

What's Inside

- Master in Productivity and Quality Management
- CARD staffs graduates at SFAC



the Navarro

New BSBA Microfinance alumni. The first ever alumni of the pioneering BSBA major in Microfinance Management posed for a photo call after the 56th Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises at Brokenshire College in Madapo, Davao City on April 22, 2012. Brokenshire College is CARD MRI partner in the curriculum design and implementation of the degree program. Qualified graduates from CARD MRI partner schools are entitled to job placement at any of the nine CARD MRI institutions in the Philippines.

E2E: Enrolment to Employment

WITH ITS PLACEMENT of microfinance graduates in its microfinance operations, CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (MRI) debunks the often reported mismatch of industry competency need and curricular offerings in many collegiate schools in the Philippines.

CARD MRI partners with Brokenshire College in Davao City and Forbes College in Legazpi City for the public offering of the pioneering microfinance program, fulfilling its commitment of absorbing the qualified graduates as staff of its financial institutions – CARD Inc, CARD Bank and CARD SME Bank.

The partnership is a model of a true academe-industry linkage where the parties collaborate in the curriculum design and implementation with such collaboration strengthened by a Memorandum of Agreement. The required 300-hour on-the-job training takes place at CARD MRI branches where the students immersed in the entire microfinance operations—from client recruitment and organizing to providing the client a host of enterprise and human capital development services that include microfinance, micro-insurance, business development services and education.

Brokenshire's BSBA major in Microfinance program produced its first ever alumni in April 2012 marking a milestone in Philippine education. Starting with 15 students, the program gradually added enrollees reaching 88 students from first year to fourth year during SY2011-2012.

Ten of the first 15 students made it to the finish in April and will soon be part of the cadre of social development practitioners in the Philippines as employees of the largest group of social development enterprises in the country that is CARD MRI. CARD Inc, the NGO microfinance provider of CARD MRI has one of the alumni hired as teller since his completion of the 2-year microfinance certificate course in the same school in 2010.

As of the end of March 2012, close to 7,000 men and women are on board

at CARD MRI offices throughout the country, doing various tasks towards advancing the socio-economic conditions of about 1.5 million Filipino families struggling to survive the poverty pit. Most of them are graduates of local colleges and universities who found opportunities to serve their fellow Filipinos while addressing their own social, economic and career needs.

Better known as a top nursing school south of the Philippines, Brokenshire College in Davao City is the leading evangelical Christian institution in southern Philippines. It is the education provider of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Forbes College has a total of 135 graduates of the TES-DA-accredited 2-year microfinance certificate program since its start in 2008. Its enrollment peaked to 391 students during the first semester of its trimester system in SY2010-2011. CARD MRI has employed about 25 of its alumni with a few of them joining other microfinance institutions in the

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Master in Productivity and Quality Management



File photo

Each of 25 students of the first MPQM major in Microfinance program of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) received a certificate after completing 21 core and major units in a formal ceremony held at DAP in Pasig on February 14, 2012. During the certificate awarding ceremony, the DAP also conferred the Eminent Person and member of DAP Council of Fellows distinction to CARD MRI Founder and Managing Director Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip (center) and recognized six CARD MRI executives (Front row L-R: Edzel Ramos, Flor Sarmiento, Marivic Austria, Dorie Torres and Deve Briones) for their participation as faculty of microfinance. The MPQM is a joint undertaking of the DAP and CARD MRI facilitated by the CARD-MRI Development Institute. All students including two from the church-based microfinance provider Simbag sa Pag-aseño Development Institute in Albay are scholars of CARD MRI. The first curricular offering ended on June 2012 while the 2nd offering will begin on August 2012.

New MPQM major in Microfinance alumni



Mean Salcedo

Eighteen students of the Master in Productivity and Quality Management major in Microfinance formally ended their program in graduation rites held at the DAP campus in Pasig City on June 23, 2012. Seven of their classmates received their non-degree diploma in Productivity and Quality Management on the same occasion. Mr. Joevil Tardio (behind left of front row) of CARD Inc topped the academics while Mr. Romeo Garde (behind right of front row) of CARD Bank ranked first in the Action Plan and Project (APP) for his "Development Strategy to Attract Micro-clients without Loans to Avail of CARD Bank-Mulanay Loan Products." Each of the two honor students took home a gold medal.

New CARD SME Bank branches

CARD SME Bank opened its 4th branch in Batangas City on March 5, 2012 and its 5th in Sta. Rosa, Laguna on May 14, 2012. CARD SME Bank primarily serves the financing needs of CARD Inc and CARD Bank clients who have moved up from micro-enterprises to small and medium enterprise. The first three branches are in Sto. Tomas and Lipa, Batangas and Tagaytay City. CARD SME Bank main office is in San Pablo City.



Cynthia Baldeco

New BotiCARD branches

BotiCARD inaugurated its 3rd drugstore in Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental on March 8 2012 and its 4th in Lipa City on June 18, 2012. BotiCARD provides free medical consultations to the host community and CARD MRI clients each time a branch opens. CARD MRI plans to open a clinic where possible in every BotiCARD drugstore. Otherwise, members of CARD MRI network of health service providers throughout the Philippines will be tapped to provide free outpatient medical consultations in the CARD MRI branches nearest to the clients. The first and second drugstores are in Sampaloc, Manila and San Pablo City, respectively. The main office is in San Pablo City.



Cleo Figuracion



CARD MRI staffs get degree at SFAC

Nine (9) staffs from different CARD institutions obtained a BSBA Management degree with specialization in Microfinance from St. Francis of Assisi College during the school's commencement rites at the Manila Hotel on April 11, 2012. The nine staffs were beneficiaries of the pilot college continuation program for CARD MRI staffs who completed two years of college only. They attended intensive classes held at the CMDI Bay campus every semester since 2009. Joining them in the photo call are their microfinance mentors, Ms. Dolores Torres and Dr. Enrique Navarro.

Three CARD-supported ALS learners hurdle DepEd A&E test

THREE OF 15 LEARNERS of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) facilitated by the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) passed the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test given by the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) on October 27, 2012 at Bay Central Elementary School in Laguna.

Twenty-two year-old Danilo Ellera and twenty-four year old Melissa Labrado placed first and second, respectively, among 30 Bay passers of the secondary level test. Fifteen year-old John Albert Torres passed the elementary level test.

The 15 learners were relatives of CARD MRI clients who were recruited during an advocacy social mobilization conducted by CMDI ALS Instructional Manager Cristy Chua in Barangay Sta. Cruz and Barangay Tranca

in Bay, Laguna. Chua facilitated the weekly meeting of learners to follow through on the progress of their accomplishments of the self-instructional lessons done at their own phase and time wherever they were. They did 20 of these meetings including two mock A&E tests at the CMDI from April to September 2011. The learners also joined a Youth Leaders' Summit sponsored by the DILG, DepEd, IRRI, Rotary Club and CMDI at the CMDI Bay Campus on May 14, 2012.

The ALS is a partnership that started between the local unit of the DepEd



Daniel Ellera



Melissa Labrado

BALS and CMDI in 2010 primarily intended for the women clients of CARD MRI who want to complete an aborted elementary and high school education without physically going to school to attend regular class hours. The first batch consisted of 13 all-client learners who unfortunately did not meet the passing grade in the 2010 A&E. (Cristy Chua)

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Bicol Region. Most of the others who continued towards completing a degree were below the age requirement at the time of their completion of the 2-year program.

Aiming to contribute in the uplift of the marginalized Filipinos, the former Global Trainers, Inc is a new school in Legazpi City offering both certificate and degree courses. Forbes College was granted the permission to offer BSBA major in Microfinance by the Commission on Higher Education in 2010.

CARD MRI Scholarship Program provides financial assistance of Php12,000 per year to selected students in both colleges. At Brokenshire, the scholars must come from Muslims and Indigenous People while at Forbes, they should be children of CARD MRI client members. Four are scholars at Brokenshire and ten are scholars at Forbes.

The CARD MRI Scholarship Program that supports the high school and college education of qualified client members and their children has produced 477 college alumni of various disciplines since 2000. One hundred thirty-seven (137) of them just graduated very recently. About 72% of the

older alumni have successfully acquired jobs while others continue to study or await employment. Of those employed, about 26% works in different capacities at CARD MRI.

CARD MRI has 2,036 current high school and college scholars including 43 client members at different school levels. The Tita Cory Scholarship Fund (in honor of the late President Corazon Aquino, a friend of CARD MRI and a microfinance champion) started to extend its benefits to the client members in 2009. CARD will revive its technical education scholarship for children of its client and increase the scholarship budget to accommodate as many scholars as possible at a given time. The CARD MRI Scholarship Program generally aims to fully support the improvement of the client members' respective families.

In championing education more than just simply enhancing client services, CARD has gone a long way in a holistic approach to social and economic empowerment of those who have less in life. In providing employment to its scholars and thousands of alumni of local colleges, it has made a modest share in making jobs available to professionals mostly in the Philippine countryside. (Ike Navarro)

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