

With Tears in their Eyes RCMPD's Premier Teacher Awards

by LCP RINA LOPEZ, Rotary Club of Makati Premier District

It was an emotional day for three teachers last January 22 when they were recognized at the Premier Teachers Awards ceremony by the Rotary Club of Makati Premier District (RCMPD). With tears in their eyes, **Mr. Jayson Caraang** from Rizal Elementary School in Makati City as Premier English Teacher, **Dr. Michael Leonard Lublano** of Buenaventura Alandy National High School in Tayabas City, Quezon as Premier Science Teacher and **Ms. Cherry May Lime** of San Mateo, Rizal as Premier Child Development Teacher accepted their awards. Their awards were even more special as they were the first-ever Premier Teacher awards given out by RCMPD.



A teary Jayson Caraang won Premier English Teacher



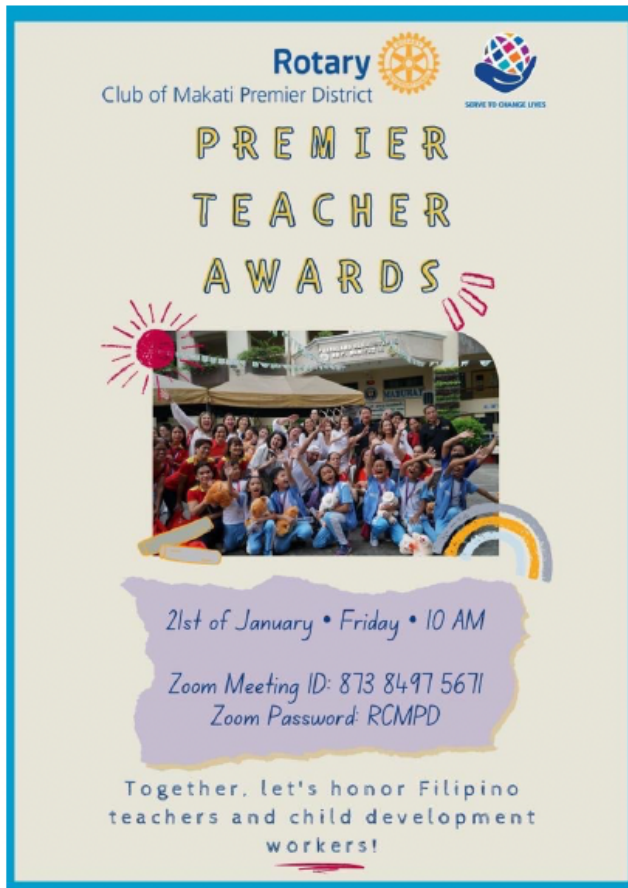
LCP Rina Lopez welcomes teachers from NCR and Calabarzon

Teachers shape the future of humanity one class, one student at a time. While their work may seem small and very local, their influence on their students spans generations. Sadly, their dedication, passion, and love for their students go largely unsung for many of them.

Realizing this, RCMPD, under the direction of LCP Rina Lopez, decided to set up a process to recognize teachers for their service to the learning of Filipino children. In consultation with Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. (KCFI), the club chose specific categories that were cornerstones to learning and building the individual's capacity and that of our nation.

Believing that early language literacy and reading comprehension is critical to a child's success in school and in work life, the first category selected was that of an English Teacher from an elementary school. The second category chosen was a Science Teacher from a junior high school. As science and technology are key drivers for the Philippines, the science teacher in junior high school is critical to engage and encourage students to pick science as their senior high school track, college major, and profession. The third category is an even more underserved and under-recognized yet extremely critical specialty - the child development center teacher, who is in charge of the care and development of children 0-4 years old in the barangay. With 90% of a child's brain developing before the age of 5, proper care at this stage is crucial.

And so, the **RCMPD Premier Teachers Awards** was established. For this first year, nominees were limited to NCR and CALABARZON teachers. As this is intended to be an annual event, the geographic scope will increase in succeeding years.



RCMP Premier Teacher Award

The three teacher-winners each received a cash prize of Php 30,000 and a Knowledge Channel Portable Media Library worth Php 20,000 with more than 1,500 curriculum-based video lessons and educational games to teach better and make learning more engaging.

Special citations were given to **Ms. Luningning Natividad** of Mandaluyong City and **Ms. Jocelyn Cadavido** of Tayabas City, Quezon as child development center workers and who received certificates of recognition.

The RCMPD Premier Teachers Awards was spearheaded by **RCMPD Vocational Services head Ludeth Cruz**, supported by **Service Projects Committee Vice-Chair Ravi Daryanani**. Special acknowledgment and gratitude to the Knowledge Channel Foundation (KCFI) team headed by Director of Operations **Edric Calma** for their assistance in refining the criteria and sharing their network of teachers and child development workers. Thank you to our screeners and judges from RCMPD, KCFI, DepEd, and DSWD for their invaluable insights that helped us determine the winners of the awards. Thank you to **Ivy Santos and Euni Patron** for going the extra mile to contact and coordinate with DepEd regional offices and LGUs to reach as many teachers as possible.

We congratulate all nominees, especially the winners and look forward to our next batch of Premier Teacher Awardees next year. ***Mabuhay ang mga guro, ang ating mga bayani!***



Awards for Premier English Teacher, HS Science, and Early Child Development were awarded