

ASSIST *Now*



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ABOUT ASSIST

Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Development (ASSIST) was established in 2003 with the aim of addressing sustainability challenges in the Philippines.

Today it has evolved into a self-sustaining, Pan-Asian, non-profit organization driven by passion and purpose for progress and prosperity in the region.



300+
projects



20+
countries



1,000,000+
individuals reached

Let us know your thoughts about this quarter's newsletter.



Scan here

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LET'S **PARTNER**
FOR **PROGRESS!**

Join us as a partner, contributor, or sponsor.

Together, let us work hard in hand to build more sustainable societies.

You may connect with us through info@assistasia.org or visit our website at www.assistasia.org for more information.

WORKING TOWARDS THE SDGs

As part of the global development community, ASSIST aligns its initiatives with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To demonstrate this, stories in this newsletter end with the icons of the SDGs that they help achieve.





ASSIST Academy

ASSIST Academy is a learning platform that offers high quality educational opportunities for free! Driven by our Partner for Progress philosophy, our content was created in partnership with leading nonprofits, private corporations, and many other organizations to deliver courses rooted in sustainable growth and capacity development.

Featuring online content from Deloitte and ASSIST's partnership in the WorldClass project:

Data Sciences



Business Continuity Management

Cybersafety



Video modules



Tests and exercises



Additional resources



Certificates

... and more, as we take the best practices and learnings from each of our projects and make them available to all.

Start your learning journey for sustainable transformation!

ASSIST Academy: LAUNCHING SOON!

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Batch 1

Implementing partners:

With the support of:

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Message from the Editorial Team

Success is defined in various ways - wealth, public recognition, or awards are just a few options. In this issue, we look at our success as an organization from the lens of impact. How many beneficiaries are we reaching? What kind of relationships have we developed with our project partners? How have we been able to create a positive impact by partnering for progress? Amid the ongoing pandemic, ASSIST's work across various focus areas has become more critical than ever.

As you read through these pages, we invite you to take a moment to appreciate the value of your efforts, and that of your colleagues too. Together, we've already been able to make a significant impact. Let's strive to scale it up in the months to come!

Project Preview



Local trucking companies in Vietnam may soon receive a boost in implementing quality, health, safety, and environment (QHSE) standards through an exciting new project.

In partnership with Bolloré Logistics Vietnam, ASSIST will be rolling out capacity-building opportunities for select small and medium-sized trucking companies, as well as teachers and students of logistics management programs in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. The project aims to train beneficiaries based on ISO standards and local government regulation.

Stay tuned for more updates soon!



The Heart of the Scientific Matter

Igniting students' interest in the chemical sciences

STEM is widely argued to be the future, whether it is referring to education of children or the needs of society, with approximately 70% of future jobs attributed to the STEM strand. In Ha Noi, Vietnam, ASSIST has partnered with Dow Vietnam to initiate **STEM Learning Labs**, a project created to teach and encourage interest of primary and secondary school students in chemical sciences.

The project works on multiple levels: chemical experts train chemical science teachers on the STEM methodology and the application of the EcoLabBox. These teachers will then apply their learnings in a STEM class, in which students can experience innovative learning activities as well as conduct exploratory research and chemistry experiments. More than that, these special classes provide an opportunity for teachers and students to discuss the science behind real world problems such as environmental degradation and water pollution, and how their studies in STEM can create viable solutions to these issues.



The first Learning Lab activity was kicked off in January, at Bo De Secondary School, and continued in Mac Dinh Chi and Mai Dich Secondary Schools.

Almost 100 students were engaged in these STEM classes, having fun while learning about the chemical sciences. Over the next few months ASSIST aims to reach hundreds more students in Ha Noi, spark their interest in the STEM fields as a potential career track, provide mentorship and guidance as their skills develop, all while imparting a sense of responsibility towards the protection of our environment. At the same time, building the capabilities and competencies of chemical science teachers, who will ensure that these learnings are conveyed to their future students and that the success of these Learning Labs are sustained past the duration of the project.



Minding Mental Health, Caring for our Healthcare Heroes

People respond differently to events of great stress, such as a disease outbreak. While it's completely normal to feel fear or worry, dwelling too much on those emotions can take a great toll on mental health. A study conducted by the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health revealed that the global prevalence of depression and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic was at 24 percent and 21 percent respectively, demonstrably larger than before the outbreak.



With the COVID-19 wreaking psychological distress on multitudes of the general public, how much more for the healthcare workers (HCWs) who continue to operate at the frontlines? To provide an additional lifeline of hope to HCWs in the Philippines, ASSIST, in partnership with international healthcare nonprofit Project HOPE, Argao Center for Psychological Services, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and the Department of Health launched its first mental health initiative: **Healing, Education, Resilience, and Opportunity for Healthcare Workers in the Philippines (HERO-PH) Mental Health & Resilience Training of Trainers program.**

Under the HERO-PH, beneficiaries will be equipped with the necessary skills to roll out mental health programs across their HCW networks in an effort to build a stronger and more resilient local HCW community. To date, two training sessions on topics such as stress management and personal wellness were organized in March, certifying a total of 89 master trainers.

Through the initiative, ASSIST hopes to further expand learning opportunities for the HCWs and promote more activities that focus not just on physical health, but also mental health.



The Pivotal Point of a Disaster Resilient Future

In a disaster-prone country like the Philippines, where an average of 20 typhoons hit the country each year, it is essential to create disaster preparedness programs in order to prevent vulnerable communities from plummeting into poverty. Without these programs, frequent disasters will only hamper the country's economic growth and result in high mortality rates.

ASSIST has been championing initiatives that promote disaster resilience especially for the young generation, such as the disaster board game Master of Disaster (MOD). This year, the organization has partnered with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) for their **Regional Hubs Scoping Study** project which will further elevate disaster preparedness and response in the country.

Six chapters of the Philippine Red Cross in Batangas, Subic-Olongapo, La Union, Cebu, Iloilo, and Cagayan de Oro were assessed as regional hubs under the project. These hubs seek to provide more effective and efficient disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in the country. A series of focus group discussions were also organized and attended by representatives from different PRC Movement Partners/National Societies including the German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Finnish Red Cross to discuss the establishment and sustainability of the regional hubs or centers for disaster resilience.

The scoping report is currently being developed to help the regional hubs achieve their objective of providing effective disaster response in the Philippines. Furthermore, the Canadian Red Cross purchased 100 units of MOD which will be distributed in its various beneficiary chapters.



2021 Q1 Summary

The Impact We've Made and the Lives We've Changed



17 Active projects

45 Active project partners

2 Projects to be launched

15,000+ Direct beneficiaries

Project Highlights

Healing, Education, Resilience, and Opportunity for Healthcare Workers in the Philippines (HERO-PH)

To provide an additional lifeline of hope to healthcare workers with mental health support and training for resiliency



89 certified master trainers



226 trained HCWs and first responders



Saving the Lives of Healthcare Workers in the Philippines

To succeed in keeping healthcare workers safe as they work on the frontline and treat patients.



45 hospitals received PPE kits



353 certified master trainers



2,374 healthcare workers trained on infection prevention & control



511 MOD boxes distributed

37 certified trainers on disaster resilience

58 fleet operators qualified as ISO 22301 BCM practitioners

Resiliency Improvement for Seafarers & Seafaring Enterprises (RIS2E Philippines)

To capacitate and strengthen the disaster resilience of Philippine seafarers.



World Class

To empower Filipinos to compete in the 4th Industrial Revolution by the year 2030.



11,848 WorldClass certificates issued



14 learning videos produced



5,150+ Filipinos reached and counting

Beauty For A Better Life

To empower rural underprivileged women in Vietnam by strengthening their employability and training them to be entrepreneurs, thus improving their economic perspective and well-being.



5 provinces in rural Vietnam have training centers



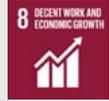
200 women trained



100 certified professional hairdressers & salon owners



38 women have opened their own salons



Baking Training to Augment Knowledge and Entrepreneurial Development (BAKE)

To develop the Vietnamese baking trade and improve its image.



220 students graduated overall



69 craft bakers trained and certified



17 courses created for basic and advanced baking training



Solar-Powered Irrigation System for Farming Communities (SOLution)

To increase agricultural productivity and improve the livelihood of farmers by installing solar-powered irrigation systems.



3 solar-powered irrigation pumps installed



100 farmers trained in sustainability practices



40% reduction of operational costs in farming



20% increase in farmer income



Onion UNION

To modernize Philippine smallholder subsistence onion farming to become more market-focused, productive, and resilient.

20%

income increase for farmers

20-50%

pest reduction



4 onion learning centers



46 agronomists trained



766 farmers trained





115+
PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED



1.03M+
PEOPLE
IMPACTED



20+
COUNTRIES
REACHED

Creative Solutions

Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change - Development of Knowledge Management System and Communication Strategy



Aims to develop a knowledge management system in POPCOM (Commission on Population) main website to share learning on internal migration in the context of climate change



Approved the contract addendum (and project extension) between ASSIST and GIZ



Conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop



Submitted the alpha version of the HMCCC Knowledge Management system

PentaTr@ining 2020: 'HIV & other Congenital Infections'



A training programme for healthcare professionals caring for children and young people living with HIV and congenital infections.



Developed a series of blended learning modules on various topics in English and Russian languages through close coordination with subject matter experts from the Penta Foundation.



Established a customized LMS (Learning Management System) platform built using open-source technology to support learners from different geographies during and after they go through trainings on this portal.



A-TEAM:

Logging On and OOF

As many continue to stay at home and work virtually, shielding themselves from a harmful virus, opportunities for human interaction diminish. ASSIST's response to this issue is a series of learning sessions called Out of Function (OOF) Fridays designed to foster interactive ways for employees to virtually huddle and beat the lockdown woes.

In this issue's A-Team, we've gathered responses from our newest colleagues on the role of OOF in maintaining a healthy space within the organization.



As someone who just got into ASSIST at the start of the year, not to mention that the pandemic necessitates a work-from-home set-up, I greatly appreciate this initiative that allows me to bond with my colleagues. The past four sessions of OOF Fridays all emphasized the importance of sharing with one another and getting to know each other beyond work-related interactions.

For example, the mental health-themed session by the Office of the Managing Director gave me a glimpse of how my workmates deal with their personal struggles and the first session by Communications & Visibility taught me some interesting facts about the organization through a trivia quiz game. Given that I have not met most of the ASSIST team in person, the OOF Fridays really bring about a dimension of humanness in my online workspace. It makes me feel a bit more connected, beyond virtual terms, to the organization and my colleagues.



ARIANE IGLESIA

Research Associate, Research and Acquisitions

Thanks to OOF Fridays, I get to end the work week on a good note. Not only do I gain knowledge from the activity but more importantly, I can freely be in the moment and get to know my colleagues. To me, OOF Fridays serve as a placeholder for physical get-togethers and it gives the opportunity to mingle without talking about work deliverables and deadlines.

I have never seen some of my colleagues in person since our set-up is still mostly work-from-home. And as much as I don't want us to be strangers, I have no idea how to talk to them. Activities like these are so helpful because we can take back what the pandemic took away—the human touch. Simply having opportunities where we can sit around and talk amongst ourselves about the small things would be really nice. And while OOF Fridays don't completely get us to that level of comfortability yet, I think it's a pretty good place to start.



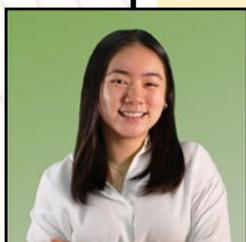
DERRICK ISAAC

Project Associate, Project Management Office



By its design, the OOF sessions perfectly facilitate learning by giving us a chance to bond over fun activities and well-crafted presentations. Most importantly, these sessions have injected a much-needed sense of humanity into the virtual workplace that can often become lonely and monotonous. It is through the OOF sessions that I have become somewhat familiar with the personality of my colleagues, as well as the personality of the organization as a whole. In essence, I feel that ASSIST is an organization that values knowledge-sharing and experiential learning because it is reflected in my colleagues.

Since the initiative only started recently, the sessions have been less technical and more centered around breaking down the wall between us colleagues who have never met physically. I am looking forward to what everyone will bring to the table in future sessions, and I am hopeful that through these sessions we can work together to bring ASSIST to new heights.



RAYA LANTIN

Special Projects Associate, Office of the Managing Director

Washing your hands is one of the best ways to prevent disease and its spread. It helps you maintain your health and the health of everyone you interact with.

Clickable



Scan here to see the interactive version

STEPS TO WASHING HANDS

	<p>1</p> <p>Add soap to your wet hands.</p> <p>Magdagdag ng sabon sa iyong basang mga kamay.</p>		<p>2</p> <p>Rub the palm of your hands.</p> <p>Kuskusin ang iyong palad.</p>
	<p>3</p> <p>Don't forget the back.</p> <p>Huwag kalimutan ang likod.</p>		<p>4</p> <p>Wash between your fingers.</p> <p>Hugasan sa pagitan ng iyong mga daliri.</p>
	<p>5</p> <p>Rub your thumbs.</p> <p>Kuskusin ang iyong hinlalaki.</p>		<p>6</p> <p>Wash your nails and fingertips.</p> <p>Hugasan ang iyong mga kuko at mga kamay.</p>
	<p>7</p> <p>Wash your hands with water.</p> <p>Hugasan ang iyong mga kamay ng tubig.</p>		<p>8</p> <p>Dry with a paper towel.</p> <p>Patuyuin ng isang twalya.</p>

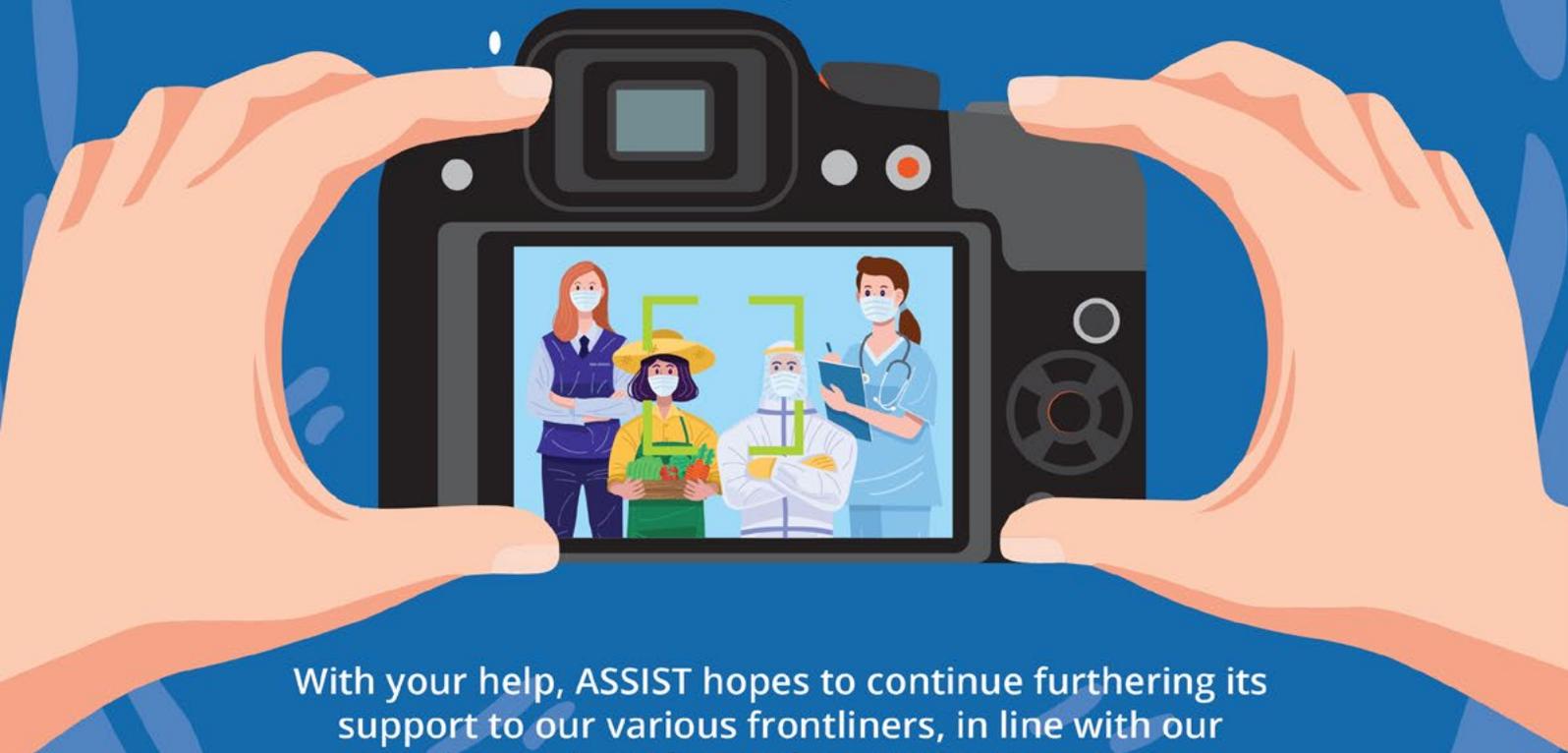
This material was developed as part of our Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene efforts under the Sustainable Health Improvement & Pandemic Prevention (SHIP²) project.



TEN PHOTOS
TO SHAKE
THE WORLD
2021

Courage, community, and compassion.

On the 10th anniversary of Ten Photos to Shake the World, the Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST) is inviting everyone to help us honor those who have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines since the beginning.



With your help, ASSIST hopes to continue furthering its support to our various frontliners, in line with our ongoing projects focused on COVID-19 response.

Follow us at



An original initiative by:



In conjunction with:



HERO-PH
Healing, Education, Resilience, and Opportunity
for Healthcare Workers in the Philippines

**Saving the Lives of Healthcare
Workers in the Philippines**