



*Office of the Secretary*

JAN 27 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM

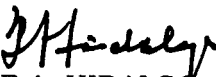
No. **38**, s. 2006

GEARING UP INTERNET LITERACY AND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS  
(GILAS)

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Secondary Schools

1. The Department of Education, in collaboration with various leaders in the business, government, and socio-civic community has adopted and is fully supporting the Gearing UP Internet Literacy Access for Students or the GILAS project.
2. In recognition of the need to make ICT widely accessible and available to the students and teachers in the secondary level, and considering the limited capacity of bringing ICT equipment in the schools and maintaining them, the GILAS project aims to connect all public secondary schools in the country to the Internet in five years.
3. Some of the components of the GILAS project will include project orientation/ briefings, resource mobilization, sustainability trainings, ICT survey and validation, and other related activities. The conduct of such activities requires the involvement of the regional directors, schools division and city superintendents, ICT coordinators, school administrators, local government units, business, community and other agencies for a united effort towards "quality education for all".
4. In line with this, the following is expected of DepED officials:
  - a. Regional directors and schools division superintendents are advised to help beef up the Department's participation by directing their respective school administrators and school community to support the project;
  - b. Principals, PTCAs and others in charge of taking ownership of the schools are encouraged to actively involve themselves in the GILAS orientation, local partnership development and resource mobilization, ICT survey and validation, launch of the project and sustainable use of ICT facilities;
  - c. School divisions with the GILAS Secretariat and its partner NGOs will work with the local government units and other stakeholders in forming a division-level alliance for the project. The alliance will work on a schedule for the local orientation briefing and training and shall facilitate the venue, invitation, and information dissemination to the concerned schools, potential partners and donors. They shall also ensure the accomplishment of application documents, school profile forms and other documents and tools for purposes of monitoring and evaluation; and

- d. Expected participants during briefings and trainings shall make their own arrangements for travel and other incidental expenses relative to their participation.
5. Undersecretary Ramon C. Bacani and Assistant Secretary Camilo Miguel M. Montesa are hereby designated to sit in the GILAS Steering Committee for the Department. Enclosed is the Project Profile.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
FE A. HIDALGO  
Undersecretary  
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

None

Allotment: 1- -(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
OFFICIALS  
PROJECTS  
SCHOOLS

Reformatted by: Sally/DM-Gearing (GILAS)  
01-05-06/computer: mamjo



Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students

- About 90% of Filipino students are in the public education system.
- For every 100 Filipino students who enter first grade in the public education system, only 3 will finish college, making high school the highest educational attainment for majority of those enter the public school system.
- Less than 6% of Philippine public high schools have Internet access available for use by students.

---

**Q. What is GILAS?**

GILAS is the acronym for Gearing up Internet Literacy and Access for Students, a multi-sectoral initiative that aims to provide Internet access for students and basic Internet literacy programs in all the 5,443 public secondary schools in the Philippines in the next 5 years. The mission is led by a consortium of private corporations and civic organizations, in coordination with the Department of Education.

**Q. Why is there a need for this project?**

Less than 40% of the country's public high schools have computer laboratories accessible to students, and less than 6% (or 308) of these laboratories were connected to the Internet as of December 2004. In an environment of resource scarcity, Internet literacy is arguably the most cost effective investment we can make in our educational system.

**Q. Who will benefit from the project?**

Primarily senior high school students in the country's public schools. Depending on student density and availability of PC workstations, the Internet laboratories may be made available to high school students in lower years as well. There are roughly 1 million senior high school students enrolled in the Philippine public school system every year.

**Q. What are the deliverables for GILAS?**

For schools that already have working computer laboratories, GILAS will provide Internet connectivity packages and the basic training necessary for teachers so that they can impart Internet literacy skills to the students. For schools that do not have working computer laboratories, GILAS will provide both laboratories (of at least ten PC units each) and the Internet connectivity packages, along with the corresponding basic training. In both cases, GILAS will provide unlimited Internet access for the laboratories for one year.

**Q. How does GILAS plan to prioritize schools throughout the country?**

Recipient schools will be selected by the working members of the Steering Committee based on the following:

- Local community participation: local government, business, civic, non-government organizations, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders in the community;
- A viable sustainability plan;
- Potential of the donee schools to assist in fulfilling the GILAS vision by mentoring their respective neighbor schools; and,
- Availability of connectivity requirements: laboratory infrastructure and security,

*\*In the vernacular, GILAS connotes positive bravura; savvy usually related to a specific skill.*

computer capacity, electricity, phone connection, or satellite availability.

**Q. Who are the people behind GILAS?**

A Steering Committee composed of leaders in government, the private sector, the social development community, and the donor community has been formed to oversee GILAS and lead the campaign for resource mobilization.

**Senator Manuel Roxas II and Mr. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II**, President of Ayala Corporation and Vice Chairman of the Ayala Foundation are the working Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee.

CEOs of some of the country's largest and most progressive corporations have agreed to serve as Steering Committee members. Among them are: Globe/Innove, Smart/PLDT, Digitel, Bayantel, IBM, Integrated Microelectronics, Inc. Intel, Microsoft, and SPI Technologies. They are joined by representatives of various civic, social, development, and donor organizations such as the Philippine Business for Social Progress, the American Chamber of Commerce, and the Makati Business Club. The Department of Education Secretary serves as Honorary Vice-Chair of the GILAS Steering Committee, while the Department of Trade and Industry is also represented for the PCPS (PCs for Public Schools) program.

Together, GILAS' large multi-sectoral consortium hopes to meet the challenge of providing connectivity for students for the entire public high school system in the Philippines.

**Q. Where are we now?**

Since GILAS was launched in January 2005, one telecom company, Innove Communications, has committed to connect 600 public high schools in the next 2 years, 300 of them in Mindanao, which is in southern Philippines where poverty incidence is highest. This will unlock a \$1M challenge grant from USAID and perhaps for the first time bring Mindanao up to speed before the rest of the country. We have also

received positive responses from local government officials, other corporations, senators and congressmen, and Filipinos overseas (one Filipino American businesswoman based in New York has donated an amount to connect 8 schools in Bacolod City, where her family comes from; another Filipino company in California donated the same amount to connect schools in Mindanao.) As of end-October, 686 public high schools have already been connected to the Internet. Of the 686 connected schools, 455 have 10 PCs per school with Internet connection, and 231 are start-up schools which have 1-3 PCs connected to the Internet.

**Q. What can you do to help? How much would it cost you to help?**

Any individual, organization, company or institution can help the project by making cash donations, raising funds or helping mobilize other resources for GILAS.

The estimated cost of providing Internet connectivity packages per school for 1 year is PhP100,000.00, or about US\$2,000.00.

The estimated cost of providing 10 units of PCs for schools without PC labs is Php 200,000.00 or about US\$4,000.00.

The total cost therefore of providing both computers and connectivity to a school that is starting from scratch is Php 300,000 or about US\$6,000.

Donors may choose to sponsor all or a fraction of the cost of connecting 1 school, 1 city, or 1 province.

**Q. Aside from cash donations, how else can I help?**

The Steering Committee is currently looking for partner organizations who can help in the following areas:

- Providing a helpdesk;
- Assisting GILAS schools in their sustainability program;

***\*In the vernacular, GILAS connotes positive bravura; savvy usually related to a specific skill.***

- Validating Internet connection readiness of public high schools;
- Hardware donations based on technical guidelines and specifications prescribed by the GILAS management;
- IT Education and teacher training.

Individuals or organizations who wish to help in forms other than those mentioned above are encouraged to email us at: [connect@gilas.org](mailto:connect@gilas.org).

***Q. How can potential donors give?***

Donations in cash or in checks may be sent to the attention of:

The Director, GILAS Program  
 Ayala Foundation, Inc.  
 10/F, BPI Main Bldg.  
 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas  
 Makati City, Philippines  
 Tel. + 632 750 1070  
 Fax. + 632 813 4487  
 (Tax deductible in the Philippines)

Or

The Executive Director  
 Ayala Foundation USA  
 255 Shoreline Dr., Suite 128  
 Redwood City, CA 94065  
 USA  
 Tel. + 650 598-3126  
 Fax + 650 508-8988  
 (Tax deductible in the U.S.A)

***\*In the vernacular, GILAS connotes positive bravura; savvy usually related to a specific skill.***