



SWITZERLAND-CEBU SCHOOL HELP

www.swibu.net

Newsletter – Special Edition

Dear SWIBU Friends, Donators, Godmothers and Fathers

We from SWIBU, the teachers, school management and children of the APID Elementary School are on the top of the world to inform you, that your generous Donations have been finally arrived and on the 2nd of August 2019 distributed to the ones in desperate need. We can still hardly believe it and are thankful and full of happiness, that you with your golden hearts for poor people have richly blessed us.

But step by step. On the 6th of June 2019 the vessel with “our” Container has arrived in the port of Cebu and a story of a very special kind started. Thanks to large experiences in importing goods by sea, we have been professionally prepared for the arrival of the container, means all papers and documents were in our opinion perfectly prepared. However, each new day new demands of documents came from the authorities. In total 28 more documents, which had to be in triple execution and notarized, robbed us of energy, time, money and confidence that the container will be released in a foreseeable future. The lowest point was achieved, when the Head Custom Office in Manila was not able for 2 weeks to contact the APID Elementary School, means the recipient of the donations. The decision maker was incapable to type the right Email-Address from Apid School in his Email to demand further documents. We from SWIBU took all the necessary steps to put a quick end to this incapability, which again cost all of us a lot of time and energy and we worked days and nights. Due to this unprofessionalism all the costs went up for storage of the container, demurrage etc. and no end was in sight.

We were finally ready to give up this container, means to abandon it. Our Ellen P Ramas (President), Ma. Rowena P. Paran (Principal APID Elementary School) Jocelyn P. Mara-at (Teacher) and Lilliane Faye A. Rosit (Teacher) held on the last straw and asked for an audience with the governor of Cebu, which has been granted and the Head Officer of Custom has been ordered to the Governor’s office.

Shortly afterwards the GST and Duty have been abolished. Next steps were the begging and fight for the release of the storage and the demurrage, which in the meantime were as high as several thousands of Dollars. The SWIBU account in Switzerland was at the time nearly empty. Another two weeks long fight occurred, where the Shipper Yangming was not very cooperative and reduced the demurrage only instead of abolish it. All these robbed our committed Ladies a lot time and the believe in a good end. It remained only, that finally justice triumphed.

At the 31st of July 2019, at Midnight, it was then the time we could get the Container. Tears of happiness and relieve were flowing, finally to reach the target.

The documents fill a complete folder. We provide you with these, on request.



left to right: Grace, Ellen, Jocelyn, Lilliane und Henry



waiting for the Container; 11 pm

A big thank you is due to our President, the Principal and the two Teachers of the APID Elementary School, and to Grace del Rosario Padilla, Roselle N Guerra and Henry Magandi of our Freight Agent Fairlift International Logistics Inc. (www.fairlift.com) which have given more than 100 % for the release of the container. Without their tireless efforts, we would never ever get this Container.

On the 2nd of August the content of the Container has been passed on to the APID Elementary School, accompanied by a little celebration of these happy children and teachers.



Arrival at APID Elementary School



Unload of the first small truck





The children welcomed us with self-made Swiss and Philippines Flags



Opening Speeches

From left to right: Ellen P Ramas, President SWIBU-Cebu - Ma. Rowena P. Paran (Principal APID Elementary School) - Jocelyn P. Mara-at (Teacher)



Guest of Honor Mrs. Josephine Paran
(Barangay Counselor Cantabaco)



Guest of Honor Mrs. Salome Gonzales
(Barangay Counselor Cantabaco)



Introduction Teachers of the APID Elementary School



The show begins

SWIBU-Song performed by the children of the APID Elementary School
(The video will be online on YouTube in approx. 3 weeks' time. Enjoy then tis hearth warming song. It goes under your skin and speaks of great gratitude!)



Dancing Competition



Handing over the donations to the students and teachers



The day, the days afterwards

Ellen P Ramas and her helpers visited the day after the celebration in the school, with Motorbikes and by hiking the families of the children in the Mountains to give personally some of the Donations to the ones in desperate need. These duties will be finalized over the next few days, that as many as possible get their share and being happy.



Final Words

In the name of APID Elementary School, Teachers, Children and their Parents we thank you deep from our heart for all these generous Donations. May the happy children's eyes and joyful faces with the feeling of appreciation and gratitude reward you for your contributions, that you continue to be faithful to us and support us. Each Franc and Product can help for a life with perspectives.

Our task is far from over. Despite this stony path this wonderful conclusion gives us great confidence to be on the right way to help many more children and schools in need.

We give our best. Thank you, we can alleviate this immense poverty and give the children a future worth living. We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

And last but not least a big Thank you to our President Pe Ritter in Switzerland. Without you, dear Pe, would have been this first and important step of our vision, "a life with perspectives for children in need on Cebu Island" impossible. Your tireless efforts to pick up the donated goods all over Switzerland, packaging and filling the Container you spend hundreds of hours of volunteer work. Also, we are very thankful for your mental and most of all financial support, when we didn't believe anymore to get this Container out of the wharf. Without you it wouldn't be possible, to make so many people happy. If there would be more people like you, the world would look very different. We are looking forward to work with you together!

Many thanks and kind Regards

Your SWIBU-Team



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