



For more information, please go to
www.gilas.org or e-mail
connect@gilas.org or call
650.598.3126

- 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 joining the work force.
- 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% of these laboratories are connected to the Internet. In an environment of resource scarcity, Internet literacy is arguably the most cost effective investment we can make in our educational system.

Q. Why does it cost \$6,000 to connect one high school?

When GILAS connects a school, this includes the total cost of 10 computers, networking peripherals and equipment, and the cost of Internet connection for 1 year. This can be even higher if the school is in a remote connection, where neither PLDT, Smart or Globe has a line. In these cases, GILAS uses satellite connections, which are more expensive than the usual options. The computer specifications GILAS uses are of the high to midrange type, hence the cost. A good cheap computer in the U.S. can cost

from \$400-600 without a monitor, which would add \$100 dollars or more to the cost. GILAS opted not to sacrifice quality over cost so that the computers won't be obsolete after a few years.

Q. Who covers the cost of maintenance?

The schools cover the associated costs and maintenance for the computers. Different schools have different systems to pay for the costs. For example, in a GILAS school in Luzon, the cooperative (basically the school cafeteria and some stores in the school) pays for the maintenance costs, and in others, they have opened the lab to the public on weekends, charging the users a fee, using it as an internet lab to help pay for the monthly maintenance and other fees.

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.

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

Q. Why should I give to GILAS vs. Gawad Kalinga or Hurricane Katrina?

Giving GILAS the funds means filling a very specific need: i.e. information literacy, training, providing teachers and students alike in the Philippines with the knowledge and the tools necessary to join and compete with the global community. As they say: "Give a man a fish, you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime."

Q. How can I be sure that my donation is going to the intended high school?

Once a donor gives money to GILAS, the involvement of the donor does not end there. We update the donor on the progress from when the equipment arrives, when the computers are networked, up to the moment the school is connected. And once the school is connected, GILAS provides the donors the email addresses of the IT teacher & the principal for further correspondence, along with photos (if possible) of the computer lab. GILAS also provides the donor with the estimated costs of the connection, once the schools are validated.

Q. Who are the people behind GILAS?

The GILAS project is endorsed by the President of the Philippines and Secretary of Education, sitting as Honorary Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee, respectively.

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, IMI, Intel, Microsoft, and STI. They are joined by representatives of various civic, social, development, and donor organizations.

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. How can I help? How much does it cost to connect one school?

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

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

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

Total cost is \$6,000 for one high school. Donors may choose to sponsor all or a fraction of the cost of connecting 1 school, 1 city, or 1 province.

Q. How can potential donors give?

Donations in cash or checks made payable to Ayala Foundation USA, c/o GILAS can be sent to:

Ayala Foundation USA
255 Shoreline Dr., Suite 428
Redwood City, CA 94065
Tel: 650 598-3126
Fax: 650 508-8988
(Tax deductible in the U.S.A)

Donations can also be made through:

- **Credit card:** Visa & Mastercard accepted on www.af-usa.org, via Paypal online or JustGive.org.
- **Securities:** Please contact the Ayala Foundation USA office for DTC Instructions.
- **Planned Giving:** Please contact the Ayala Foundation USA office for more details on gifts of real estate, bequests, or charitable trusts.
- **Car Donations:** Please contact the Ayala Foundation USA office for donation through Charitable Auto Resources.

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