

AFOS Foundation Philippines K TO 12 PLUS-PROJECT HOST BHUTAN DELEGATION



An 11-person delegation of government and private sector representatives organized by the Kingdom of Bhutan's Ministry of Labor & Human Resources visited Cebu City on 17 December 2018, to discuss and understand the implementation of the Dual Vocational Training Program in the Philippines, explore institutional collaboration and linkages among stakeholders, and understand the management and governance of TVET. The visit to Cebu focused on the Construction Industry, which plays a major role in the economic development of Bhutan, as it creates employment opportunities for a considerable portion of the Kingdom's population. The Philippine leg is part of the delegation's learning visit to selected ASEAN countries, including Malaysia and Thailand.

Owing to their active involvement in piloting the Dual Vocational Training approach in the Construction sector through the K to 12 PLUS Project, AFOS Foundation, together with its local partner Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI), were requested to organize and coordinate the Bhutan delegation's program in Cebu. The AFOS Foundation-CCCI Team came up with a series of activities, that responded to the delegation's objectives.

The first half of the day was spent in a presentation-discussion forum, where the Philippine Technical-Vocational Education & Training (TVET) system and the Dual Training System (DTS) were presented by the government's Technical Education & Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The Center for Industrial Technology & Enterprise (CITE), a technical-vocational institute (TVI) fleshed out DTS implementation in Cebu by talking about its actual experience in all phases of dual vocational training. Finally, CCCI shared

the results of their Construction Cluster's DTS pilot, as well as its Assessment, Certification & Accreditation System (ACAS), developed through the K to 12 PLUS project with AFOS Foundation Philippines.



To further concretize their learnings from the morning session, the delegation visited K to 12 PLUS TVI partner, Primary Structures Educational Foundation Inc. - School of Knowledge for Industrial Leadership & Service (PSEFI-SKILLS). To maximize the time spent at PSEFI-SKILLS, partner construction companies and pilot graduates were also present, to interact with the delegates from Bhutan and shared their own experiences in Dual Vocational Training and TVET.

On the whole, the Bhutanese delegation considered the visit to Cebu as very productive. In his concluding talk, Head of Delegation Norbu Wangchuk of the Ministry of Labor & Human Resources expressed his deep appreciation for a well-organized visit that gave them very valuable learnings and insights, that they can look back on in designing the improvement of the skills development programs in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

by LZE Norbert Weiß and AFOS Foundation Philippines staff / January 2019