

## THE TANJAY CITY LIBRARY



Taken yesterday, above are two photos stitched together to give a panoramic illusion of the library. Note lady sitting on box of books, as yet uncrated due to lack of shelf space to accommodate them. More boxes are under the table. Right photo shows the library staff flanking visitor Badingding Gil. Photo below, taken 2 years ago, is a view of the new building in the center of town on the main road. The library is on the second floor of the structure, with the public market behind.



The library was inaugurated in October 2007 as shown in the photo below. Shown L to R are vice mayor Nilo Tam, mayor Lawrence Teves, and some of the movers in this project: Dolping Sevilla, Lito Limbaga, Sally dela Cruz and Braddock Calumpang. The last three are US based. Note sample "balikbayan" box on table. Photo below on left shows the mayor flanked by library staffers at the park nearby during last year's Christmas season.





Actually, this library location is temporary. For one thing, it is very small; a one room affair whose single door is shown in the two photos above: left photo taken during the inauguration shows the railed second floor walkway just outside the door entry to the library. Behind the mayor is Board Member Lucy Villegas, very active in this library project. Right photo taken a few months earlier shows the same door, with students poring over the books.



Above left photo shows more young students in the library, with computers shown in the back ground. Not all users are young students; right photo shows an elderly visitor relaxing with a newspaper. The present library staff (Jennifer Ramirez, Helen Real, Tata Reyna, Heidi Briones, Jona Ouano and Nancy Fernandez) are very proud of the library and what they have been doing with the limited resources they have. There are a total of three computers now in the library. The first (whose screen is seen lit) was donated by the Gil's and DTS Sarl of Switzerland, headed by Dr Amador Muriel, a close friend. The other two computers were donated by Dr Ernesto Colina. Printers and other paraphernalia come also from various donors. Unfortunately, not all computers are running due to lack of space. Negotiations are presently being made for the City to install an internet connection.

The books and magazines come from various sources, too numerous to individually acknowledge. Most of them are from the US, collected by Tanjayanons, taken from various libraries and/or personal troves. Major costs were the shipment of the books in balikbayan boxes from the US to Tanjay. This was financed partly through fundraisers amongst the Tanjay USA organization. There must have been about at least 30 or so boxes initially. If memory serves us right, a good portion was from Lito Limbaga and Sally dela Cruz. Sally's sources were from Sta Monica library's Shelly Rosen. We believe more books from some of these sources are still available.

Fortunately, we understand Mayor Teves already has a plan to move the library to a newer and bigger location in the forthcoming new building behind the City Hall. With the help of all who have contributed time and effort (and we must apologize if we miss out a few names) we are sure this library project will continue being a success.