

Press Release
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**Megawide Foundation and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
Conduct a Tree-Planting Activity at the Marikina Watershed**



Baranggay Calawis, Antipolo City – Megawide Corporate Foundation, Inc. (Megawide Foundation), and Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) conducted a tree-planting activity at the Marikina Watershed on 08 November 2019. 70 Megavolunteers from Megawide, its business units, and subsidiaries go through a 20-minute slippery hike up to the five-hectare tree-planting activity site to plant over 1,800 native fruit-bearing trees.

“We really believe in watershed adoption primarily because one of the three key objectives of the CSR Policy of Megawide is ‘to be an outstanding steward for the environment,’ said Sheila Lynn Nawata, Megawide Foundation Chief Operating Officer. “As a large engineering and construction conglomerate, we want to do our part in protecting the environment through planting trees and conserving the watershed, which is why the Foundation has adopted a total of 15 hectares and planted over 9,000 trees in the area since 2015,” she continued.



The tree-planting activity held at the Marikina Watershed was Megawide Foundation's initial activity to celebrate its first Megavolunteer month. "This initiative aims to provide platform to Megawide employees to cultivate the spirit of volunteerism by engaging themselves to the community in a wide array of activities such as tree planting, medical missions, and coastal clean-ups, and at the same time incorporate the company's core values, malasakit, teamwork, and community to name a few," said Nawata.

Aside from Megawide Foundation's support to the Marikina Watershed tree-planting activity, they are also partnering with PBSP for their next activity for the Megavolunteer month, which will also be a tree-planting initiative in La Mesa Dam.



About the Project Partners:

Megawide Corporate Foundation, Inc. (Megawide Foundation) is a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding the public through its various programs and initiatives providing high quality technical education and eco-friendly community building. Among its flagship projects are the Megawide Engineering Excellence Scholarship Program and the Megawide-SKILLS Builder Program. Megawide Foundation is part of the Megawide group. It was incorporated in 2012.

Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

In 2010, PBSP launched its Marikina Watershed Initiative Program (MWIP) as a response of the private sector to the deluge caused by Typhoon Ondoy in September 2009. The deforestation of the Marikina Watershed largely contributed to the record-breaking floods in Metro Manila and neighboring cities at that time. The lack of trees in the watershed left the ground unable to absorb rainwater, which flowed to the lowlands instead.

The MWIP program contributes to the reforestation and revitalization of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape. This covers 26,125.64 hectares and spans the city of Antipolo and the municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, all in Rizal. Based on research, 35 percent of the watershed area should be rehabilitated to improve its biodiversity and increase its water-holding capacity, which will help prevent flooding.

To date, PBSP and its member-companies have reforested over 300 hectares and planted around 200,000 native fruit-bearing trees that will also provide sustainable source of livelihood for the locals.