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Collaboration Between the Sectors of Myanmar and the Philippines. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between La Salle Learning Center in Yangon represented by Br. Anselm Ling John and three tertiary level schools in the Philippines namely: College of St. Benilde, De La Salle Lipa and De La Salle University - Dasmariñas. The Learning Center is set to offer a 6 - month Diploma course in Business Management with the help of the three schools of De La Salle Philippines (DLSP). As part of the collaboration, DLSP will create the curriculum and will send faculty. Other programs that the Learning Center is looking at with the help of DLSP is English and skills training in different areas of Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Spearheading the Philippine group that went to see and meet with the Brothers of Myanmar were Br. Dante Amisola FSC, Vice Chancellor for Mission and External Affairs at CSB and Mr. Robert Tang, Vice Chancellor for Academics for CSB. They were accompanied by several Deans and program chairs. De La Salle Lipa and DLSU - Dasmariñas were ably represented by their External Affairs Directors.



Turn Over Meeting. Br. Mark Murphy FSC and Br. Rodrigo Trevino FSC had a turn over meeting in 26 February in Yangon. The latter will take over some of the functions of Br. Mark who has now

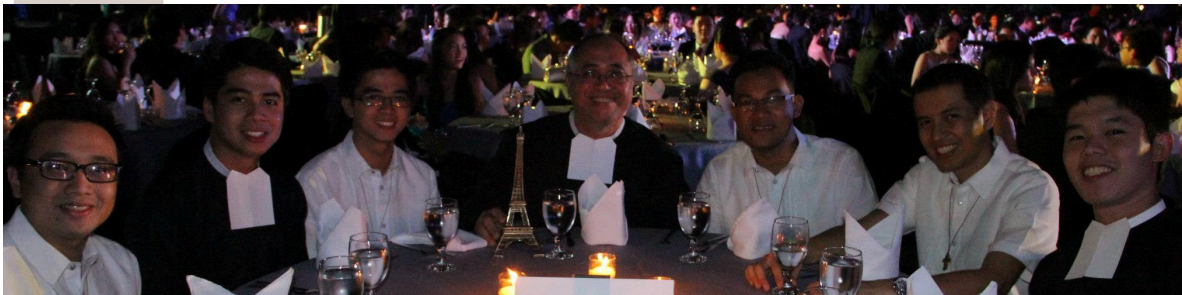
been working full time in his district since January. I attended the meeting as well as did Sector Leader, Br. Lawrence Goh. The day before was the Sector Council meeting attended also by both Brothers and capped by a fellowship welcoming Br. Rodrigo and saying farewell to Br. Mark. Let us keep our two generous Brothers in our prayers.



February Visits. On February 5, after the Directors Workshop at Kuala Lumpur I proceeded to Manila to begin a series of visits. My first stop was the Novitiate on February 6 and 7 where we currently have 9 novices from LEAD. I interviewed our novices the whole day of February 6 and the morning of the 7th. Of the nine novices, one comes from Thailand, John Perapong (who prepared the guest room beautifully!); three from Myanmar namely, John Winchaw, Francis La Seng and Bosco; and five from the Philippines: Edgar Esparagoza, John Abet Pia, Mark Salvan, Paul Mata and Cliff Sy. All are well and speak wonderfully of their experience of growth and conversion the past 9 months.

They sincerely appreciate the accompaniment given to them by the staff led by Master of Novices, Br. Vincent Keating. They end their program in mid May. John Perapong goes back for a short break and to have his First Vows in Thailand. Due to visa difficulties the novices will have their vows in the Philippines together with their Filipino counterparts. There are three other novices from PARC, 2 from Pakistan and one from PNG. All twelve will have their first year scholasticate at DLSU. I wish to thank Br. Vincent, the staff and the novices for the warm welcome.





February 12, 13 and 14 I spent in another formation house, the Lasallian Formation Center. The LFC, as it is known, currently have 4 postulants and a one Filipino scholastic. The four postulants are John Ong, Rainier Guillergan, Emong Viroomal and Rado Mercado and the lone scholastic is Br. Gelo Paragas. The postulants and Gelo teach part time at La Salle Green Hills while doing theology at Loyola School of Theology. They also have additional psycho-spiritual sessions at the Our Lady of Peace Guidance Center. Br. Vince Fernandez ably accompanies them and sees them for redditions once a week. Br. Alex Diaz, the Philippines' Vocation Promoter, assists Br. Vince. The other Brother is from Vietnam, Br. Vincent Quan, and he is finishing his Masters Degree at Institute of Formation and Religious Studies.

On February 15, 16 and 17 I was in Bacolod City visiting the monks at the University of St. La Salle. The community is composed of four Brothers: Br. Dindo Maralit as Director of the community and President/Principal of St. Joseph High School; Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC is President of the University; Br. Mario Dacanay is a professor at the University and Br. Ignaci Heri, scholastic, teaching at both schools. At the time of my visit, Br. Toby De La Cruz was on exposure and I had the chance to interview him as well. Next year, Br. Ignaci returns to Malaysia and will be assigned Nabawan. Br. Bong Servando will move in next year as Director of the community. A significant development for the community next year is they will have 4 (2nd year) Filipino scholastics teaching at St. Joe and at USLS. This will bring their total to 8 for 2013-2014.

My last stop was the community at De La Salle Lipa and I was there from February 19, 20 and 21. DLSL have four Brothers: Br. Bong Servando, Director; Br. Kenneth Martinez, President; Br. Ruben Caluyong and Br. Hans Moran. At the time of the visit they had a scholastic, Br. Vincent Tang and live in aspirant (who has applied for the Postulancy), Eugene Deluna. An interesting note is that all the four monks have been assigned to DLSL at least once before so they are familiar with the school and with the teachers.

My gratitude to all the Directors of the three communities, Vince Fernandez, Dindo Maralit and Bong Servando, for arranging and organizing the visits.



Is it Unique in the District? As you see in the photos, some students are enjoying games in the snow. These students are those of Hakodate La Salle Junior and Senior High School, in Japan. They are celebrating their annual SNOW FESTIVAL. This year, it was on February 9, Saturday.

The Festival is a half day of various games and competitions in the snow, between all the classes of the school, followed by a hot, delicious and generous lunch for all the 1,000 students and teachers, offered by the Mothers' Association, in the big dining hall of the La Salle Dormitory (550 full-time boarders).

This year, we have more snow than usual in Hakodate. Up to February 21, 2.7 meters of snow have fallen on the city. Our festival day was privileged by a superb weather as you can see. Nice dry snow, no wind (like last year), even blue skies! Several parents came from Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya, Sapporo, and other cities, to encourage their sons. And can you imagine the Principal of the school, Brother Fermin, taking part, as he does every year, in the sleigh relay with other teachers and students? Well, our modern and living "St. La Salle" plays joyfully in the snow with the students.

In other sectors of the LEAD District, do you have also snow? If so, maybe we can plan an inter-sector competition in winter! Why not? Simply a dream?
(Brother Andre Labelle)



DLSZ Launches Mobile Apps. De La Salle Santiago Zobel School (DLSZ), in cooperation with Vibe Technologies, has successfully launched the school's official iOS app, iZoob for iPad and iZoob+ for iPhone. It is the first school app in Philippine basic education. The app includes an interactive virtual tour of the campus, updates of news, events, admission policies, and library book acquisitions. Inspired by the Harvard University app, iZoob aims to draw the basic education community closer using technology to link its members. In the long run, the project aims to create a change in Philippine education. iZoob is part of the school's media arm— its name derived from Zoob Media consisting of DLSZ's cable TV channel, Zoob TV; news channel Zoob News; and the DLSZ website. You may read the full article by following this link: <http://www.philstar.com/science-and-technology/2013/02/21/911160/vibe-technologies-de-la-salle-zobel-launch-izoob-school>
(De La Salle Philippines Central House Bulletin - 1213 - 15)



Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Japan

