



OUR WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

On the cover | Escolta pumping station

The Escolta Pumping Station is the first of the nine pumping stations painted for the Art for Urban Change project. The project is a partnership between the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the British Council, together with Davies Paints, San Miguel Inc. Holdings and One Redesign Manila. The partnership aims to contribute to more liveable and creative cities and it includes the creation of site-specific artworks on pumping stations found along Pasig River, a traveling art exhibition, and the creation of a public art advisory group.

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The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Nicholas Thomas



In the past twelve months, we have worked with our partners to expand our programme into innovative and exciting new areas, and to reach more people in more parts of the Philippines than ever before.

We launched a new partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to build capacity for internationalisation in the higher education sector. The programme, the first of its kind in the Philippines, will give young Filipinos access to a world class education through 17 new transnational degree programmes to be launched in 2018.

In partnership with the European Union, we launched CSO-SEED, a three-year programme that uses social enterprise to support job creation and decent work in the conflict-affected Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Building on the community policing toolkit that we developed in 2015, we delivered the first year of a community policing pilot in Parang, also in the ARMM, using our cultural relations approach to strengthen partnerships between state and society.

We created opportunities for more than 50,000 candidates across all three island groups of the Philippines by providing access to high quality English language and other UK qualifications.

As part a global programme to celebrate Shakespeare's work and influence on the 400th anniversary of his death, we supported an exciting new adaptation of *The Tempest* that brought together artists from the UK, the Philippines and Japan, drawing on stories from survivors from Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

And much more. This annual report tells some of the stories.

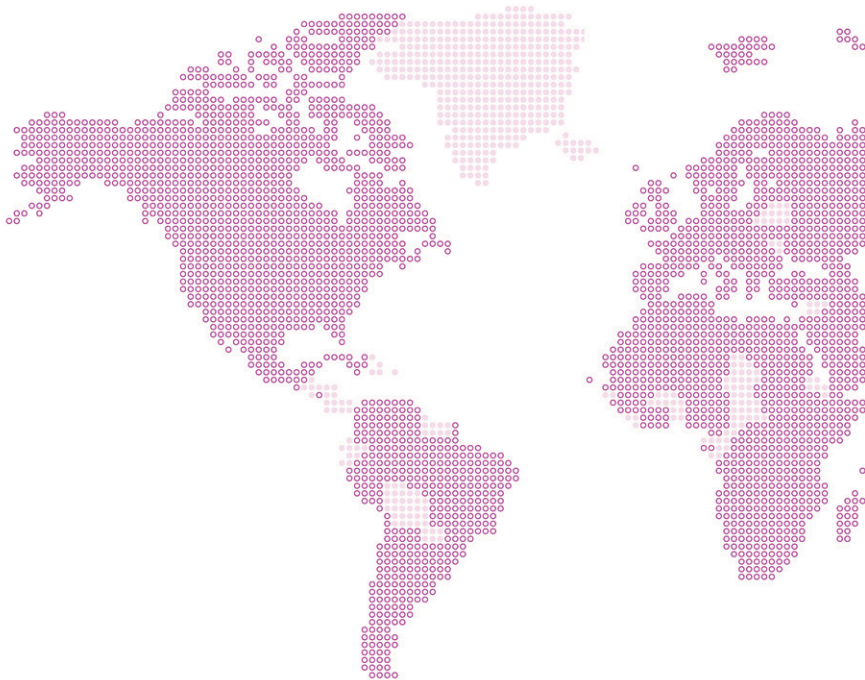
We place great value on the opportunities and outcomes that we can achieve by working with other organisations, and I would like to thank all of our partners, both in the UK and in the Philippines, for everything that they have contributed over the past year.

If you would like to find out more about our work, or are interested in working with us, then please do get in touch.

You can email us at
britishcouncil@britishcouncil.org.ph

OUR WORK AROUND THE WORLD

We are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries, bringing international opportunity to life, every day.



Key
Countries that the British Council works in and with



The Philippines is one of 14 countries in our East Asia network.

Our work in the Philippines supports three main priorities up to 2020.

1. To use the UK's strength in English, Education and Science to contribute to social and economic development in the Philippines, recognising the huge importance of human capital in a country with a very young population and fast-growing economy.
2. To draw on UK models to help individuals and institutions contribute to a more inclusive, open and prosperous society, with a particular focus on socialising the peace process in Mindanao.
3. And to support the emergence of a creative sector that is better connected to the UK.

HEADLINE NUMBERS

The numbers set out below show the scale of our work during 2016–17.

227,216

We worked with a total of 227,216 people through exams, programmes, exhibitions and fairs and publications and broadcasts.

60,449,396

Our media engagement and visibility was largely driven by our programmes in the Justice sector and the Arts.

1,112,699

Our digital footprint breached the million mark as we reached 1,112,699 people through our website and social media.

15

We have 15 scholars this year, mostly signing under the Newton Agham PhD scholarship programme, with the Department of Science and Technology and the Commission on Higher Education as delivery partners.

59

This year, we established 59 institutional links which includes partnerships with government agencies, schools and universities, grassroots communities and the private sector.

51,505

This is the total number of exams delivered for the year, including APTIS, IELTS and UKVI.

OUR EVENTS OF THE YEAR



Newton Agham links, grants and scholarships

10 March 2017: DOST-Newton PhD signing
19 December 2016: PhD signing, CHED

This year, the Newton Agham programme granted 14 PhD scholarships, with our partners the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as delivery partners. The programme also supported ten new partnerships with UK institutions and researchers.

Fringe Manila and DJ Mica at the Great British Festival

24–26 February 2017

The British Council and Fringe Manila presented an exciting dance collaboration between local dance group Airdance and British DJ Mica at the Great British Festival.



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GOJUST launch

23 February 2017

The Philippine government, through the Supreme Court (SC), the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), is implementing the EU-funded Justice Sector Reform Programme: Governance in Justice (GOJUST) – a three-year P850 million programme supporting long-term justice sector reform through the provision of technical and financial assistance. GOJUST is being delivered by a consortium led by the British Council. The programme was officially launched at the Manila Hotel, by SC Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, DOJ Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, former DILG Secretary Ismael Sueno and EU Ambassador Franz Jessen.

Cardiff Metropolitan trains senior university leaders

2–8 December 2016

Developed and delivered by Cardiff Metropolitan University, the three-module Leadership for Internationalisation Programme was designed to equip top-and mid-level leaders in higher education institutions with leadership and management capacity to enable their institutions to function effectively internationally. The training was organised by the British Council at the Benilde Hotel in Manila.



Art for Urban Change

23 November 2016

We partnered with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to launch Art for Urban Change at the First United Building in the historical district of Escolta. The partnership aims to contribute to more liveable and creative cities and includes the creation of site-specific artworks on pumping stations found along Pasig River, a traveling art exhibition, and the creation of a public art advisory group.

European Higher Education Fair

10–11 November 2016

The British Council took part in the European Higher Education Fair (EHEF) in November 2016, which was followed by a tour of international schools by UK universities. The EHEF is an annual exhibition organised by the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, together with European embassies and cultural institutions.



CSO-SEED

24–28 October 2016

The EU-funded CSO-SEED programme aims to improve civil society participation in policy reforms to develop an environment conducive to job creation and decent work. The project uses social enterprise to support development and will be implemented for three years in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), along with other Bangsamoro areas. These areas have been affected by conflict and underdevelopment for over four decades.



British artist Marsha Roddy listens to one of the participants of the stage and costume design workshop last 14-19 October 2016.

Stage and Costume Design Workshop

14–19 October 2016

This workshop was an intensive and practical six-day course on set and costume design facilitated by Hong Kong-based British designer Marsha Roddy. It focused on the processes, methods and techniques involved in theatre design.



An output from the stage and costume design workshop by Marsha Roddy.

Shaken Word: Shakespeare's most relatable lines

16 September 2016

In partnership with the South Manila Educational Consortium (SMEC) and Lyceum of the Philippines University, we held a spoken word competition on William Shakespeare's most relatable lines. The programme included a spoken word competition using Shakespeare's lines, as well as lectures on his influence in literature and the arts.

International Silent Film Festival

25–28 August 2016

Participating for the first time, the British Council hosted the tenth International Silent Film Festival with Play On! Silent Shakespeare, a 2016 compilation of Silent Shakespeare films from the British Film Institute National Archive. Tago Jazz Collective did the live musical score of the film.



Active Citizens

17–20 May, 21–24 June and 12–15 July

The Active Citizens: Leaders for Social Impact, a bespoke social enterprise leadership programme developed from the Active Citizens learning journey, has trained close to 80 social enterprise leaders across the Philippines, in three separate training workshops in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



(Above) A still from Hamlet (1913) as part of the Silent Shakespeare compilation from BFI for the tenth International Silent Film Festival.

UK Education Mission

July 2016

We organised a UK Education Mission, visiting different schools and universities in Metro Manila to give Filipinos an opportunity to learn about studying in the UK and to meet and consult with representatives of the 11 participating UK institutions. A total of 1,050 prospective students attended the education mission.

Balloon Ventures Fellowship

16 July to 28 August 2016

We supported UK social enterprise Balloon Ventures on a programme that brought UK volunteers to Baguio for six weeks. The UK volunteers collaborated with local Baguio entrepreneurs to pilot new sustainable enterprises.



Rivers of the World Year 2

13–15 June 2016

Four UK rivers were chosen as the subjects for the second year of the Rivers of the World project, in partnership with the Thames Festival and the Department of Education in Marikina. We invited six local artists from the group Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang I.N.K) to facilitate around 120 students from public elementary and secondary schools and to highlight the geographical and cultural importance of these rivers.



(Above) The works of students from around the world were exhibited in London at the closing of the Rivers of the World project. (Left) The River Witham was one of the four UK rivers chosen for the second year of Rivers of the World. The final image was rendered by Rev Cruz, one of the project facilitators.

Hornby Regional School

11–15 April 2016

The British Council and the A S Hornby Trust held a five-day residential school on English language teaching for Department of Education English teachers. The Hornby School theme was Teaching English in a Multilingual Setting, delivered in partnership with the Ateneo Center for English Language Teaching (ACELT), Ateneo de Manila University.



THE TEMPEST REIMAGINED

William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and the stories of Yolanda reimagined and relived in a stage production produced by the Philippine Educational Theater Association and the British Council.



‘The idea started with a storm.’

MARIBEL LEGARDA, Artistic Director
Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA)

The Tempest Reimagined is an adaptation of William Shakespeare’s last solo work, *The Tempest*, and incorporates narratives from the survivors of Yolanda, a super typhoon that hit the Philippines in November 2013 and claimed more than 6,000 lives.

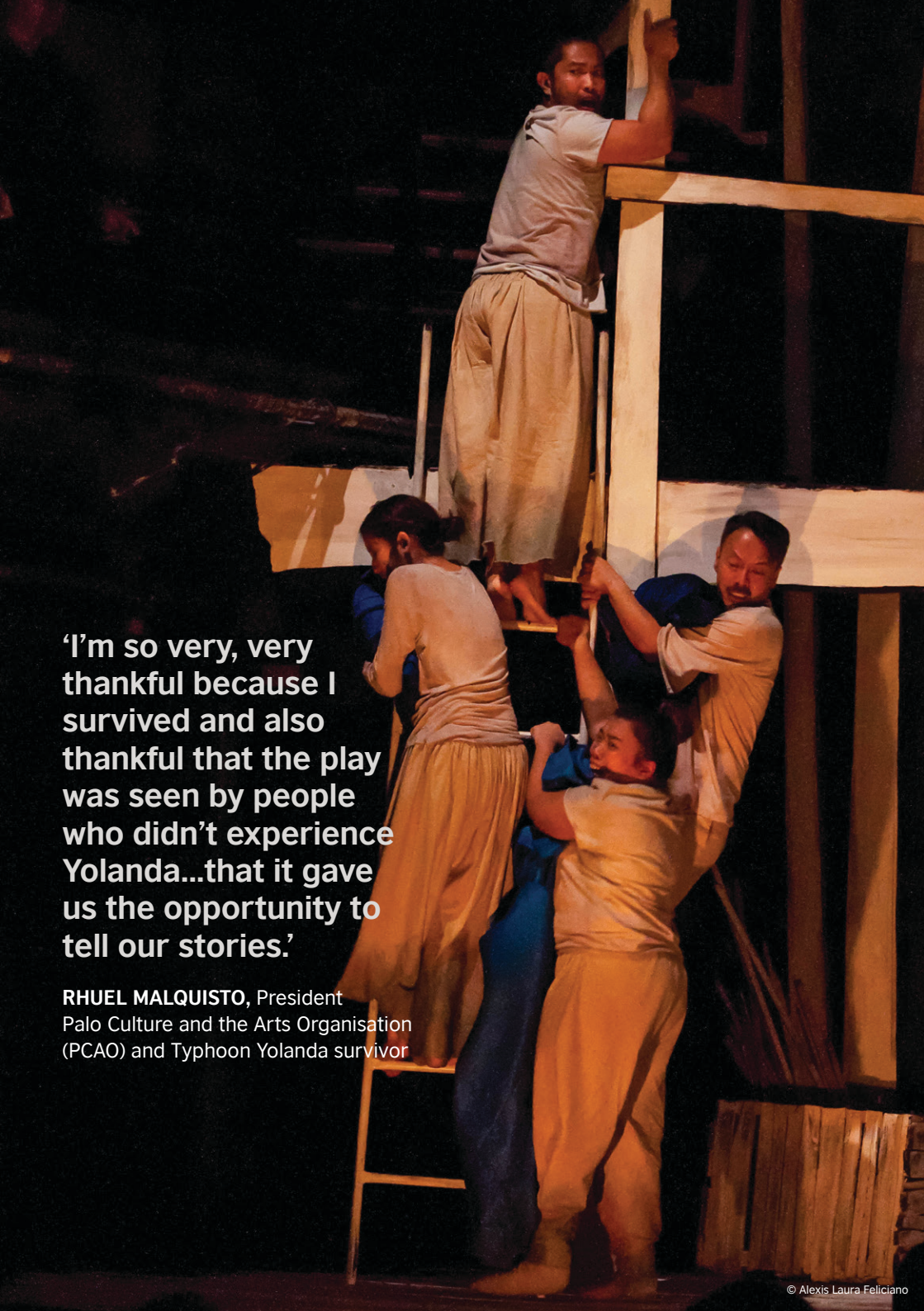
The production between the British Council and the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA), opened on 11 November 2016 three years after Yolanda struck. *The Tempest Reimagined* was also part of Shakespeare Lives in 2016, a global celebration of William Shakespeare’s works, marking 400 years since his death.

The project was a genuinely international collaboration, bringing together Nona Shepphard from the UK’s Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, PETA writer Liza Magtoto, Hong Kong-based British designer Marsha Roddy and lighting designer Tsuguo Izumi from Japan.

The fusion of East and West extended to the play’s script, which was written in both English and Filipino, as well as Waray, one of the local languages in Leyte. The story includes the real and the imagined, the natural and the supernatural, the comic and the tragic – all in the tradition of Shakespeare.

The Tempest Reimagined had 34 shows during its run with a combined audience of 10,300.

The quality of the production was recognised by the prestigious Gawad Buhay Awards, where it received eight citations in the fourth quarter theatre nominations.



'I'm so very, very thankful because I survived and also thankful that the play was seen by people who didn't experience Yolanda...that it gave us the opportunity to tell our stories.'

RHUEL MALQUISTO, President
Palo Culture and the Arts Organisation
(PCAO) and Typhoon Yolanda survivor

‘Fishing for Balangay’s Best is a good opportunity for us. I attended the launch in Manila and it was my first time to set foot in Manila. It felt really nice to see where our produce goes.’

GERRY ARANETA, Fisherman



BALANGAY'S BEST: SEA TO TABLE

Protecting the seas and empowering the fishers

In Cebu's tourist island of Bantayan, the main source of livelihood is fishing. In 2013, when super typhoon Yolanda ripped through the Visayas and made its fourth landfall in Bantayan Island in Cebu, 98 per cent of the homes were destroyed including the boats that local inhabitants used for their livelihood. In response, Gawad Kalinga, a foundation that works to end poverty in the Philippines, gave out 570 boats to the fisherfolk of Bantayan Island to help them get back on their feet.

Drawing on Gawad Kalinga's Balangay Boat Project, Dhang and her partner started the Fishers & Changemakers, Inc (FCI) in October 2014. FCI's main product is an array of dried seafood under the brand Balangay's Best, further promoting one of Cebu's most famous products. As a social enterprise, FCI further adds value to their product through the sea-to-table model. This involves collaborating with the fishers and local government offices in several areas in the Philippines to promote sustainable fishing technologies and equitable business practices.

Dhang Tecson, one of FCI's founders, stressed that the fishing industry is

one of the poorest sectors in the Philippines. A typical scenario involves an intermediary who commands the prices and a market that deals directly with these intermediaries instead of the fishermen. With this system in place, Tecson relates that sometimes a fisherman 'would not know how much he earns in a day, sometimes even in a week.'

Dhang, a participant of British Council's Active Citizens boot camp, said that their often-uncertain incomes and the rising demand for seafood push them to overfish. In Lipayran, a far-flung island in Bantayan, the fishers still use spears as their ancestors did.

FCI is the only social enterprise that works with the fishing industry in the Philippines. FCI has partnered with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and RARE, a behaviour change organisation in conservation, to help them with the science of sustainable fishing.

FCI also collaborated with other institutions to help empower the fisherfolk in the areas of financial literacy, social entrepreneurship and livelihood programmes.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICE

UK community policing model inspires local police station

Community policing is a not new concept for the Philippine National Police. However, inspiring real action on the ground is. In December 2016, the Parang Municipal Police Station introduced the Pulis sa Barangay (Police in the Village) Programme, increasing visibility and strengthening relationships in its 25 villages through a dedicated police officer in every community.

Prior to the project, the village watchmen had been requesting the police to support them in the nighttime patrol shifts, but limited police resources made this impossible. It was very challenging for watchmen to deal with peace and order concerns such as quarrels among the youth, alcohol-fuelled conflicts and theft.

The British Council Community Policing Project developed a toolkit in consultation with 35 communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other Bangsamoro areas. The toolkit was the result of community-based awareness sessions, in-depth community consultations and local and international best practice.

In 2016, elements of the toolkit were piloted in the Parang Municipal Police Station. Community policing expert and former UK police officer Phillip Thomson provided training to all the police officers in Parang.

Today, the police station has an operational action plan and has already placed its 25 trained police officers in the village. Through our partner Security Reform Initiative, the Parang police force has strengthened its partnership with the local community, which in turn recognises its own role in promoting peace and order in the area.

The local community and the police now have a stronger partnership than before. The UK is also recognised in the Philippines as a leader in the practice of community policing and continues to be an inspiration. Before, local stakeholders viewed community policing as a separate unit or function in the police rather than an ethos that runs through the entire organisation.



© Security Reform Initiative

‘The communities became more involved and began to see themselves as co-owners of community policing, that without them, community policing would not be possible.’

KATHLINE TOLOSA, Executive Director
Security Reform Initiative



‘I was absolutely thrilled to visit Miriam College to meet some of the most engaged and dedicated staff it has ever been my pleasure to meet. There was a clear sense of values, a clear dedication to the student experience, and a sense of always wanting to explore and develop new initiatives in teaching practice. I am very happy that Goldsmiths and Miriam have signed an MoU and look forward to our partnership developing in the future.’

PROFESSOR MARK D’INVERNO, Pro-Warden for International Engagement, Goldsmiths, University of London

TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKAGES

Internationalisation programme to produce joint, double degrees through Philippine–UK higher education partnerships

With a young population and one of the world's fastest-growing economies, higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines need to equip graduates with the skills required to compete in the global economy. The Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the British Council launched the Transnational Education Linkages programme in August 2016 to build capacity and provide funding for Philippine HEIs to respond to this demand.

The programme draws on the expertise of UK universities to develop internationalisation within Filipino HEIs and develop Philippine–UK higher education partnerships. The two-year programme aims to produce joint or double degrees in subjects which have been identified as national priorities, but are currently unavailable in the Philippines.

Ten Filipino universities were selected for the programme based on their status as Centres of Excellence and Centres of Development, and their experience of,

and interest in, internationalisation work. The ten universities are Ateneo de Manila University, Central Luzon State University, University of Santo Tomas, University of San Carlos, Saint Louis University, Silliman University, Miriam College and the De La Salle University.

Four memoranda of agreement have been signed since the launch: Ateneo de Manila University and Queen Mary University of London; Miriam College and Goldsmith College, University of London; University of San Carlos and Coventry University; and De La Salle University and Liverpool Hope University.

There are currently 17 partnerships between ten Philippine universities and nine UK higher education institutions under the TNE programme. This two-year programme builds on the British Council's previous work with CHED on developing TNE policies, standards and guidelines (PSG). William Lawton, a UK expert, worked with the technical panel on the revision of TNE policies in the country.

EXPERIENCING UK EDUCATION

Micaela Papa on student life in the UK

Former Chevening scholar and Student Ambassador Micaela Papa is the first-ever and only Filipino to be part of the four-month BBC Professional Placement Programme for Chevening scholars. Papa, who finished her Master's degree in Documentary by Practice at the Royal Holloway, University of London, was with the BBC's Digital Current Affairs for her placement programme.

She considered the work for the Digital Current Affairs department a perfect fit, saying that the experience went beyond simple news reportage.

'We didn't just report on the problems of the world like so many news and current affairs programmes do – we'll show the ways people all over the globe are trying to address these issues.' Papa said.

Apart from her BBC placement, Papa was selected for the One World Media grant, a fund for young journalists and filmmakers to produce stories about the developing world.

The British Council named Papa as one of its three UK Student Ambassadors by in November 2016, together with JC Alcaraz and Kulay Labitingan. The UK Student Ambassadors, now on its second year, promote the UK as a study destination for Filipinos.

Papa thinks that aspiring Filipino students in the UK must consider what they could contribute back to the country after their studies.

'I would advise individuals to choose courses that would help them give back to the Philippines.' Papa said. 'The UK is the world leader in so many fields that it's so important to see what they're doing here and what we can take back home to spur development.'



© Micaela Papa

‘To work in British media, my MA Documentary by Practice programme taught us not only the technical skills, but also the dynamics of shaping content for global audiences.’

MICAELA PAPA, UK Student Ambassador | Chevening Scholar

SCIENCE FOR GROWTH

Supply Chains: The Climate Connection

‘My research focuses on establishing resilient supply chain networks under climate change induced events such as drought, temperature change and extreme weather conditions.’

Climate change has affected the lives of Filipinos in many ways, through extreme weather events, leading to drought, reduced agricultural productivity and power shortages.

Krista Yu identified the need to create more resilient supply chains in the Philippines. She applied for a Researcher Links Travel Grant, funded by the Newton Agham Programme to help develop a systems-based approach. The research aimed to identify supply chain networks which make use of an appropriate energy mix, taking into account production targets and reduced emissions.

Krista Yu spent two months with the University of Derby’s Centre of Excellence for Supply Chain Improvement. Observing industry interactions with the rest of the

supply chain, she was able to build an input-output model to analyse vulnerability towards risks and develop management strategies to ensure resilience. Strong academe-industry links in the UK have led to a more efficient way of solving real-world problems that can serve as a model for the Philippines.

The Newton Agham Programme is part of the Newton Fund, a UK government fund that supports social and economic development in selected countries by building capacity in science and innovation as well as establishes stronger links with the UK. In the Philippines, grants have been awarded to support research in a number of areas including health and life sciences, environmental resilience, cities and infrastructure, food security and digital innovation.



‘The Newton Agham [Programme] grant provided me with an opportunity to engage in a culturally and professionally diverse environment.’

KRISTA YU, Grantee
Researcher Links



© Marty Ilagan

‘The British Council IELTS Fair was a well-organised event. It was able to provide us information about working, studying or living abroad and how IELTS is key to making it possible.’

SUCCESS STARTS WITH IELTS

IELTS Fair in Manila and Cebu

Following the success of our first-ever IELTS Fair in Manila the previous year, the British Council organised IELTS Fairs in both Manila and Cebu this year, reaching even more candidates who are considering working, studying or living abroad. The Fairs offer test-taking tips and techniques as well as a workshop delivered by IELTS experts and interactive sessions for the different IELTS tests.

A total of 24 partners from Manila and Cebu joined the event to share information about their services relating to working, studying or living abroad. Attendees at the Fairs included 100 nurses in Cebu and 500 nurses in Manila. They were also able to meet previous test takers who shared their

own experiences of taking the test.

Through the IELTS Fair, the British Council was able to provide advice on working, studying, or living abroad – including in the UK. The IELTS test is often perceived as an insurmountable hurdle rather than a means to achieve goals. By making the IELTS test more accessible, we can create more opportunities for Filipinos and other candidates learning English in the Philippines.

This year we administered 30,000 IELTS exams, a 21 per cent increase from 2015–16.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN TEACHING IN ENGLISH AND 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

Enhancing and improving teaching in public schools

Teachers in public schools rarely receive privately-funded teacher development programmes, particularly those in inner municipalities and provinces.

In November 2016, funded by manufacturing supplies company Holcim Philippines as part of its corporate social responsibility programme, we provided professional development to 25 teachers in Ayungon, Negros Oriental.

A group of 25 teachers from 11 schools in the district took part in the training. Adopting the British Council's Teaching for Success approach, the three-day training was tailored to match the assessed needs of the teachers and focused on teaching 21st century skills and English language skills. Mentoring delivered via mobile phone supported them in implementing what they learned and provided further guidance on teaching methodology.

The teachers gained confidence in teaching English and have developed strategies to incorporate 21st century skills into their lessons. Quality education systems rely on the quality of teachers. By providing training tailored to the needs of public schools we can improve educational outcomes for children in the Philippines.

This was our first CSR-funded project in the Philippines, and the first time we have used the Teaching for Success approach, here demonstrating the UK's expertise in teacher development, particularly in English skills development.



© Mike Cabigon

'I was hesitant in attending this seminar workshop (at first). When we started the workshop I was shaken... You deliver to us very well... it is more than what we expect [sic].'

TEACHER PARTICIPANT

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