

## Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalisation at Home (FRIENDS) Project

### Translation of the Messages from our Community Partner

#### Message from Chieftain Joel Elosendo:

*Good afternoon and in whatever time you will watch this video, I am sending my greetings to all of you. I am Joel Elosendo, chieftain of the Ati Tribe here in the City of Naga, Cebu, Philippines. Chieftain means leader of a tribe. I am leading the tribe here and in terms of University of Cebu's (UC) contribution to our community as our partner, I am very glad to share that UC has been a good partner with many programs here in our tribe. They taught us to live in peace and inspired us to do good things at all times. Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to UC for the Ati Learning Hub. We have a small office and they transformed it to become a learning hub especially for our children and youth in the tribe. Inside the learning hub, we have the library with good books, computers, printer, and school/office supplies. I am so amazed with the transformation that also inspired more children and youth to invest on education. In terms of culture in our community, they really helped us to embrace our very culture despite the discrimination. For example, the language and traditions of Ati tribe must be practiced and passed on to the next generation.*

*Secondly, as the leader of the tribe, I whole-heartedly welcome UC to continue what we started as partners because we have seen how genuine they are in community service. Not for their own, but for the tribe who really needs help in different aspects like in education, poverty alleviation, cultural preservation, and the like. I would like to mention that they also helped us a lot in terms of sanitation for they established the comfort rooms. Two comfort rooms for females and two for males. Finally, we were able to use the comfort rooms you donated and I am very thankful for that. So, to everyone who supported us, from parents, UC administrators or directors to teachers and students, I would like to say thank you very much. We don't have the same capacity to give back the same service to you but we know that God will bless you for your genuine help and for this kind of partnership. God will bless you and will bless us. Let us continue to pray for each other and we praise the Lord for you became his instrument to help our less fortunate members of the tribe. Thank you very much and have a great afternoon to all of you.*

### **Message from Ati Youth Tribe President, Mr. Marlou Sanger:**

Greetings to everyone, I am Marlou Sanger, the youth president of the Ati Tribe Community in the City of Naga. Personally, I would like to extend my thanks to the University of Cebu for all the programs that helped our community in many ways. For example, the computers that are very necessary in our community right now. Thank you for bringing us the technology in our community. It is really a big help especially to our students who are academically challenged since the pandemic started. Those computers and printer also were very vital in answering the modules of our students given by the Department of Education. I would also like to thank the University of Cebu for establishing the Ati Learning Hub here in our community with so many books that will be read by our children and the youth. These books will help us know more about so many things we do not know yet. In that way, we will be able to learn more. I am also thankful to UC for giving us the printer. We need to process documents needed in school and in public service and the computer and printer are really useful to work on those documents.

We would also like to thank the University of Cebu students because in so many engagements we had; they did not discriminate us and even did not feel that we are filthy people. They did not let us feel that we are different but really embrace us like brothers and sisters. They let us feel loved. They also taught us different sports like volleyball. We, the Indigenous People here in Ati Tribe really want to learn everything. We want to also express ourselves in different ways telling the community that we can also do more than what they think we can only do. UC has been so instrumental in reminding us that we are capable of so many things. UC gave us the kind of encouragement that we need in order to realize our full potential as individuals and as Filipinos.

We are also very excited to continue our partnership with University of Cebu not just because we learned so many things from them but also because they are already part of our family. They are already part of us and our community. They even provided us comfort rooms (CR) which is also very necessary in our community since those are the only public comfort rooms we have here in the community. Our location is a timberland and the comfort rooms provided by the University of Cebu is a big help to maintain the sanitation of the community. Ati tribe members will not be ignorant in using comfort rooms. So, thank you to the University of Cebu for giving us the comfort rooms. Everyone can use the CR now including our visitors. Thank you so much UC for giving us the appropriate help and guide for us to achieve more than what we think we can achieve. And for letting us feel that as community, we can have that progress that we dream for our community. Finally, thank you so much for everything that you have done for us. Once again, my name is Marlou Sanger saying, thank you UC!