

TERMINAL REPORT – CSR PROGRAM, BATANES LEG

I. PROJECT DETAILS

NAME: Batanes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

DATE: 17 – 20 May 2018

VENUE: Province of Batanes

ATTENDEES:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Marivic M. Sevilla | 9. Raquel A. Villanueva |
| 2. Maryh Jane P. Mabagos | 10. Isaias N. Salvan |
| 3. Millisa M. Nuada | 11. Riezel R. Umali |
| 4. Michael R. Caroro | 12. BJ Mark Kevin U. Remo |
| 5. Narjay R. Calinao | 13. Edmond M. Corpuz |
| 6. Lorenz Eugene D. Cabanos | 14. Maria Astrid Alvarez |
| 7. Pedro R. Camantes | 15. Kara Patria M. Santos |
| 8. Billy John N. Casabuena | |

II. BACKGROUND

TPB, in its pursuit of green and sustainable tourism, included in the Corporation's annual work program the conduct of CSR activities. These activities aim to create green and environmental awareness that shall result in greater respect and a deeper appreciation of nature and Filipino culture and heritage; not only to its participants but also to tourism stakeholders and most importantly to future generations who will significantly benefit from these projects.

For 2018's third segment, 12 TPB personnel and two travel bloggers were selected and invited to join the CSR Batanes leg. Participants in partnership with Mr. Mon Corpuz of Blabck Pencil Project, a social media-based and private organization, were involved in the different initiatives such as rehabilitation of stone-house and distribution of 400 set of school supplies to different elementary schools in the province of Batanes.

Before leaving for Batanes, the CPBD Department, the organizer of all CSR activities in TPB, have coordinated with the shipment partner of Mr. mon Corpuz for the shipment of balikbayan boxes containing the school supplies to for distribution in Sabtang and Basco, Batanes.

III. PLANNED VS ACTUAL ITINERARY

DAY/TIME	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	DAY/TIME	ACTUAL ACTIVITIES
17 May 2018		17 May 2018	
01:00 AM	Assembly at TPB Legaspi Towers 300	01:00 AM	Assembly at TPB Legaspi Towers 300
01:30 AM	Proceed to Clark International Airport	02:00 AM	Proceeded to Clark International Airport
04:00 AM	ETA to Clark International Airport	04:30 AM	Arrived at Clark International Airport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-in/Luggage Drop • AM Snacks
06:10 AM	Depart Manila for Batanes	06:10 AM	Departed Clark for Batanes
07:40 AM	ETA to Basco Airport	07:40 AM	Arrived at Basco Airport
08:30 AM	Brief Scenic Batan Tour	08:30 AM	Brief Scenic Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tukon Chapel • Valugan Boulder Beach • Basco Light house • Dipnaysupuan Japanese Tunnel • Vayang Rolling Hills
11:00 AM	Proceed to Port	11:00 AM	Proceeded to Port
11:45 AM	ETA at Sabtang Port	12:15 PM	Arrived at Sabtang Port
12:00 NN	Proceed to Lunch Area	12:30 PM	Proceeded to Morong Beach Lunch Area
01:30 PM	Proceed to Hotel for Check –in	02:30 PM	Arrived at Hotel for Check-in
05:00 PM	Packing of School Supplies	05:30 PM	Packing of school supplies
07:00 PM	Dinner	07:30 PM	Dinner at Paypananayan Beach Area
REST OVERNIGHT			
18 May 2018		18 May 2018	
06:00 AM	Wake Up Call	06:00 AM	Wake up call
07:00 AM	Breakfast	07:00 AM	Breakfast
08:00 AM	Distribution of school supplies	08:00 AM	Distributed school supplies to the following barrio schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sumnanga Barrio School • Nakanmuan Barrio School
12:00 NN	Lunch	12:00 NN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch at Paypananayan

			<p>Morong Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Tour and Photo Opportunity at Sumnanga Water Spring, Morong Beach, Mayahaw Arch and Nakabuang Cave
01:30 PM	Continuation of Distribution of school supplies	01:30 PM	<p>Continuation of distribution of school supplies to the following barrio schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savidug Barrio School • Chavayan Barrio School <p>Brief Tour in the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chavayan Village • Sabtang Weavers Association • Chavayan Chapel • Chavayan Cove-Tinyan Viewpoint • St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel and Old Beaterio
06:00 PM	Dinner	05:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early dinner
		06:30 PM	<p>Proceeded to Hotel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshen Up • Got invited to attend and witness a traditional wedding of Ivatans
REST OVERNIGHT			
DAY/TIME	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	DAY/TIME	ACTUAL ACTIVITIES
19 May 2018		19 May 2018	
05:00 AM	Wake Up Call	05:00 AM	Wake up call
06:00 AM	Breakfast/Check-out at Hotel	06:00 AM	Breakfast
07:00 AM	Proceed to CSR location for stone house rehabilitation	07:00 AM	Proceeded to CSR location for stone house rehabilitation
11:30 AM	Lunch	11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Continuation of CSR activity	01:00 PM	Continuation of CSR activity
02:00 PM	Groundbreaking/Blessing	02:00 PM	Proceeded to accommodation for luggage pick up
03:00 PM	Proceed to Sabtang Port	03:00 PM	Departed Sabtang for

			Basco
03:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETA at Ivana (Basco)Port Proceed to Honesty Coffee Shop 	04:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrived at Ivana Port (Basco) Proceeded to Honesty Coffee Shop
05:00 PM	Check-in at accommodation	04:30 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceeded to Racuh a Payaman (Marlboro Country) Stop Over at Madangay (Alapad Hill)
		06:00 PM	Proceeded at accommodation for check-in
07:00 PM	Dinner	07:00 PM	Dinner
REST OVERNIGHT			
20 May 2018		20 May 2018	
05:00 AM	Wake Up Call	05:00 AM	Wake Up call
05:30 AM	Breakfast	05:30 AM	Breakfast
06:30 AM	Proceed to Basco Airport	06:45 AM	Proceeded to Basco Airport
08:10 AM	ETD from Basco Airport	08:10 AM	Departed Basco
09:40 AM	ETA to Clark International Airport	09:45 AM	Arrived at Clark International Airport
10:15 AM	Proceed to Legaspi Towers	10:15 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proceeded to Legaspi Towers Stop Over at Jollibee Balintawak for Lunch
02:30 PM	ETA to Legaspi Towers	01:30 PM	Arrived at Legaspi Towers
END OF CSR BATANES			

NOTE: Due to last minute advised of one of the participants about not joining the leg, the team departed later than the scheduled time. The TPB team served as demolition team of the chosen stone house that needs to be rehabilitated.

IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF CSR BATANES

For this particular leg of the CSR Program, the participants were able to engage in activities that gave importance to:

1. Giving back to marginalized members of our community

- Provision and distribution of school supplies to barrio schools of Sabtang and Basco, Batanes

TPB CSR partner, Mr. Mon Corpuz of Black Pencil Project have coordinated with the elementary schools for the distribution of

school supplies in which the TPB employees have distributed a total of 400 sets of school supplies to the following schools: (1) Sumnanga Barrio School, (2) Nakanmuan Barrio School, (3) Savidug Barrio School, (4) Chavayan Barrio School, (5) Sabtang Elementary School, and (6) Uyugan Central School (Basco). The TPB employees have travelled to these barrio schools to distribute the school supplies. The school teachers expressed the gratitude of their schools for choosing them as recipients of this activity. Selected students of some visited schools have welcomed the TPB team with Ivatan songs.

For the distribution to be organized per school, the TPB team, together with the school teachers, have divided the students according to their grade level. After the school supplies distribution, a photo opportunity took place, and TPB employees shared stories with some of the children.

TPB brought 400 sets of school supplies which comprised of tote bags, notebooks, pad papers, pencils, ball pens and lanyards which can be used for one school year and just in time for the opening of classes. A feeling of accomplishment was collectively felt among the TPB personnel after seeing the smiles and appreciation from the students.

- **Rehabilitation of stone house**

CPBD has pushed through this project as part of CSR activities because it emphasized the importance of preservation of traditional, cultural heritage and architecture of Batanes.

Some of the houses are already using modern materials, and some Ivatans chose to settle in Manila and abandoned their homes which eventually will lead to the loss of unique and authenticity of Batanes.

Also, the cost of maintaining the old architectural or even the cogon roof is around Php500,000-Php1,000,000 to buy enough cogon for a regular size house.

TPB local tour operator who serves as TPB's representative, have conducted an advance ocular inspection and coordination with the owner of the selected stone house, for rehabilitation. Upon arrival of the team in Sabtang, together with Mr. Mon Corpuz, CPBD's head and CSR's project officer, have conducted an initial look and assessment with the house.

On the day of rehabilitation, TPB employees were assisted by two Ivatans namely "Mang Antonio" and "Mang Virgilio" who gave instructions and guidance to TPB employees on how to proceed with the fixing of the roof of the house. Since it was dangerous to go

on the roof of the house, the male TPB participants have volunteered to go up and remove the old and rotten “cogon.” On the other hand, the majority of the female participants remained on the ground and busied themselves with the collection of the old and unusable bamboo and cogon removed by the TPB volunteers on the roof. After removing the roof portion, the TPB team have placed the cogon in one area and assembled for it to be picked up by the community truck. The old cogon is collected for recycling by the Ivatan.

According to the Ivatans culture and beliefs, for the new cogon to last for 20-30 years, they had to follow the advice of their elders. There is a process on which they have to wait for the right timing that has something to do with the moon or do the harvesting in a particular month and again wait for the proper timing for the roof making.

The local Ivatan coordinator has mentioned that there will be a marker to identify that the house was budgeted and rehabilitated by the TPB. The restored stone house can serve as one of homestay open to the public or a multi-purpose area for town meetings or gathering. The local tour operator will be the ones to provide details and assigned to monitor the accomplishment of the restored stone house.

TPB as the primary agency for marketing the country as a tourism destination, a product update was also included in the program. The group was able to visit the following places and had some fun and worth-taking activities in the province:

- **Tukon Chapel**

Tukon Chapel sits humbly atop a foothill, an eye-catcher made of stone as though offered by the greenery to the restless skies. Tukon means “mountain” in the Ivatan language, an apt name as it covers generally rugged terrain that lies in the shadow of Mt. Iraya. From here, one can admire the mischievous waves of both the West Philippine Sea and the roaring Pacific. The church was under renovation during the visit yet some of the personnel manage to explore the chapel and offered prayers.

- **Vayang Rolling Hills**

It is also known as Vayang Ranch, offer a view of the West Philippine Sea, the Chadpidan Boulder Beach, and parts of Basco, Batanes. With its grassy hills, it offers a sanctuary and a grazing spot for cows, water buffalos, and goats.

- **Valugan Boulder Beach**

It's a masterpiece created by the elements. In 400 AD, Mt. Iraya erupted and scattered andesite rocks around the northern half of Batan, which is now Basco, from the fiery guts of the earth. The mighty wind from the Pacific pushed the waves to lap the rough rocks, polishing it in the process. The result: a boulder beach that is now call Valugan.

Valugan means "east" in the Ivatan language. Boulders fill the jagged eastern edge of Batan Island like marbles recklessly dumped in a corner. There are layers of stones that was made by some of the tourist who visited the area, but according to the Ivatan, they are not advising tourist or people to do such activity because they believed that this activity will attract bad weather/calamity.

- **Dipnaysupuan Japanese Tunnel**

Located in Tukon Hills, Basco, Batanes. The tunnels are interconnected, and it gives an opportunity for tourists to explore the tunnels that were once dug by the Ivatans. It served as the shelter of the Japanese soldiers until the end of the World War II. Inside the tunnel, there are different rooms that can be accessed which are the bunker, the guard post, and a hollow used as a water reservoir.

- **Basco Lighthouse**

Basco Lighthouse is one of the three lighthouses proposed by former Congressman Florencio Abad of Batanes, not only as working lighthouses, but possibly as tourist attractions. The other two are in Sabtang and Mahatao. The Basco structure was first completed in 2003.

The location chosen is where the first lighthouse of Basco was built. It was also the site of the American period telegraph facilities that connected Batanes with the central government until it was destroyed by the Japanese Imperial Army bombings at the start of World War II. A few of the buildings survived and some have been converted into businesses like a café - resulting from the area becoming popular because of the lighthouse. TPB personnel have explored the 6-story building with a gallery or viewing deck on the fifth floor. The viewing deck is a perfect location to view the whole of Batan Island (the main island where Basco is located) from end to end, including Mount Iraya. One can also have a clear view of Sabtang Island in the south of Basco and Itbayat Island to the north.

- **Chavayan Chapel**

Chavayan Chapel also known as Sta. Rosa de Lima Chapel, is located in Chavayan Village. It is the only church in Batanes that has cogon

grass as its roofing. It is surrounded by houses made from stone walls with cogon grass roofing, built to withstand strong winds and typhoons in the island.

- **Chavayan Cove and Tinyan Viewpoint**

Tinyan Viewpoint and Chamantad Cove are favorite viewing spots in Barangay Chavayan, Sabtang, Batanes. The grass-covered slopes of Tinyan were exhausting and a bit dangerous on one sight but it is leading to the viewpoint that offers a beautiful view of Chavayan Cove. Visitors can also see the surrounding rolling hills of Chavayan. This destination was popularized since it has been subject to several pre-nup photoshoots and film shooting (ex. You're My Boss).

- **St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel and Old Beaterio**

Located in the village of Savidug, Sabtang, Batanes. It is a white chapel placed beside an old beaterio, which is a house of a priest. Tourists can enter both the chapel and the beaterio. The church was named after Saint Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican friar.

- **Honesty Coffee Shop**

"This store is too small for dishonest people," a statement that every visitor of the store can read upon entering the premise. Honesty Coffee Shop is a store and coffee shop located near the Port of Ivana, Basco, Batanes. Couple Jose and Elena Gabilo owned the shop which became famous worldwide for showcasing Ivatan's honesty. What makes this one of a kind in the world, and in the Philippines is that there's no one operating the store. Instead, the owners rely on the honesty of the guests visiting the place.

- **Alapad Hill**

Alapad hill was the location of the movie "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit" of Richard Gomez and Dawn Zulueta. It was dubbed as the best place to do the iconic phrase which Vice Ganda popularized, "i-Dawn Zulueta Mo Ako." This location is one of the favorite sites of tourists visiting Batanes because of the majestic rock and hill formation which also serves as a perfect photo background.

- **Rakuh A Payaman (Marlboro Country)**

Rakuh-a-Payaman (wide pasture) or The Payaman, famously called by tourists as Marlboro Country, is promontory and communal pastureland in the Barangay Imjanjbu in the municipality of Uyugan, the southern part of Batan Island. Rakuh-a-Payaman is now commonly called the Marlboro Country mainly because visitors often associate Rakuh-a-

Payaman's landscape with the setting of the commercial of the Marlboro cigarette. Rakuh-a-Payaman offers a unique perspective of undulating hills and green meadows where cattle, water buffalo, and cows roam freely. Visitors can also enjoy the breathtaking panoramic view of Batan Island's mid to northern sections, including the Pacific Ocean, the Tayid Lighthouse, the rugged coastline below the hills with big strong waves crashing on the shores, and the volcanic Mount Iraya. On a clear day, visitors can also see the nearby Diogo Island to the north.

V. BLOGGERS

CPBD, with the recommendation of MARCOM Department invited bloggers to join the TPB team. TPB will shoulder all travel expense and in return, bloggers are requested to publish a write-up or articles on their social media accounts regarding CSR project/activity. The following are the invited bloggers.

- Kara Patria M. Santos
 - <https://www.traveling-up.com/rebuilding-a-stone-house-on-sabtang-island/>
 - <https://www.traveling-up.com/black-pencil-project-in-batanes/>
- Maria Astrid Alvarez
 - <https://www.philippinebeaches.org/breathtaking-batanes-12-tourist-spots-to-visit/>
 - <https://www.philippinebeaches.org/7-interesting-treasures-that-make-batanes-unique/>

VI. NGO ENGAGEMENT

- Assistance from Mr. Mon Corpuz as official partner and coordinator with the following:
 - Coordination with different schools
 - Shipment of school supplies from Manila to Batanes
 - Coordination with LGU Sabtang
- Assistance from Ivatans for the restoration of stone house

VII. BENEFITS

- Environmental and cultural awareness among participants of the CSR activity that will help in the individual appreciation of the importance of green tourism that will hopefully transcend to their respective circle of friends and families;
- Building relationship and networking with the local communities, LGU, tourism stakeholders and even amongst TPB employees which are also possible and potential partners for future TPB projects;
- Assistance in the preservation of at least one stone house in Batanes

- Additional first-hand knowledge of the country's tourism products and services that will hopefully help them become more productive personnel of the Corporation;
- Articles to be published through the assistance of invited travel bloggers thru their media accounts.
- Documentary stories to feature on TPB website and other social media accounts.