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Phillipines Rotary Club Donates Water Treatment Unit to Rural District

Solar-powered unit will provide clean water for affordable price
January 11, 2011

The Rotary Club of Iloilo City, with financial contribution by the Rotary Club of Sae Goyang in South Korea, donated a solar-powered water treatment unit to the Ban-Ag district in the municipality of Santa Barbara in Iloilo Province, the Phillipines. The unit supplies the families in the district and people from neighbouring districts with safe drinking water at affordable prices.

Located on the island of Panay in West Visayas, in the center of the Phillipines archipelago, inhabitants of this district lack access to clean and safe drinking water. Their wells show a high degree of contamination by bacteria and viruses, the catalysts of various waterborne illnesses.

The Rotary Club of Iloilo City decided to donate a solar-powered water treatment unit on the grounds of the Iloilo Doctor's College of Medicine Foundation Partnership for Health Project to improve water quality and thereby the quality of life of the inhabitants.

A Trunz Solar Power Center, a compact photovoltaic system for electrification of rural areas, and a Trunz Water Box TWB 002 water treatment unit were installed and launched by Trunz Water Systems in October 2010. The unit provides the inhabitants of Ban-Ag with approximately 15,000 liters daily of clean and safe drinking water.

To put a value on clean and safe drinking water, and to finance maintenance and spare parts, the members of the community are asked to buy the water at an affordable token price. This makes the system self-sustaining. Five gal water (18.9 liters) will be sold for 10 Philippine pesos. This translates to ₱.15 per 18.9-liter container or ₱.0079 per liter. It has been agreed that the pupils of the neighbouring Ban-ag Elementary School, as well as the students of the Doctor's College, will get water for free during their rural training units.

Source: *Environmental Expert* January 11, 2011

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