

# Pangulong Gloria Scholarship funds up in 2009

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has beefed up the budget for the training for work scholarship program administered by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Under the economic sustainability plan outlined by NEDA Secretary Ralph Recto, the budget allocation for training scholarships has been increased to P5.66 billion. This amount includes an earlier infusion of P1 billion to the Pangulong Gloria Scholarship Program.

"I am truly glad that President Arroyo cares so much for our people by investing in families with productive members who are valuable in the workforce. This is what I refer to as *Imbestament sa Tao*, with return on investment or ROI in the form of revenues for the country," says Secretary Augusto Boboy Syjuco, TESDA Director General.

The President's instructions are clear, says Secretary Syjuco. In a meeting with TESDA Regional Directors last week, he told them that within the first semester of the year, "we have to spend from 60 up

to 80 percent of the productive portion of the training scholarship budget".

The additional budget will be used to retrain those affected by the global financial crisis and to develop a pool of job ready-qualified workers.

## Expanding training capacity

Secretary Syjuco is determined to find new ways to expand further the training capacity by empowering the training institutions, both those directly under TESDA and those in the private sector.

"We need to enable them to have access to current technology and training equipment so that we can bring them up to standards and allow them to make full use of their absorptive capacity," says the TESDA chief.

TESDA will stimulate the training market and serve as a support mechanism to ensure the long-term viability of technical-vocational institutions.

Last year, TESDA reviewed and upgraded the amounts for scholarship subsidy for various qualifications, including the grant of training support fund to scholars.



SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATES. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo together with Secretary Augusto Boboy Syjuco of TESDA award Pangulong Gloria Scholarship Certificates to differently abled persons.

Before yearend last year, Secretary Syjuco ordered the implementation of a new schedule of scholarship subsidy for each qualification.

## Training contract scheme

"We are ready to pursue training contract schemes with reliable industries, sectoral groups and associations which can provide training for qualifications that are in demand in the local and global markets," adds Secretary Syjuco.

TESDA will also enter into formal agreements with training institutions for the retooling of their workshops with new

training equipment like power tools, welding machines, lathes machines, and other equipments.

As a member of President Arroyo's Cabinet, Secretary Syjuco is in charge of the job training component of the government's 10 priority targets to counter the global recession and lead the nation to rebound in 2010.

The task involves the upscaling of training scholarships that should be linked directly to jobs for the business process outsourcing sector and overseas employment.

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