# Back to School

What we've learned...



CANADIAN ROTARY CLUBS
WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH
ROTARY PHILIPPINES

# Agenda



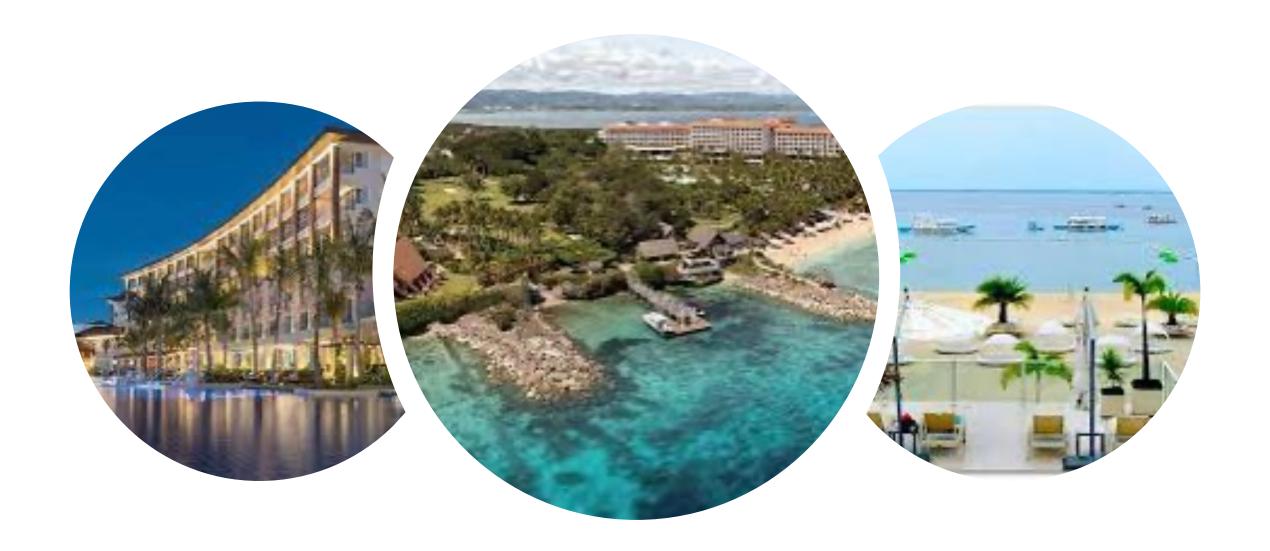
- Overview of PH, specifically Mactan
- History and Overview of Back to School
- Issues affecting an education project in the PH
- Thoughts on the Future



#### Mactan Islands

- 75 square kilometres about the size of Barrie Island
- Cebu International Airport on Mactan Island
- Mactan Export Processing Zone duty-free import/export manufacturing hub with 35 major businesses
- Numerous resorts on the east coast and the other islands diving mecca
- 3 bridges to 'Mainland' Cebu Island





#### Any Guesses?

Elevation? 6 Metres above sea level

Population? Almost 600,000

Disaster Threats? Typhoons and Earthquakes

Rotary Clubs? 1 for Mactan, 20 on Cebu

#### 1. Public School System

- School is free, but children require clothes, shoes and school supplies
- Rotary Club of Mactan uses bulk purchases to ensure children have what they need

Since inception: 15,000+ students provided with materials for a school year



# 2. Alternative Learning System (ALS)



Self-paced learning for older students to complete Junior High School (grades 7-10).

Department of Education provides curriculum, teachers, facilitates standardized examinations and awards high school diplomas.

Rotary promotes, supplements materials and equipment, provides some of the facilities.

### 3. Livelihood and Skills Training

Short training: Simple food growing and prep, soap making, home sewing

Skills Training and Senior High School: high speed sewing, mini-hotel, construction trades

TESDA: construction trades with certification, agriculture, hospitality

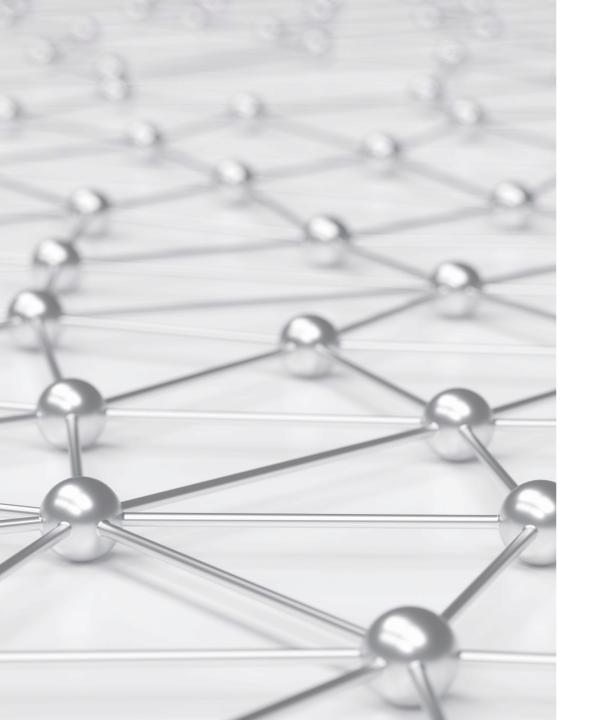






#### ISSUES (unfortunately only a partial list)

- Schools very overcrowded, partially due to covid but also economic growth, ALS not given formal space
- ALS is a separate part of the Department of Education growth in enrolment vastly outpacing growth in resources
- Many learners work at outside jobs, advanced education has mandatory attendance
- No resources for computer/online training, expensive and poor quality internet



# Complications...

- Malnutrition
- Traffic/travel time
- Brain drain
- Risk management (disaster, theft)
- Project management style

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#### OPPORTUNITIES!

- Continue to support ALS, especially components focused on livelihood skills
- Support the ICT (Internet, Computer, Technology) ALS stream and self-learning through computers and internet access
- Support portable classrooms for Elementary and High School Learners
- Financial assistance for working students wanting to attend full-time programs
- Joint ventures with industry and research/learning organizations
- Fund infrastructure/projects that can provide revenue to schools and community organizations







## Strategic Decisions, Long Term Possibilities

- Silo vs Sprawl Solutions
- Transitioning from Learning to Earning set up costs, microfinance?
- More local control, e.g. District decide and manage funding from us?
- Private sector participation R&D opportunities?
- RI facilitate international funds transfers?

**Technology Leapfrog** 

Watch Mark Rober's Zipline video on YouTube



# Come to the Philippines!

- 2024 World Rotary Conference is in Singapore – practically around the corner
- 2028 World Rotary Conference is in the Philippines (likely Manila)
- Host a PH style Rotary meeting of your own!





# Meetings

- Monthly, bi-weekly or weekly
- Both more formal and more casual at same time
- No outside speakers, usually just service planning and updates
- Mostly evening meetings with food and fellowship, lots of singing and celebration

#### District 3860

- 10 Rotary Districts in PH, 3860 is largest
- 100 Rotary Clubs, 5 more being formed
- Rotaract, Interact, Community Corps
- Next 2 DG are female as well





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Clubs

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100 Total Clubs 23
Total Areas

**2,779**Total Members