

Dear Friends of the German European School Manila

On the 8th of November 2013, Super-Typhoon Yolanda hit the central islands of the Philippines, specifically Leyte, Samar, Biliran, Cebu, and Bantayan Island. The German European School Manila (GESM) has a long history of effective disaster relief efforts in similar cases, mainly because we can react quickly without administrative overhead. This time it was a little bit more difficult, because the disaster area was not located at our doorsteps but about 700 kilometers South of Manila. Still, we believe that we have succeeded in bringing immediate and will bring long-term help to the affected people. Most of our projects are still ongoing.

Our efforts to help the affected people would not have been possible without you, the donors. It is with humble fulfillment and joy that I can announce that, until now, we have collected the amount of

37000 Euros or 50000 US Dollars or 2200000 Pesos

Roughly one half of that money has already been spent and the positive results in the field are visible and tangible. For the remaining funds and for funds still to come we shall wisely decide which projects we'll initiate and/or support for the benefit of the affected people. Everybody is welcome to keep donating in order to make our projects truly sustainable.

Please allow me to name some the persons, companies, and organizations that stand for all those who have helped us in the last two months with financial support, many of them with several thousands of Euros. I'd like to thank in particular

- all private donors: Friends of GESM, parents, students, teachers, ex-parents/students/teachers
- the Student Council (die Schülermitverwaltung) of the German European School Singapore
- the Kolleg Sankt Blasien (through our ex-student Freddy Hagelstein)
- the "Auswärtiger Kulturausschuss" of the German Parliament through Herrn Peter Gauweiler
- the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines through Mr. Martial Beck
- Lufthansa Technik Philippines through Christiane Frielinghaus and friends
- SACO Shipping GmbH through Adrineda Herschelle and friends
- family SCHREINER-OTT and their friends
- family KOCH and their friends
- Ulrike Lohse
- Christoph Grandt's Korean, Kenyan, and Nicaraguan friends
- Wolfgang Kolleyer and friends with the Rotary Club Waltrop/Datteln
- the German School Seoul International and friends
- the German School Qatar and friends

We have decided to give all donors the common designation "FRIENDS OF THE GERMAN EUROPEAN SCHOOL MANILA". You will find this designation on project proposals. We hope that you, as a donor, agree with this label.

I also would like to extend special thanks to Mr. CEASAR MORANDARTE, our person of trust on Bantayan Island, who is relentlessly implementing our projects in a highly professional way in his free time. Also to Mrs. STELLA HARTWEG, who drove herself to Biliran to give the poorest of the poor a Christmas surprise, and to Mrs. SUZANNE CAMARA, who was of invaluable help when first response was needed in the first days of the calamity. Big thanks also to FAR EAST FURNITURE through Valéry Laquière, who transported most of our bags with relief goods to Leyte and also to TV5 KAPATID Foundation who also swiftly helped us to bring our bags to the people in need.

What we did so far:

- Students have packed 430 bags with relief goods in the first days of the calamity. These bags were shipped either directly to Leyte by private truck through FAR EAST FURNITURE and GAWAD KALINGA and TV5 KAPATID Foundation. Some bags were given to stranded refugees in Manila at Villamore Airbase through PREDA Foundation.
- Students have organized a private help drive to BILIRAN ISLAND to help poor people who are affected by the rise of the prices of daily goods. Our students surprised them with a CHRISTMAS GIVING activity with food better than the usual relief goods standard. Money was raised through a dedicated facebook page with the name <**Brightening Biliran**>.
- Urgently needed MEDICATION has been bought and sent to the Health Center Saint Francis of Assisi on Samar Island through Sister Sabine, a German nun. The health center was giving immediate response to the calamity in remote areas of Leyte. Please see the separate letter in German by Sister Sabine for details.
- Our International Baccalaureate students are coming to BANTAYAN ISLAND every year to carry out scientific studies and to learn more about the lifestyle of the local fishermen, and they are doing interviews for the CAS part of their IB-Diploma. Typhoon Yolanda was our opportunity to help these people, giving back a little bit of the hospitality that we have always experienced. The official name of our project on Bantayan Island is ADOPT-A-ROOF. Our help is focused on four municipalities, where the local schools and many private houses have been totally and partly destroyed. The initial repair costs are given in the following table:
 1. Oboob Integrated School Building - 12,000 USD
 2. Sillon School Building - 4,500 USD
 3. Sungko Elementary School - 1,300 USD
 4. Baigad Elementary School - 3,000 USD

For more details please see the separate project description and also the facebook page of <**Cesar Morandarte**> for daily updates and pictures of the ongoing projects. Also, the facebook page <**Hilfsprojekt Haiyan Bantayan Island, Philippinen**> gives a good overview of our activities on the island, including a description on how the private houses are being rehabilitated.

- Our funds are sufficient to accommodate (1) the immediate relief operations in December (2) the BILIRAN project (3) the SAMAR project and (4) the rehabilitation of ALL FOUR SCHOOLS. Sungko and Baigad are already finished. Sillon will be finished by the end of January. The last school to be rehabilitated will be Oboob. Also, a couple of private houses have already been rehabilitated.

What we are planning to do:

- We consider the immediate relief activities and the projects “Brightening Biliran” and “Samar” as successfully finished. We shall now focus on the ADOPT-A-ROOF project on BANTAYAN ISLAND and conclude the rehabilitation of all four adopted schools. By request from the headmasters we will also renovate specific parts of the school other than the roof. For example it is already decided that we’ll rebuild the presentation stage of Sungko Elementary School.
- Once all four schools are rehabilitated, we’ll focus on the renovation of PRIVATE HOUSES. Official data suggest that there are 2000 houses that were completely destroyed in “our” four municipalities Oboob, Sillon, Sungko, Baigad.

Mr. Ceasar Morandarte has established the following list of priorities:

- The families were supporting our GESM students during their visit on Bantayan Island, for example by giving interviews.
- The smallest and poorest houses/huts have highest priority
- The affected families do not enjoy support from family members abroad.
- Community service (waste management etc) is expected.

As long as our funds last, the rehabilitation of private houses can continue. The priority is a SOLID ROOF CONSTRUCTION. The rest of the house must be renovated by the owners themselves.

- Between the 30th of January and the 2nd of February I'll travel to Bantayan Island to talk with the beneficiaries, with Mr. Morandarte, and with the headmasters of the four schools about a possible continuation of the project, funds permitting. I will then know where we'll go from there.
- In May 2014, GESM STUDENTS will visit Bantayan Island again for their scientific studies and interviews (for the CAS-part of their IB-diploma). They will visit the four municipalities, talk to the beneficiaries, and decide on future plans.

Documentation of the "Adopt-a-Roof" project on Bantayan Island

Every purchase of materials is duly documented with receipts. I am receiving the receipts by LBC on a regular basis. Also, protocols of the meetings between the project manager and the stakeholders on Bantayan Island exist and can be viewed. Every peso is spent on the beneficiaries and local workforce (mainly carpenters).

Also, if you as a donor want a special LETTER OF GRATITUDE or RECOGNITION, please feel free to send me a private e-mail to this effect, so that I can make the appropriate demand to the people on Bantayan Island.

Pictures of the Bantayan project can presently be viewed on the facebook page of <Ceasar Morandarte>, including regular updates, and <Hilfsprojekt Haiyan Bantayan Island, Philippinen>.

Again, big thanks to everybody who helped us to come that far. We are convinced that, with your support, even as a small school, we were able to make a difference on that beautiful island of Bantayan. And, as long as funds are available, we shall continue our work.



Dr. Christoph Grandt
CSR- and CAS-Coordinator
German European School Manila