville Multipurpose Cooperative (XEMPACO) in partnership with the Xavier Ecoville Project as an addition to their livelihood center. PANbag-o was derived from the word *pan* which means "bread" and *bag-o* which means "change or freshness." It connotes a taste of change and fresh start for the XE residents. The PANbag-o bakery opens daily at 5 in the morning to sell freshly baked breads at a minimum price. It took two years of planning before it was finally realized. The PANbag-o bakery opened on August 8, 2014 and is currently handled by Marilou Alfabeto, the general manager of XEMPACO.

Solar Panels

Initiated by the XU-Alternative Renewable Energy Center (XU-AREC) and funded by the Department of Energy (DOE), 24 solar powered streetlights were already installed at Xavier Ecoville in September. During the day, the solar panel collects the sun's energy and stores it in a rechargeable gel cell battery. When there is no longer any energy from the sun, the light emitting diodes (LED) light automatically turns on using the stored energy in the rechargeable battery. The streetlights were installed in community spaces and in the dark perimeters of the community to provide security and safety especially at night. XE is one of the resettlement communities in Cagayan de Oro granted with solar panel installation by XU-AREC and DOE.



Solar-powered streetlights at Xavier Ecoville

Balay Isdaan at Iba Pa

Xavier Ecoville opened its wet market on September 28 at the pocket park of Block 5. There are 25 stalls and the renters have to pay P10 per day to the livelihood committee of the Xavier Ecoville Homeowners' Association (XEHA). It serves as fundraising to increase XEHA's funds.

The Balay Isdaan at Iba Pa was initiated by the livelihood committee of XEHA and funded by Sibya, Inc., a social enterprise of XU students which received a funding grant from the British Council's Changemaker Camp last year. With the stakeholders' continued support and the residents' thriving efforts, XE never runs out of projects and development plans to improve the community. **T**



Special guests at the opening of the Balay Isdaan