

PRESS RELEASE

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2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, Philippines

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PHILIPPINE EMBASSY, BRUNEI RECEIVES ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM FOR CGMA PROJECT

30 April 2007 — Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam Virginia H. Benavidez reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Embassy has received a donation for the Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad (CGMA) Project from Mr. Stanley Lim Hock Ghim, Managing Director of Borneo United Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., a local company engaged in cleaning services and construction whose employees are mostly Filipinos, and is actively involved in charity and welfare activities in the Sultanate.

In a simple turnover ceremony at the Embassy on 25 April 2007, Ambassador Benavidez expressed her gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Lim, saying, "Their noble gesture will greatly help in alleviating the plight of poor schoolchildren in the Philippines, many of whom have to study under mango trees due to lack of facilities."

The Borneo United Enterprise donation will benefit the Quibal Elementary School in Peñablanca East District, Cagayan Valley. Consul Jaime Ramon Ascalon, Labor Attaché Aida M. Estabillo and other Embassy officials witnessed the turnover ceremony.

Ambassador Benavidez said that since the project's inception in July 2003, ten classrooms have been donated by Brunei-based donors. Previous donors include the Philippine Embassy Officers and Staff, ISS Thomas Cowan, Rotary Club of Bandar Seri Begawan, Pinoy Golfers Around Brunei (PIGA), Engineer and Mrs. Jose Osias Devela (two classrooms), Filipino Christian Group, ATH Garments Sdn. Bhd., NBT (Brunei) Sdn. Bhd. and the tandem of Mrs. Mary Lim and Mr. Guo Zhan Sheng.

Ambassador Benavidez is especially heartened to cite that while the Filipino workers' population in Brunei Darussalam is not as big as in other countries, their proportionate share in the CGMA Project is high. "This goes to show that the Filipinos and friends in Brunei have big hearts and realize the value of helping make a difference in the lives and educational journey of our school children and youth," the Ambassador remarked. END



Ambassador Benavidez receives a facsimile check from Mr. Stanley Lim Hock Ghim, Managing Director of Borneo United Enterprise Sdn. Bhd., representing his donation to the Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad (CGMA) Project. The presentation was held at the Embassy on 25 April 2007. Looking on are Consul Jaime Ramon T. Ascalon, Labor Attaché Aida M. Estabillo and Mr. Judy Madamba, Administrative and Finance Officer of Borneo United Enterprise.