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## Lapus awards Library Hub Partners

*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."*<sup>1</sup>

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus today gave recognition to partners from the government and private sector who helped finance the construction of library hubs – buildings that house books and other reading materials, which can be accessed for free by public elementary and high school students.

About 140 program partners - congressmen, governors, mayors, private companies and individuals - were given awards for their valuable contributions in sponsoring 70 library hubs nationwide.

Lapus said, "It takes a concerted community action to open the eyes of our children on the possibilities that become theirs when they learn how to read."

An estimated P500M worth of donations for the 70 hubs in the form of infrastructure materials, furniture, computers, and additional books were generated by DepEd for these hubs.

Under the project's cost partnership scheme, the sponsor finances the building of the hub while the DepEd provides the reading materials. DepEd aims to build at least one Library Hub in all 189 school divisions nationwide by 2010.

The Education chief noted, "There are 70 schools division which have at least one library hub, and about six have more than one. What a remarkable accomplishment indeed considering the fact that the original idea was to set up only one hub each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao." The project was launched in 2003 to develop love and habit of reading among public school students.

"I envision the Library Hub to acquire more books not only for the younger children but also for out-of-school youths and adults," he added.

The Library Hub is also known as the "warehouse and wholesale" library which mainly serves public elementary students. The hub provides supplementary reading materials in plastic bins that are sorted by subject area or theme.

The supplementary reading materials include story books and children's books which teachers used to buy as teaching aids.

Another highlight of the event was the launching of another 50 Library Hubs expected to benefit more students. Chair of the House Committee on Basic Education Representative Del de Guzman represented the event's awardees.

DepEd annually accepts project proposals from schools divisions that do not have Library Hubs. For more information, interested donors and partners may contact Beverly Gonda-Berame of the Library Hub Project Team at 633-9342 or 631-9640 (telefax).

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<sup>1</sup> Quote from Journalist Margaret Fuller