

### **HARPDI turned-over two classrooms in Estancia, Iloilo to DepEd**

Last August 27, 2014, Help & Assistance for Rotary Philippine Districts, Inc.(HARPDI) turned over two brand new classrooms in Loguingot Elementary School to the Department of Education. These two big classrooms (8 meters x 8 meters) were actually built by the Disaster Response Committee of RI District 3850 led by its Chairman, PDG Edgar Sy, but funded by HARPDI from the generous donations from PRIP Rajendra Saboo, the Rotary Club of Makati West, PP Dr. Eulalio Lorenzo of the Rotary Club of Midtown Diliman, Pembroke Rotary Bermuda, Tokyo West Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Summerlin, and H. Dale Tobbler Rotary Charities through the Rotary Club of North Las Vegas.

The barangay island of Loguingot was actually adopted by RI District 3850 immediately after super typhoon Yolanda damaged the island in November 2013. The District, then under the leadership of IPDG Mark Ortiz, donated relief goods, several motorized bancas, and built a day care center prior to building these two new classrooms. PDG Edgar and PP Glenn de Guzman supervised the construction of these classrooms which was not easy since the island is about 10 minutes away by motorized bancas from the main island, and all construction materials had to be shipped through these small bancas.

HARPDI was ably represented in the ceremony by its President, PDG Jess Nicdao; together with former President and current Trustee, PDG Ed Alvarez; PCRG Chairman and HARPDI Membership Chair, PDG Jun Farcon; HARPDI Co-Chair for Public Image, PDG Boyet Limon; and current Trustee, Governor Jude Doctora. RI District 3850, on the other hand, had several Best Class Presidents and District Officers accompanying Governor Jude Doctora. The Department of Education was represented by Dr. Jerlie Fecundo, District Supervisor for the eleven schools in Estancia, Iloilo, and Ms. Marilou Duran Gallardo, Principal of Brgy. Loguingot Elementary School. Also present was Barangay Captain Rodrigo Caneso, other barangay officials, and Mr. Janjan Reyes, representative of Mayor Rene Cordero.

After partaking the fresh seafood lunch prepared by the beneficiaries in one of the newly constructed classrooms, we opted to take advantage of the afternoon to inspect other schools in nearby areas (all in northern Iloilo) which we plan to rebuild soon, namely: Botongan Elementary School in Estancia (4 classrooms); Carles Central Elementary School in Carles (12 classrooms); Batad National High School in Batad (18 classrooms) and Tingui-an Elementary School in Balasan (5 classrooms). We then proceeded to Roxas City to inspect one more school, Sofronio Cordovero Integrated School (17 classrooms) before proceeding to the very nice hotel of IPDG Mark where we stayed overnight. There we were treated by IPDG Mark with a very sumptuous dinner complete with their famous "diwal." IPDG Mark also provide us their resort van which we used the whole day. He also was very kind to pick us up at the airport at 6am and accompany us to Estancia.

With these two additional classrooms, HARPDI's accomplishments would now be 41 classrooms, including the 24 classrooms in San Jose Elementary School; 12 classrooms in Patag Elementary School; and 3 classrooms in Valencia Central Elementary School (all in Ormoc City). We also hope to resume the reconstruction of 32 classrooms in Linao Central Elementary School and 13 classrooms in Naungan Elementary School (both in Ormoc) within September 2014. Including the schools we inspected in northern Iloilo and Roxas City, we should be able to complete a total of 142 classrooms before the end of 2014. And we will continue to reconstruct more classrooms in Yolanda affected areas as we receive more donations from Rotarians and non-Rotarians from various sources here and abroad.