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ABOUT ASSIST

ASSIST is a self-sustaining pan-Asian non-government organization (NGO) established in 2003, geared towards capacity-building, promoting sustainable practices, and achieving social impact.

For over **20 years**, ASSIST has nurtured partnerships from the academe, industry, government, and civil society in supporting projects that target meaningful societal transformation while meeting and exceeding shared objectives.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



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

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

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For further information, questions, and/or feedback about this newsletter and its contents, please contact info@assistasia.org. Our headquarters is located at Makati City, Philippines.

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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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Learn more about how to partner with ASSIST:



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MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

As the world transitions and finally adjusts to the new normal, it is still plagued by crises that threaten humans' quality of life and the planet's health. To address this, it becomes increasingly vital for people to transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy that prioritizes renewable energy and efficiency.

ASSIST remains committed in its mission to promote sustainable development through multiple partnerships that target the advancement of green technology and inculcation of green skills among individuals, especially the youth. This issue captures the organization's efforts, amplified by its partnerships, in championing green-skilled individuals and promoting the transition to a green and resilient economy.

SOME OF OUR PARTNERS IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER



Lighting the path forward: Schneider Electric and ASSIST launch emPOWER Project



Schneider Electric teams up with in launching the emPOWER project funded by KFW DEG and Schneider Foundation which aims to provide internally-displaced (IDP) youth in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur with upgraded skills in electrical installation and maintenance, renewable energy, and smart technology. The project was launched at the Hotel Ridge in Marawi City last February 28, 2023.



The emPOWER project targets to educate 6,500 students, particularly internally-displaced youth from various technical-vocational institutions and state universities around the Philippines on technical courses and soft skills to improve their chances for meaningful employment. To achieve this, the training program will capacitate select trainers from various vocational institutions (TVIs) through information, education, and communication materials, classroom instruction, and hands-on practical experience.

The program launch was attended by over 100 participants. All stakeholder groups signed the pledge of commitment, ratifying their respective roles and responsibilities to help ensure the success of the program and the employment of the students. Following the project launch, the ASSIST team visited the different TVIs, and coordinated with the representatives for the rollout of the training program.





From Awareness to Action:

#MaskUpforHope for Disease Prevention

Medtronic



Medtronic Foundation, Project HOPE, and ASSIST kicked off an infection, prevention and control (IPC) campaign dubbed #MaskUpForHope in the New Normal last March 14 to 16, 2023 in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. The project aims to raise awareness on the importance of continued vigilance against infectious diseases through in-person education and social media awareness programs.

The Master Trainer's Program was joined by technical-vocational schools trainers, health workers, nutrition staff, youth leaders, and local government representatives.



Our partnership with Project HOPE in the Philippines is a testament to our continued commitment to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting the communities that are most affected by it.

- Francis Macatulad
ASSIST Executive Director



For over 60 years, Project HOPE has been committed to providing health education and care to communities around the world.

- John Bronson
Asia Regional Director for Project HOPE



Beyond the Fields: Bayer Kubo Master Training on Health and Financial Literacy



In a bid to improve the overall quality of life among farmers, Bayer and ASSIST conducted a training of trainers program as part of its Bayer Kubo project in Dolores, Quezon last March 21 to 22, 2023.

The master training brought together over 100 participants comprising of local health workers and farmer associations within the locale. Trainers were taken through the necessary knowledge and skills on farmer's health, reproductive health, and financial literacy to deliver the training rollout to 2000+ farmers in the municipality.

The team also visited the Bayer Kubo site to initiate plans on the construction of an enhanced nipa hut.



Peso-Wise Communities thru UNLAD Pilipinas mynt finance for all

With the continuous implementation of the UNLAD Pilipinas project in partnership with mynt, the ASSIST Project Management Office (PMO) team met with community champions at Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila last February 10, 2023.

With the help of 41 community champions, more than 1200 individuals were capacitated on financial literacy and management and digital financial solutions.

The plan calls for expanding the project's scope to include cities such as Davao, Cebu, and Batangas.



A glimpse of our upcoming projects



Skills for Job
March to May 2023



Sustainable Coconut
February to May 2023



Chairman's Challenge
March to December 2023

Ready, Set, Respond

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness thru Project RISE

PTC



Iloilo City signed its partnership with Philippine Transmarine Carriers Inc. (PTC), Smart Development Institute (SDI), Enterprise Solutions Inc (ESI), and ASSIST for Project RISE last February 22, 2023. This is a campaign to promote disaster preparedness through training and curriculum development.

ASSIST will develop a curriculum related to disaster preparedness and conduct training and assessments. Meanwhile, ASSIST and PTC will team up to implement the capacity-building component of PROJECT RISE - the Master Trainer Program (MTP). This program aims to promote and train community leaders in Iloilo City on disaster preparedness and response.



Wais sa Kwarta 2.0: Cultivating Financial Literacy



Pru Life UK joins forces with ASSIST and Mayani in a bid to boost financial inclusion and literacy among smallholder farmers through the Wais sa Kwarta 2.0 financial literacy training held at Brgy. Malaruhatan, Lian, Batangas on March 29, 2023.

The training of trainers was joined by more than 80 farmers from the Malaruhatan Farm Association, Lian Municipal Agricultural Office, and the Lian local government unit. These master trainers shall cascade their learnings to more than 2,000 other farmers and community members.



Bridging the gap in cancer treatment



DEG and Elekta join ASSIST in the fight against cervical cancer by making cancer treatment more accessible among women through the ACTIVE project. This project brings Image-Guided Adaptive Brachytherapy (IGABT) closer to beneficiaries, the latest treatment technology that has significantly improved patient survival rates.



The project also seeks to expand the scale and enhance the capacity of cervical cancer treatment in Vietnam by building three domestic training facilities in the North, Central, and South to provide training courses on IGABT.

There was an info-sharing session organized by the Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup - Cervix Cancer Research Network (GCIG-CCRN) with the participation of nearly 200 doctors, physicists, and experts on cervical cancer in Vietnam.

A Healthy Start for every Child



The Happy Vietnam project in partnership with DEG and Merck Group conducted a training program and health screening for children in Meo Vac District, Ha Giang. The team successfully trained 100 preschool and primary school teachers and conducted a health screening for 435 children in the area on February 10 to 11, 2023.

By training parents and teachers, the project aims to raise awareness about nutrition issues for children in Ha Giang and improve the overall stature of children in Vietnam, which is the core mission of the Happy Vietnam project.



HUFO recognizes ASSIST as Impactful Changemakers

The Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO) presented the ASSIST Mekong team with a Certificate of Appreciation during their Annual Conference last February 27, 2023.

The conference honored international non-government organizations that have made significant contributions to the city's socioeconomic growth through the successful execution of community empowerment projects.



Making Waste Work thru Greening Cement



The Greening Cement project, a partnership of ASSIST with P4G, FLSmidth, VICEM, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), continues to garner a lot of attention and support from various ministries, departments, and local governments. The project aims to establish a reliable supply chain of municipal and industrial waste to the VICEM Ha Long cement plant, by tackling the existing waste supply chain and legal barriers and promoting investment in greening the cement industry.



On March 1, the team attended the meeting between P4G and the Director General of the International Cooperation Department of MONRE. This was followed by a visit to the VICEM Ha Long last March 3.

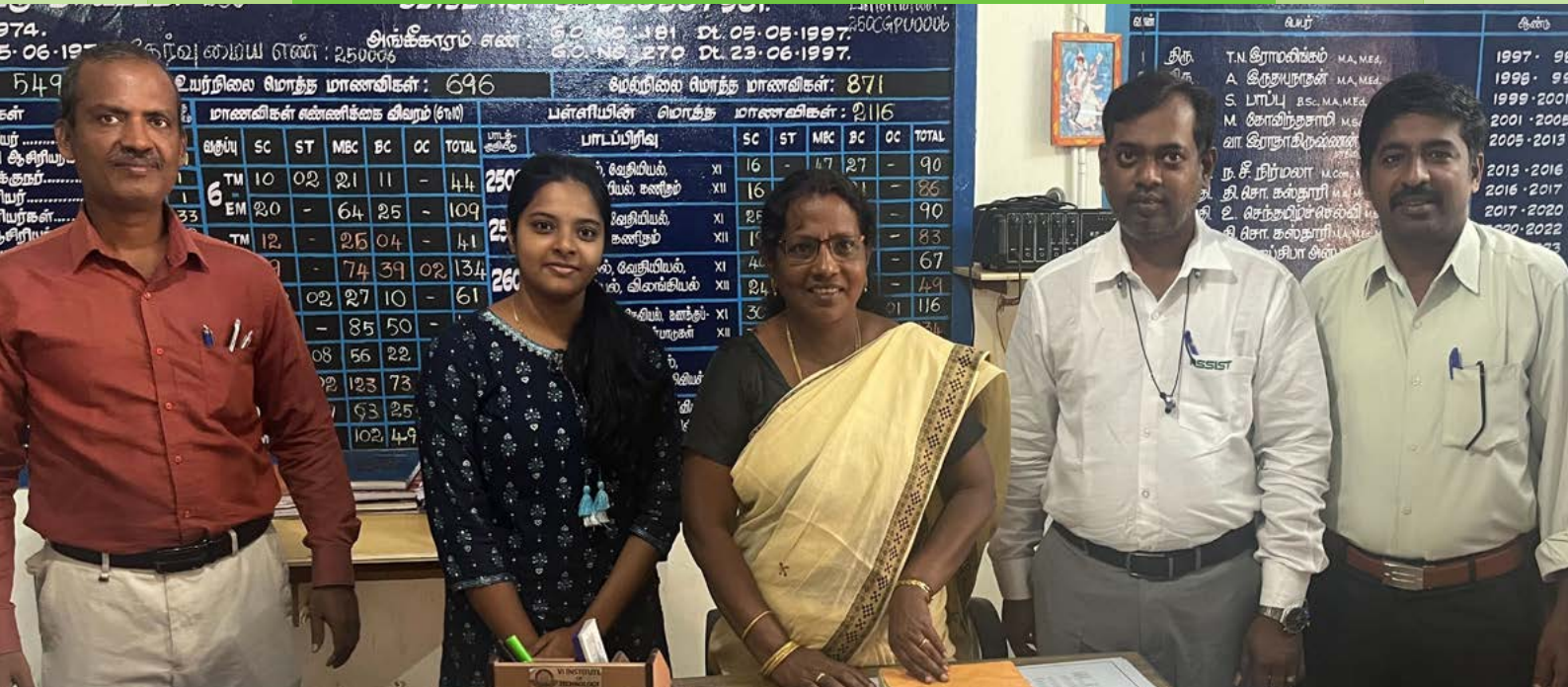
Ultimately, the goal of the partnership is to demonstrate the success of the cement plant, which aims to use waste in its cement production process, thereby reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills.



Girls Who Can:

COPIA Tech, ASSIST institute programs for female secondary students

COPIA
TECHNOLOGIES



The Future is Female! COPIA Technologies partnered with ASSIST in conducting suitable interventions for the capacity development and skills training of teachers and students of the Public Girls Higher Secondary School, Thirukazhukundram, Tamil Nadu, India. The partners target to incorporate the i2Can and 123 Grow initiatives in the program.

The i2Can initiative will provide upskilling programs and awareness campaigns on health and sanitation, and cyber wellness. Innovative teaching methods for teachers will also be taught.

Students will receive job guidance and learn in-demand skills through the upskilling program. Awareness campaigns on waste management systems will teach students about proper waste disposal and environmental accountability. Meanwhile, the cyber wellness program will teach kids online safety and security.

Meanwhile, the 123 Grow initiative shall install gardens at the school which will serve as living laboratories for the hands-on participation of the students in the learning process.



Dialogues Sparking Change



ASSIST joins the Impact Dialog 2023, a roundtable initiative by Metta Social in association with IIT Kanpur-Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre on February 10, 2023.

The program also aims to raise the discussion delved into the corporate social responsibility (CSR) challenges, carved out critical transformation pivots for CSR strategy 2023, and highlighted how enterprises can contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs).

ASSIST Managing Director, Sreeni Narayanan interviewed Mr. Makarand Jawadekar, a Pharma Professional which shed light on India's culture of giving, challenges in fund deployment, global CSR awareness, and CSR relevance to enterprises.



Managing Non-Profits 2.0



ASSIST India takes part in the Managing Non-Profit 2.0 event organized by the Navijan Centre for Development at the Hotel Royal Plaza, Chennai last February 4, 2023.

The event featured insights on designing a path for scaling operations within non-profit organizations, legal updates to make decisions about future roadmaps, and frameworks for strengthening corporate partnerships.

On behalf of ASSIST, Country Manager, Mr. Karunakaran participated and shared his insights on tools and technologies currently used in non-profit organizations for project management, business development, campaigns, and digital marketing.



MANAGING NON PROFIT 2.0 (DESIGN YOUR DEVELOPMENT MATRIX)



VENUE: HOTEL ROYAL PLAZA, CHENNAI

BATCH- 09

DATE: 04TH FEBRUARY, 2023

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A specialized unit under ASSIST, **Creativelab** helps solve the communication, visibility, and knowledge management needs of development stakeholders, such as NGOs, social enterprises, UN agencies, international financing institutions, and others through a mix of contextualized social development, regional presence, and innovative design capabilities.

Revolutionizing the way we gather data

ASSIST Creativelab, in partnership with GIZ Philippines, designed a digital application and website for the Commission of Population (POPCOM)'s Baseline Census for the Establishment of Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM).

The digital RBIM application will allow municipalities to collect census surveys through their mobile phones and digitize the whole process of population survey collection.

The ACL team landed in Baguio City last January 31 to conduct a beta testing. The application and website were demonstrated to target users along with gathering feedback for the further enhancement of the project.



RBIM Digital Tool Ready for Deployment!



Following the beta testing, the ACL team visited the municipalities of Baguio and Tabuk to orient the respective local government units (LGUs) on the digital tools. This was positively received by the participants. The project is expected to be rolled out throughout March.

This program will be piloted in CAR, but will be rolled out nationwide in the near future.

Who are our Partners?





Who are our Partners?



Charting a Sustainable Course

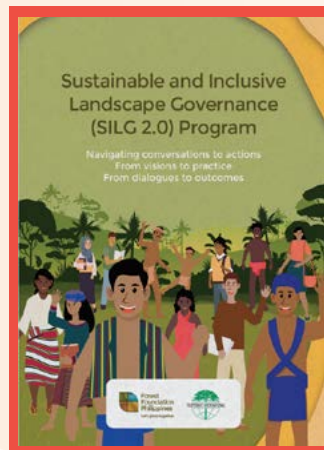
The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Grieg Group have partnered to launch the “Clean Ports, Clean Oceans” campaign, aimed at reducing plastic waste leakage into nature through improved port waste management in the Philippines.

ASSIST Creativelab developed materials for an information and communication campaign to raise awareness about the problem of plastic waste and proper waste management in ports and vessels in the Philippines. The materials included educational materials and targeted communication materials aimed at different stakeholders, including port operators, ship owners, and local communities.

Enhanced Landscape Governance

Forest Foundation partners with ASSIST Creativelab in launching a project aimed at designing and developing a new version of the Sustainable and Inclusive Landscape Governance (SILG) Program Kit, as well as institutional notepads and pens.

The goal of the project is to increase engagement with new stakeholders in the SILG 2.0 process and to grow advocates through improved knowledge management and advocacy. The SILG Program Kit is a valuable tool that provides guidance and resources to help implement the SILG framework, which aims to promote sustainable and inclusive landscape governance.



Who are our Partners?



Making Waves: ASSIST partakes in two international summits



Addressing sustainability woes beyond borders

ASSIST took part in the second edition of Sustainability Week Asia 2023 hosted by Economist Impact in Singapore last February 7 to 9, 2023.

The event brought together over 4,000 participants from around the globe including policymakers, business leaders, scientific experts, and representatives from multilateral institutions and NGOs to discuss actionable insights and solutions for driving transformation through investments in people, processes, and technology.

The event provided a unique opportunity for participants to raise relevant hurdles, and identify actionable solutions to some of the most sustainability challenges of our time directly from the experiences of experts who have been actively addressing these challenges in their own fields.





Turning Ideas into Impact

ASSIST is among the 600 nongovernment organizations (NGOs) that participated in the 19th Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition (DIHAD) held at the World Trade Center in Dubai from March 13 to 15, 2023. The event was also attended by over 6,000 individuals from more than 80 countries.

DIHAD focused on the theme “Energy and Aid: Capitalising on Available Resources” and provided a platform for participants to discuss critical issues such as food security, supply chain challenges, green entrepreneurship, and the role of technology in caring for the planet. The event featured prominent speakers, including government officials, humanitarian leaders, and development experts.

As a media partner, iMPACT Magazine and Index Events had the opportunity to participate as delegates, speakers, and exhibitors. Among the highlights was the presentation of ASSIST’s Master of Disaster (MOD) social action project, which garnered attention from educators, doctors, and other professionals. Visitors to the ASSIST booth expressed their interest in the innovation and quality of the project.



Purpose beyond Profit

ASSIST, together with other business and industry leaders, convene in the Buklod Bayani Stakeholders Forum hosted by the Rotary Club of Makati Central (RCMC) Foundation at The Manila Hotel, on February 27, 2023.

The forum aimed to explore ways in which businesses can take action within their areas of operation and become catalysts for positive social change and sustainable development. Representatives from the PH Stock Exchange, LandBank, UNICEF, ADB, Naval Special Operations Command (NAVSOCOM), and DILG Secretary Alvarez and Undersecretary Villanueva attended the event, providing valuable insights and networking opportunities.

The Buklod Bayani Stakeholders Forum concluded with fruitful discussions on corporate and cross-sectoral partnerships towards sustainable development.



Celebrating Our Community Heroes

Love is definitely in the air as ASSIST joins Pru Life UK in their Pasasalamat 2022 celebration last February 14, 2023 at the Pru House Office in Pasig City, Manila.

Through Pasasalamat 2022, Pru Life UK recognized the significant contributions and valuable work done by PRU Volunteers in its campaigns and activities.



ASSIST Executive Director, Francis Macatulad, delivered an inspiring speech that underscored the essence of volunteerism. The turnover of a ceremonial check was also conducted towards the end of the program.

A-TEAM

A Win for Women

In celebration of Women's Month, we asked the women of ASSIST how they use their work to advance the status of women in society.

In my capacity as a Partnership and RACQ Associate, I actively seek partnerships and sponsorships from organizations that have a proven track record of supporting gender equality and women's rights. I leverage the iMPACT Magazine platform to advocate for policies and initiatives that advance women's rights and gender equality.

Reysha serves as the Partnerships Associate at iMPACT Magazine. Reysha is a firm believer of being grateful and generous in giving back to society through donations and volunteerism.

REYSHA RUIZ



A woman might be a home-maker or a CEO of an organization, and both are important. I will try to make sure iMPACT always highlights achievements of women in the development sector and has pages freed for them to share their insights, interests, and achievements.

Ragini is the current lead of the iMPACT Magazine Publication, a now active and thriving publication after taking a short hiatus amidst the pandemic. An introverted yet friendly being, Ragini believes you get what you give whether it is love, hate, or respect, and sometimes even a multiplied version of it.

RAGINI K R



I am contributing my small part to this big and long process. Our projects have been carefully integrated with women's empowerment elements. My job is to try my best to conduct projects' activities. Besides that, I have a lot of chances to work with local communities. Through that, I can identify the needs and challenges faced by women in those communities.

Luanne Loan Pham is the youngest Project Manager of ASSIST Mekong. Working in the NGO sector has been her career goal since she was a junior. She started her journey with ASSIST Mekong as an intern and has been with the team for over 2 years.

LUANNE LOAN PHAM



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WHO WE ARE

GrantNAV was founded on the premise that funding / opportunity research is a critical component for any successful business or non-profit organization. With a seasoned team backed by a well-articulated process and relevant tools from ASSIST's 20 years of experience, we will help your organization rise above the funding challenges.

Interested in our services?

Contact Us!

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