



## Breaking News

# Autism education in PHL schools goes hi-tech

By Tam Noda (philstar.com) Updated March 04, 2011 05:16 PM Comments (0) 

MANILA, Philippines – Globe Telecom and the [Autism](#) Society of the Philippines (ASP) are bringing in both technology and training to support the special [education](#) of public school children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The two organizations signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Education today to push for the undertaking in the country's public schools.

Held at DepEd's main office in Ortigas Center in Pasig City, the signing was represented by Yolanda Quijano (DepEd's undersecretary for programs and projects), Jeffrey Tarayao (head of corporate social responsibility of Globe); and Erlinda Koe (chairman emeritus of ASP).

Under the agreement, two public schools in Metro Manila were chosen as pilot test centers, tapping the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for education of children with special needs.

Globe and ASP have chosen P. Gomez Elementary School in Sta. Cruz Manila and P. Villanueva Elementary School in Pasay City. The schools will receive free one-year Internet connectivity from Globe, while ASP will provide visual-learning software and some related training for teachers and [parents](#).

Cristina Estampador, board of trustees of ASP, identified the visual software as Vizzle, a visual learning software introduced in 2007 and is now being used for special education abroad.

"Autistics are visual-thinkers and they are very specific about things, they have fixations and Vizzle would be a very good help," she said.

Estampador said teachers can also incorporate speech lessons using Vizzle. It can also be used for teaching deaf students.

"One can also modify the lessons in Vizzle according to Pinoy culture, such as our very own 'balarila' which goes like Lanie, Lenny and Bantay,' and many more," she added.

Tarayao said Globe is closely working with DepEd, and is now completing the connectivity.

"What technology can do is make people inclusive in society. We hope that this will be the start and that others will follow as well," he cited.

According to ASP, there are about one million people diagnosed with ASD's in the Philippines and 45 certified [pediatricians](#) for this.

"Studies show that one percent of the work population in the world has autism and that's why there are still a lot of people with ASD's are left undiagnosed or hidden from society," Koe said.