



## Press Release

### **Aboitiz donates more than half billion on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Asian Institute of Management**

MAKATI CITY, 8 May 2019 — The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), through its Scientific Research Foundation (AIM-SRF), received today a donation worth more than half a billion pesos (USD10 million) from Aboitiz Foundation. The gift will support two Data Science Professorial Chairs, an interest-free student loan program, and future facilities improvement of AIM's newly named Aboitiz School of Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (ASITE).

"Aboitiz Foundation and AIM have a shared vision of thought leadership within the education, innovation, and entrepreneurship ecosystem. This gift cements the beginning of a long-term partnership to develop innovation- and technology-oriented managers, leaders, and entrepreneurs who will take the lead in transforming Asian business and society," says AIM President and Dean Jikyeong Kang. "We are extremely grateful to the Aboitiz family for empowering AIM to continue to generate and sustain our mission of providing this region with future-ready leaders who can create value for their organizations and the communities within which they operate."

Aboitiz Foundation's contribution will lead to the establishment of two endowed professorial chairs, to be known as the Aboitiz Chair in Data Science, which will be held by the School's world-class faculty members, Prof. Christopher Monterola and Prof. Erika Fille Legara. Prof. Monterola is concurrently Head of the Aboitiz School of Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship and Executive Managing Director of AIM's corporate lab, ACCeSs@AIM. Prof. Legara is the Academic Program Director of the Aboitiz School's Master of Science in Data Science (MSDS) program, and Deputy Managing Director of ACCeSs@AIM.

The donation will also fund the zero-interest Aboitiz Student Loan Program (ASLP) for the Master of Science in Data Science (MSDS) and the Master of Science in Innovation and Business (MSIB) degree programs of the Aboitiz School, thereby expanding the Institute's social inclusiveness by helping to support deserving students who do not have the financial resources to attend an international institution.

Mr. Erramon Aboitiz, Chairman of the Board of Aboitiz Foundation, notes that, "Over the past 50 years, AIM has contributed immensely to sustaining the growth of businesses and societies, not only in the Philippines but in Asia, by developing professional, entrepreneurial, and socially responsible managers and leaders. Similarly, sustainability is at the core of our growth story anchored on our philosophy that we can do well by doing good, always making the right long-term decisions that balance the interests of people, planet, and profit."

"With the Aboitiz 100th Anniversary Commitment Fund, we hope that this new innovation-focused school will be able to benefit AIM as it leads and blazes new trails, to inspire real-world learning, and to transform principled leaders," Aboitiz added.

The endowment underscores the Aboitiz Foundation's abiding advocacy in education, and provides the much-needed stimulus for moving the country forward in terms of addressing the challenges of Industry 4.0. "This gift marks a significant milestone in Philippine philanthropy — we believe it stands as the largest cash donation given to an educational institution in the Philippines, and we hope that the work Aboitiz Foundation and AIM do together raises the educational standard in the Philippines and contributes toward building and strengthening the emerging economies within the region," says AIM Chairman of the Board, Mr. Peter Garrucho, Jr., OBE.

Lately, AIM has received an outpouring of support for its programs, with some of the notable contributions coming from global leaders in the technology industry, such as Dr. Narayana Murthy, Founder of Infosys, Ltd. and Member of the AIM Board of Governors; Mr. Stan Shih, Founder and Honorary Chairman of Acer and also a Member of the AIM Board of Governors; and Mr. Peter Garrucho, Jr., OBE, Chairman of the AIM Board of Trustees. Each of them has donated over USD250,000 in 2018. Topping this up, Mr. Shih and Mr. Garrucho have each pledged USD1 million to AIM.

In addition to being home to many world-class data scientists and engineers, the Aboitiz School's Analytics, Computing, and Complex Systems (ACCeSs@AIM) laboratory also boasts of a 500-teraflop supercomputer donated by Mr. Shih of Acer. The ACCeS@AIM lab is meant to lead in the development of actionable insights and the creation of practical solutions to challenges experienced by both industries and governments.

The Aboitiz Foundation-AIM partnership, which coincides with the tail-end of AIM's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and marks the kick-off of the Aboitiz Group's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, serves as a fitting manifestation of each one's mutual commitment toward advancing business and management excellence in the Philippines and throughout Asia.

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**The Asian Institute of Management (AIM)** is an Asian pioneer in management education. The Institute was founded in 1968 by a consortium of prominent business leaders, Philippine academic institutions, and professors of the Harvard Business School.

Throughout its history, the Institute has sought to empower students to thrive in challenging, rapidly shifting environments. It achieves this by encouraging a more considerate, effective, and sustainable approach to business in society.

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**Aboitiz Foundation** is the corporate foundation of the Aboitiz Group. Established in 1988, we continue to pursue our mission to help people help themselves, implementing corporate social responsibility interventions especially in communities where Aboitiz companies operate. We focus our efforts on education, enterprise development, environment, health and well-being, as well as disaster preparedness and response.

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