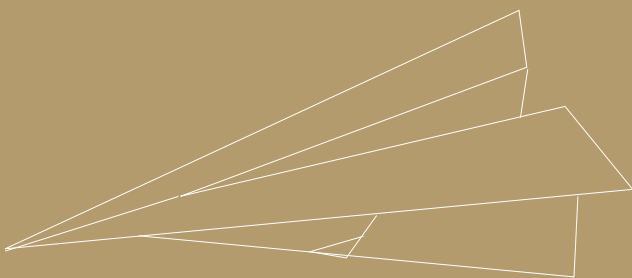


# Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education Operational Highlights

The Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (CENTEX) is a model public school learning environment. Through CENTEX, a select group of bright children from under-resourced families are given quality education and the necessary support to give them the opportunity for a better life.

The first CENTEX School in Tondo, Manila was established by Ayala Foundation with Ayala Land, Inc. as its main funding partner. Globe Telecom Inc. funded the creation of a second CENTEX School in Bauan, Batangas with the help of Purefoods Corporation and the provincial government of Batangas.





Ayala Land and Globe, among other partners of CENTEX, continued to actively support both elementary schools. Gerardo Ablaza Jr., president of Globe, delivered the graduation

message at the joint graduation ceremonies of the two schools in March—the first one for CENTEX Batangas. Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chairman of Ayala Land, delivered the closing remarks.

## Partnerships in 2007

In 2007, CENTEX continued to strengthen its collaborations in education with various industries, the government, and non-government organizations, to support the diverse needs of its students, alumni, and teaching force.

Each of these partnerships and collaborations provides a chance for underprivileged children to gain access to quality education, and represents for them a concrete glimmer of hope for a better future.

As a result of this effort in building more partnerships, CENTEX now has access to funding of more than ₱150 million, through the generosity of its major donors, Ayala Land and Globe, and other funding partners, such as the Australian Embassy, the office of former Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Alba's Restaurant, and a host of individual donors.

From the very beginning, the holistic curricular program of CENTEX necessitated a redesign of its existing facilities to include larger classrooms, a motor-skills room, a computer lab, a multimedia room, and learning centers. On August 15, Australian Ambassador Tony Hely visited CENTEX Batangas and inaugurated the new classroom donated by the Australian Government's Direct Aid Program.



## Feeding program

CENTEX believes that hunger impairs the learning of students. The lunch served to students on school days encourages their attendance, increases their attention span, and enables them to learn more effectively.

Funding from Alba's Restaurant, together with many individual donations, support the feeding program of CENTEX. Parents of CENTEX students volunteer in the school canteen, and are valuable partners through their contributions to the welfare of the students and the work of the school.

## Scholarship programs

CENTEX continuously looks for more partners in funding the education of more deserving students in Manila and Batangas.

Balikbigay Foundation awarded scholarship grants to two Grade One students of CENTEX Manila, with a commitment to support these children all the way to Grade Six.

Funding from the office of former Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. supported the scholarship program at CENTEX Batangas.

Many individuals also contribute to the Dreamcatcher Program of CENTEX, also known as the Mercedes McMicking Scholarship Fund. Their pledges will go far in providing high school tuition scholarships for CENTEX graduates, and for other benefits that will be awarded to its students.

