

WCC Aviation: Aiming bigber at 10

A few might know Binalonan, Pangasinan as a crossover town going to Baguio but the quiet municipality is slowly making a name for itself.

Back in 2005, licensed pilot and instructor Capt. Ramon V. Guico III established the Binalonan Airfield to serve as the headquarters of what is now known as one of Asia's best aviation schools. The WCC Aviation Company's Aeronautical and Technical College is the result of Guico's passion for flying and desire to provide the best in aviation education. Guico

5,000 hours of flight time, making him more than qualified to fly a commercial aircraft.

More than facilities and qualifications, the WCC found-

PEOPLE&EVENTS

Loboc Children's Choir concerts to raise funds for churches

The singing school children from Loboc, who have gained international acclaim for their talents, will be touring Australia and New Zealand to raise funds to rehabilitate the churches of Bohol destroyed by an earthquake in 2013.

The Loboc Children's Choir will hold concerts in Canberra and Sydney, the proceeds of which will be used to repair the damage wrought by the October 2013 quake, said choir director Alma Fernando Taldo.

They will also perform in a free concert organized by the Philippine Embassy in Australia. They will be in Australia from June 21 to July 5.

The children will also be in New Zealand from June 3 to June 19 for performances in different schools in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, said choir assistant trainer Noel Caneda. Liwayway Marketing Corp., maker of the popular snack food brand Oishi, is a

the popular snack food brand Oishi, is a major sponsor of the group's tour. Carlos Chan, chairman emeritus of Li-

wayway, said the Loboc choir's talent is a showcase of Filipino artistry.

Chan said the singing school children could be great ambassadors to raise awareness on the need to rehabilitate Bohol's centuries-old Roman Catholic churches.

Before this, the Philippine Embassy in New Zealand had written Liwayway, asking to bring the children's choir to perform there, Taldo said. Chan agreed to finance the fare expenses.

A group from an academic institution in Australia also asked if the choir could also hold performances there.

According to Caneda, the Diocese of Bohol thought of tapping the children's talent to raise funds for the rehabilitation of the churches.

Bohol Bishop Leonardo Mendroso will attend the concert for the Filipino community in Sydney.

The choir is composed of students of the Loboc Central Elementary School.

Following the killer quake of October 2013, the singing children touched the hearts of many when they sang in front of the ruins of the Loboc Church.

Chan has long been a supporter of the children's choir, with education and the development of the youth sector among his advocacies.

A supporter of Loboc for years, Chan and Liwayway were recognized during the town fiesta on May 22.

World-class aviation education

"I'm one of those kids who dreamed of flying and being free up in the air," shared the 38-year-old pilot who is also the town's mayor. After graduating from the University of the Philippines, he enrolled in flying school and successfully flew his first aircraft at the age of 23.

WCC started with only two hobby aircraft and two students in 2004 and since then has produced more than 500 commercial pilots. Apart from its flagship Pilot Academy, the school has a flight attendant school and offers courses in Aeronautical Engineering, Aircraft Maintenance Technology and Tourism.

One of the aspects that set WCC apart from other aviation schools is its state-of-the-art facilities. This includes the Alsim simulator, a European brand of flight training solutions that projects actual landscapes on a 180-degree screen and can simulate different weather conditions. The school also boasts of 30 planes that include brandnew Tecnam trainer aircraft from Italy with the two-seater P2002-JF model exclusive to WCC. Aside from training using modern aircraft, students are able to have a real-world experience because the school has its own watch tower.

The strength of its faculty is also a source of pride. WCC's pilot instructors such as Capt. Carlo Torres have more than



Brand new Tecnam P2006T

er considers character formation as the most critical aspect of providing education. "Developing the attitude and work ethics of our students are just as important," Guico said.

The school's curriculum includes subjects on personality development, communication and leadership to give students a holistic training.

Expansion plans

WCC Aviation Company also owns Sky Pasada, a Tuguegarao-based air taxi services company that offers chartered flights. Guico plans to expand WCC's services to include a park-and-fly concept and establish commercial flights from Binalonan to Batanes using a 19-seater aircraft to shuttle passengers.

He also wants to give travelers seeking adventure and novelty by offering sight-seeing of places that only small planes can access such as flying over the famed Hundred Islands of Alaminos. He is also developing a different kind of piloting, working with different church groups for missionary flights to spread God's Word to farflung areas.

Synergy for development

Attracting students from all over the country and from neighboring Asian countries is helping the local economy grow, creating demand for lodging and dining options. The first SM Savemore supermarket is set to open in March and other commercial establishments are opening within the year in Binalonan.

"My town development model here is to create a synergy between my two passions – education and public administration," described Guico. For inquiries, call (632) 551-1013 to 14. For more information, visit www.wccaviation.com.

PLDT, Smart expand tech partnership with PLM

PLDT and Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) to expand the suite of services that will facilitate seamless communications within the university and among its student population.

The agreement was signed by PLM university president Ma. Leonora de Jesus, PLDT and Smart public affairs head Ramon Isberto, head of PLDT ALPHA Enterprise Jovy Hernandez, and Smart data services head Michelle Curran.

"As PLM prides itself as the nation's leading scholars' university, and is poised to be at par with the leading learning institutions in the ASEAN region, it recognizes the imperative need for a digital technology infrastructure support for our various programs through meaningful industry-academe institutional linkages," said De Jesus.

"This partnership with PLM reinforced the position of the PLDT Group as the preferred partner of leading learning



In photo during the recent MOA signing are key signatories PLM president Ma. Leonora de Jesus (3rd from left) and Ramon Isberto, head of public affairs at Smart (3rd from right). They are joined by lawyer Raphael Kenneth Ybanez, university and board secretary (left) and Cecilia Sabio, acting VP for academic affairs, PLM; Michelle Curan, group head/FVP, Smart data services (2nd from right) and Jovy Hernandez, FVP and head, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise (right).

institutions for their communications requirements. Beyond a commercial engagement, we aim to be an enabler of our partner learning communities towards efficient communications using our array of technical solutions," said Isberto.

The MoA formalizes Smart's commitment to install WiFi hotspots within the PLM campus and provide free connectivity and access points to the university.

"This initiative is aligned with Smart's vision for digital inclusion, of making the Internet accessible so that more students get to enjoy its benefits," said Curran.

The agreement also extends by another five years the partnership with PLM under the Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP), the first-of-its-kind and longestrunning industry-telco linkage program to improve engineering and IT education.

It also allows PLM to use the Smart Infoboard, a web-based SMS tool that facilitates efficient and seamless communications within the community.

PLM has signed a similar pact with Smart in 2009 for SWEEP and Infoboard.

The MoA also covered the upgrade of PLM's telephony capabilities through PLDT AL-PHA Enterprise's private automatic branch exchanges (PABX) solution.

"We are proud to support the university in its drive to enhance its service delivery through reliable communications solutions that will help keep the community connected," said Hernandez.

It will be recalled the PLDT Group chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan has committed to donate P20 million to PLM as he envisions Manila, and in particular, Intramuros where PLM and other universities such as Lyceum of the Philippines, Colegio de San Juan de Letran and the University of the City of Manila are located, as an innovations hub for Metro Manila.

Australia's Deakin University offers study grants

The great benefits of world-class education from a renowned learning institution will be within the reach of Filipino students through two special study programs being offered by Deakin University, one of Australia's top universities. course. The I gram p (six mo program double

Deakin University has tied up with International Education Specialists (Inter-Ed), the pioneer and premier student placement organization in the Philippines, in making available to qualified students opportunities to acquire an MBA with a Master of Leadership program, and a merit-based scholarship for a four-year The MBA is a one-and-a-half year program packaged with an extra semester (six months) of the Master of Leadership program that will earn for the student a double degree and allow him to further stay in Australia to gain work experience.

Open to an eligible few, Deakin University provides a 20 percent financial scholarship on tuition fee or approximately \$11,000 for the two years of the program.

To qualify for the MBA, an applicant must have at least three years of work

experience managing people or in a managerial position and an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) grade of 6.5 (must not be lower than 6 in any of the components).

The MBA program, which is internationally recognized and EPAS-accredited by the European Foundation for Management Development, is widely known for its experiential design.

For more information on study opportunities offered by Deakin University, contact Inter-Ed at 8191001 or 0917-5351956 or visit its website at *www.inter-ed.com*