

TFCI awards first college graduates; adds 29 scholars



College and High School Scholars

Tsuneishi Foundation (Cebu), Inc. (TFCI) honoured the first two college graduates who graduated as Cum Laude in the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R), Jhanine Mae Senarlo (BSCE graduate) and Jose Marie Antepasado (BSME graduate), and awarded the new batch of 29 scholars in a ceremony held at Tsuneishi Phase 4 on May 24, 2014.

Nine college students and 20 high school students were the recipient of the scholarship grant. TFCI to date maintains a total of 119 scholars; 81 of which are in high school level and 38 are in college.

Executive Director Mr. Romeo Rosalejos welcomed the scholars, their parents, and the scholarship college partners of the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R), University of Cebu (UC), and Cebu Technological University-Tuburan Campus (CTU).

TFCI President Mr. Hitoshi Kono introduced the history of the Tsuneishi Group, and rolled out the strategic plan of the group. *“The Tsuneishi Group started as a shipping company in Japan in 1903 owned by the Kambara Family, transporting coal from the Western part of Japan to the Central part of Japan. Through their shipping company, the ship repair was established and shipbuilding followed in 1917. Tsuneishi is a name of a small town with a population of 14,000. Through the strategic plan of expanding overseas, THICI was established in 1994, followed by Tsuneishi China in 2007 and then Paraguay. The success of THI was because of the community in Balamban. To give back, this scholarship grant is a symbol of gratitude”*, Mr. Kono said.

As one way of saying thank you to the TFCI Management, scholars showed off their talents in singing and dancing, and entertained us with their voices and moves.

The awarding ceremony ended with a sumptuous lunch together with the parents of the scholars, and everybody present in the event.

The TFCI high school scholarship program was launched in 2010 and the college scholarship program started a year after. The college scholarship program is offered to high school graduates from any place in the Philippines who are willing to take engineering programs from our partner universities. The high school scholarship program is offered to elementary graduates from Balamban, Asturias, and Toledo who are willing to study in the public schools in their municipalities.

Recently this May, the college scholars took their internship with the Tsuneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu), Inc., and studied shipbuilding processes.

TFCI is guided by its mission to develop the total potentials of the beneficiaries resulting to an improved economic status of the family that shall eventually strengthen the relationship and other key life values among them and of the entire community. The foundation shall exhaust all means to enrich people's lives by providing support to the local community students a quality education, a better education facility to its local community, as well as provide significant community contributions.



College Scholars



High School Scholars

[Message from Scholars]



Cris Lawrence Laurente, a 5th year BSME scholar in USJ-R said, *“After graduating high school, with the tuition fee discount I have acquired for being an honor student, I have managed to go to college. Yet, with the successive years, we felt that we are really having hard time paying school obligations as it was gradually increasing. I got stuck with promissory notes just to further proceed into the next level. It became worse than I thought on that semester before I was granted scholarship by the Tsuneishi foundation. Then came a time that my school fee balance was no more bearable, that filing a promissory note was not anymore effective. That*

time on the second half of my second year came my worst nightmare that I had no other choice but to stop and look for a job to pay the pending school payments incurred from the previous semesters. In spite of that, while working hard, I had never lost hope, thinking and praying that one day, God will work in ways beyond our perception, assist and redeem me from these unanticipated times. Though it actually costs me a semester delay, but somehow, God answered my prayers. I got informed that Tsuneishi foundation was looking for scholars the same date as my birthday, thus, the scholarship program that I am enjoying right now is indeed one of the best birthday present I have ever received in my entire life. And so, I am now right here in front of you and soon will be taking my final year in college.”



Jhanine Mae Senarlo, a BSCE scholar graduate in USJ-R said, “The first time I set foot in THICI was when I was given the scholarship grant. Looking back brings a wave of nostalgic happiness and fulfilment. Without Tsuneishi I would not have gone this far or perhaps I would not have graduated yet. Prayers have helped me finish my college degree and led me to the right path and overcome all challenges. I will really work hard in order for me to achieve my dreams.”



Jose Marie Antepasado, a BSME scholar graduate in USJ-R said, “The scholarship grant that TFCI offered me came at a time when I needed it the the most. As soon as I received my scholarship grant, I immediately set my goals and wasted no time to use the opportunity that was given to me. Finally, I have graduated with a degree on Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. I would not have gone this far without Tsuneishi Foundation. They have not just supported me financially but provided opportunities to help me get ready for my job. For that, me and my parents extend our heartfelt gratitude to the foundation and the people behind it. I look forward to working in your company soon.”