

Chapter Community Service
ACM - University of the Philippines Student Chapter (UP ACM)
<http://www.upacm.org>

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Last year, our Chapter's community service focused on feeding the minds of the youth with practical IT knowledge. This year, UP ACM has taken on a **three-pronged approach** that broadens the reach of our service. We put in a lot of effort in holding three activities that catered to three age brackets: (1) the Summer Computer Literacy Outreach Program, for the **children**; (2) the City College of Manila Seminar, for the **adolescents**; and (3) the TESDA Seminars, for the **adults**.

Pictures of these events can be found at <http://www.upacm.org/gallery> (uses JavaScript).

Summer Computer Literacy Outreach Program (SCLOP) April 27-28, 2006

The SCLOP is a mainstay of UP ACM's roster of activities. It is basically a short introductory course on computers for the underprivileged youth. Whereas the last SCLOP catered to 8-18 year olds, this year's edition was restricted to children (8-14 year olds).

Our University's Department of Computer Science [<http://www.engg.upd.edu.ph/cs>] provided us with one of its laboratories having 30 computers, as well as Php 1000 for the snacks and transportation of the children. We secured the approval of the officers of nearby Barangay UP Campus, a densely-populated neighborhood consisting of people coming from social classes C to E.

Throughout the two-day, eight-hour training, 16 Chapter members served as teachers, aides, and logistics support. A total of 34 children attended the SCLOP.

The children were educated in basic computer concepts and basic hardware, and were asked to do typing tutorials. We also guided them in performing basic tasks in word processors, as well as making works of art in computer graphics software. The children were exposed to the open source Linux environment and open source software such as OpenOffice Writer and KPaint.

Presently, we are entering the SCLOP as UP ACM's project in the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) Awards. The annual awards are sponsored by the National Youth Commission of the Philippines. By entering the prestigious contest, we hope to tell the whole nation that it is possible to combat the digital divide between the haves and have-nots with grassroots programs such as the SCLOP.

City College of Manila (CCM) Seminar September 8, 2005

Our seminar in the CCM was the right venue to instill in the minds of young persons the concepts and benefits of Open Source. With Open Source, a Third World nation such as the Philippines does not have to resort anymore to software piracy in order to develop the IT proficiency of its citizens and enjoy the benefits of computer technologies.

UP ACM was invited by the CCM to provide resource speakers for the seminar entitled “Living in an Open Source Community...Linux”. Chapter members including the Chairperson traveled to the CCM, which is an hour’s ride from our University. They delivered a two-topic seminar to an audience of around 80 people, mostly CCM students, in a standing-room-only auditorium.

The first topic we discussed were Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) – what is the difference between the two, the history of FOSS, the direction FOSS is taking, and the relevance of FOSS to the academe.

The second topic involved practical open source, i.e. alternative software to common programs used in school. This included comparisons between open source and proprietary software – Linux vs. Windows, OpenOffice vs. Microsoft Office, Firefox vs. Internet Explorer, and Thunderbird vs. Outlook Express. We also held a mini film showing of a popular anime with the Totem media player, and introduced the audience to a slew of FOSS academic tools.

Lastly, we gave a brief overview on the Linux Terminal Server Project (LTSP), a low-cost approach that can be used to power school laboratories with Linux thin clients and a central server. We handed out Ubuntu CDs in the question and answer portion.

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Seminars April 11-12 & 17, 2006

One of the goals of our Chapter is to project our service on a nationwide scale. Our series of seminars in the TESDA is but the first step towards the fulfillment of that goal.

UP ACM was tapped by the TESDA; according to its website [<http://www.tesda.gov.ph>], the body “provides direction, policies, programs and standards towards quality technical education and skill development.” For three days, Chapter members went to the TESDA office at Taguig City, which is more than an hour’s ride from our University. We taught 5 TESDA employees and students in the first day, 6 in the second, and 4 in the last. The small numbers reflect the fact that this is just the first run of the seminars; bigger partnerships are expected in the future.

For eight hours per day, we gave a short course on three web technologies – HTML/XHTML for Day 1, CSS for Day 2, and JavaScript for Day 3. Each day had a morning and afternoon session. For the first two technologies, we patterned our lessons after the outlines at W3Schools.com. For the JavaScript part, we discussed the language’s overview, history, syntax, functions, event handlers, Document Object Model, data types, arrays, loop and conditional constructs, uses, and libraries on the Web. The lessons also involved hands-on exercises.