

## Going **BEYOND** Awards

# AIM TEAM ENERGY CENTER FOR BRIDGING LEADERSHIP

Bridging Leadership (BL) has its roots in a global research project by the Synergos Institute, a New York-based global nonprofit organization that targets to reduce poverty and inequality around the world.

In 1999, the Synergos Institute launched the BL Program with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) as its partner to develop leaders in the government, business sector, and civil society who can respond to complex societal divides in the Philippines and the rest of Asia.



In 2004, AIM formally established the AIM Team Energy Center for Bridging Leadership (AIM TEC-BL, formerly called the 'AIM Mirant Center for Bridging Societal Divides'). The Center designed the BL Framework that serves as a tool for leaders in collaborating with their communities to diminish social inequities. It has organized several fellowships that guide leaders in co-creating change projects with their communities. These employ case studies, action learning, and fieldwork as part of its programs, some are below: Islamic Leadership Development Program (ILDP)

In partnership with the British Embassy Manila, the Center launched the ILDP in 2008 with the vision to contribute to the development of peaceful and progressive Muslim communities in Southeast Asia through a leadership program that is aligned with the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

World Bank Mindanao Bridging Leaders Program (MBLP) Focusing on conflict-affected areas in Mindanao from 2011 to 2013, the MBLP sought to build a cadre of leaders who can promote lasting peace by addressing key issues like education, health, poverty through institutional development.

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Twenty-four (24) case studies were developed based on the fellows' work.

**Bridging Leaders' Initiative for Climate Resilience (BLICR)** The BLICR Program is envisioned to facilitate public-private sector collaboration towards Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in climate-vulnerable coastal communities.

The program was launched in 2020 in partnership with the Earth Security UK, through funding from the German government and TeaM Energy Foundation, Inc. (TEFI).

**Future Bridging Leaders Program (FBLP)** The FBLP is the country's premier youth leadership development program that provides a platform for the Filipino youth to spark meaningful innovations in their communities.

Now in its 4th cohort, the FBLP is integrated in the Leadership and Democracy (LEAD) fellowship being implemented by the USAID and the Asia Foundation.



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BARMM Executive Immersion Program (EIP) With the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Center conducted this EIP for the newly formed Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2020.

It sought to enhance the skills of Ministers and their Chiefs of Staff in delivering their official mandates.

Furthermore, AIM TEC-BL has delivered programs for senior officials of the Government of India, the Royal Civil Service Commission of Bhutan, and executive departments of the Government of the Philippines.

The Center has also conducted leadership training for hundreds of military officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The Center has also delivered Bridging Leadership courses in AIM Degree programs such as the Executive Master in Business Administration, Master in Development Management, and the Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (EMDRCM).

### **ABOUT ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT**

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) is the Asian pioneer in management education. Since it was founded in 1968 by the Harvard Business School and academics as well as prominent business leaders of the Philippines, AIM has been committed to contributing to sustaining the growth of Asian businesses and societies through developing professional, entrepreneurial, and socially responsible managers and leaders. AIM's education and training meet the global accreditation standards of the US-based Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AIM offers seven (7) degree programs: Master in Business Administration (both full time and executive), Master of Science in Innovation and Business, Master in Entrepreneurship, Master in Data Science, Master in Development Management, and Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management. The Institute is also highly recognized for open enrollment and custom executive programs for business as well as non-business organizations.



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## PROGRAM IMPACT AND SUCCESS

Since its establishment in 2004, AIM TEC-BL has capacitated over 4,000 leaders from the government, business sector, and civil society on Bridging Leadership's social technology through its public and customized programs. It has generated knowledge resources on Bridging Leadership including seven (7) books and numerous research publications. Through its twelve (12) fellowship programs, it has produced over 150 fellows who have designed and implemented change projects in over 100 communities.

Below are some of the communities wherein AIM's Bridging Leadership fellows have generated positive impact:

### **Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur**

World Bank MBLP Fellow Nacianceno "Jun" Pacalioga, Jr., former Mayor of Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur (2007-2016) and a former combatant of the New People's Army (NPA), applied the Bridging Leadership Framework in lifting his municipality out of poverty. By collaborating with his community to implement the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program, he was able to drastically decrease the poverty incidence from 90% in 2006 to only 42.8% in 2012. His fellowship at the Center enabled him to expand his network with international organizations for support.

### **From Arms to Farms: Promoting Peace in Lantawan**

Through Agriculture To advance peace and security in Lantawan, Basilan, Ms. Myra Alih Mangkabung, World Bank MBLP Fellow and former DOST-ARMM Regional Secretary, facilitated the provision of agricultural technology and broader market access to the Lantawan Farmers' Association (LaFa) to discourage their farmer members from joining armed terrorist groups in the area.

### **Kitanglad integrated NGOs (KIN)**

KIN develops networks and linkages to promote Indigenous People's (IP) cultural survival, nature conservation and sustainable development in Mt. Kitanglad. Through her participation in the Bridging Leadership Fellows Program (BLFP), Ms. Easterluna "Chy" Canoy, Executive Director of KIN, was able to organize the first Bukidnon Environmental Summit in 2008 that mobilized action towards environmental conservation.



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## Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC) Blood Bank

Dr. Sherjan Kalim, World Bank MBLP Fellow and CRMC Blood Bank Head, developed a community-based blood banking scheme as his project for his fellowship in 2012. This scheme gave communities actively roles in the blood banking process by enabling them to create their own blood bank accounts and monitor quantitative records of their blood donations. Dr. Kalim also launched information education campaigns on blood donation that integrated Islamic teachings.

Through these initiatives, annual blood collection increased from 6,477 in 2009 to 21,962 in 2020, while the percentage of voluntary blood donations grew from 47% in 2009 to 86% in 2020.

## Davao City JailJail

Captain Edo Lobenia, FBLP Fellow and Spokesperson of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Region XI, piloted the Second Chance Philippines in the Davao City Jail as part of his fellowship at the Center. The program provides livelihood opportunities for former Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) to help in their social reintegration and prevent recidivism. Spinning off from this program, Lobenia also established the enterprises Second Chance Agri Farm and Second Chance Auto Care. Since 2020, the program has already facilitated the employment of over eighty (80) PDLs in Davao City.



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## SDG IMPACT

### SDG 1 No poverty

By students completing their high school education and opening the door to third level education to about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of them, we will be improving their income in the future helping thus to reduce poverty.

### SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensuring that adolescent girls and boys from disadvantaged backgrounds complete free, equitable quality secondary education.

Ensuring equal access for adolescent girls and boys to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. Through intensive character education, we are increasing the number of young people with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. By providing an opportunity for both girls and boys in Macheo we are ensuring equal access to secondary and tertiary levels of education for the vulnerable.

Through our activities we will also help to achieve the following SDGs:

- SDG 2: zero hunger
- SDG 3: good health and well being
- SDG 5: gender equality
- SDG 6: clean water and sanitation (in the schools)
- SDG 8: decent work and economic growth





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## LOOKING FORWARD

The Center seeks to launch more fellowships in partnership with international institutions to reach more communities across the Philippines and Asia and scale positive impact. It plans to organize dynamic programs that respond to emerging societal divides in terms of governance, climate resilience, health, agriculture, and other dimensions.

Through these fellowships, the Center also aims to generate more knowledge resources such as case studies, journal articles, and books on Bridging Leadership based on the work of our leader-fellows that can be used in teaching AIM degree and non-degree programs.

To strengthen the empirical grounds of Bridging Leadership, the Center is in the process of developing the Bridging Leadership Index (BL Index). It is envisioned to serve as a tool for the assessment and measurement of our program participants' BL competencies.

Alongside the BL Index, the Center plans to publish the Bridging Leadership Handbook. This book will be a guide for teachers and practitioners alike on the application of the BL Framework in addressing societal divides across different contexts.

