

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TEACH FOR THE PHILIPPINES PARTICIPATES IN BRIGADA ESKWELA 2013

Quezon City, Philippines, May 2013 – *Teach for the Philippines* launched their partnership with the Quezon City local government and the Department of Education by participating in *Brigada Eskwela* last Monday, May 20, 2013. *Teach for the Philippines* Fellows joined their principals and co-teachers at their respective placement schools in Quezon City to clean classrooms and hallways in time for the opening of classes this June. Meanwhile, *Teach for the Philippines* staff, friends, and other members of the *Teach for the Philippines* community took part in the program at San Diego Elementary School in Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Among those present at *Brigada Eskwela* in San Diego Elementary School were *Teach for the Philippines* co-founders Elizabeth E. Zobel, Margarita L. Delgado, and Clarissa Isabelle L. Delgado and Department of Education Undersecretary for Regional Operations Lino Rivera. Through *Brigada Eskwela*, *Teach for the Philippines* hopes to be deeply integrated into the school communities before their inaugural cohort of 54 Fellows begin teaching in ten high-need public schools in Quezon City under the progressive leadership of their respective principals.

Formally launched in August 2012, *Teach for the Philippines* is an official partner of the prestigious global education network *Teach For All*, created to achieve greater impact through working worldwide to expand educational opportunity by enlisting their most promising future leaders in the effort. Their most prominent program partners include *Teach for America* and *Teach First* in the United Kingdom. Currently, Malaysia and the Philippines are the only two ASEAN countries in the network; North Asian and South Asian partner countries include China, Japan, and India.

Popularly known as *Brigada Eskwela*, the National Schools Maintenance Week was established in May 2003 and brings together teachers, parents, and members of the community every third week of May to work together as they repair and prepare public schools for the opening of classes. Private institutions and individuals and local government units have also contributed in generating resources for the initiative in the spirit of *bayanihan*. During the week-long event, many volunteers participate by contributing their skills and time, doing minor repairs, painting and cleaning the school campuses.

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Contact:

Stanly Sy

Teach for the Philippines

Unit 201, Asia Tower Condominium, Benavidez corner Paseo de Roxas Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1229 Philippines

Tel: +632 808-8837

Email: stanly.sy@teachforthephilippines.org