

## Solar Scholars Program

### *Enhancing humanitarian response through renewable energy*

Interviews with municipal level disaster response officers in Leyte recount that during the height of Haiyan's impact, they relied on diesel to run generators to power their lights and communications equipment. Days later, they ran out of diesel, their lights and communications were cut off, and their ability to extend emergency services were greatly impaired.

Civil society organizations and international NGOs, whose field offices were located in areas where electricity grids were devastated did not have the power to address both the communication and lighting needs of their teams and the communities they were serving. Based on these experiences, renewable energy (RE) is best placed as the energy choice for humanitarian response.


Placing renewable energy as an element of humanitarian response is the aim of iCSC's Solar Scholars program. The Solar Scholars program is a component of RE-Charge Tacloban, a center for advocacy and the demonstrability of viable and practical applications of renewable energy.

In this era when climate chaos has been defined as the new normal, iCSC will work with local government agencies, humanitarian workers, CSOs and communities to go beyond mere coping by investing in the communities' ability to build back better through transformational resilience initiatives.

RE-Charge Tacloban calls on the government to install solar photo-voltaic systems for early warning devices, rescue, disaster response coordination offices as well as public health and communications facilities.

The Solar Scholars program is designed to train local government staff, NGO personnel, civil society organizations and communities in the set-up, operations and maintenance of a solar PV systems for humanitarian needs and community development programs. Participants to the Solar Scholars program will receive a course completion certificate and a Solar Suitcase—a small solar power and battery system that can be used for lighting, communication and other emergency response needs.

 Unit 32 Cubao Expo, No. 68 Brgy.Socorro  
Gen. Romulo Ave.,Cubao, Quezon City

 (02)-709-12-58

 [www.ejeepney.org](http://www.ejeepney.org)

 [info@ejeepney.org](mailto:info@ejeepney.org)

**The Solar Scholars Project aims to:**

- Develop models of transformational resilience through sustained policy engagement with the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Presidential Assistant on Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, the Climate Change Commission and select local governments in Eastern Visayas, and key areas in Mindanao such as the CARAGA region, calling on installation of RE systems in response and coordination structures at the onset, and for all government facilities in the long-term.
- Produce a policy paper and organize roundtable discussions surfacing both gaps and opportunities in the provision of RE in humanitarian response situations and the elements of transformational resilience.
- Run the Solar Scholars Program through the RE-Charge facility in Tacloban, where participants from the humanitarian community become part of a local RE-enabled response network. Participants in the program will also help develop responses to framing questions such as when and how to integrate RE in the humanitarian context, and what strategies are required to start developing RE as an automatic part of the response arsenal.

**The program will train humanitarian workers from CSOs and local governments to use RE systems in:**

- Emergency response situations: ensuring uninterrupted communications and lighting for humanitarian teams; providing safe toilet facilities with lighting for women and girls in evacuation centers and lighted transitional shelters in accordance with SPHERE standards; distributing appropriate renewable energy kits to families; storing medicines and preventing food spoilage through solar-powered cold storage facilities.
- Early recovery: providing small community-based renewable energy systems for transitional and permanent shelters.
- Long-term development interventions: working with NGOs and community groups to explore practical RE applications for livelihoods and in enhancing humanitarian response.

*iCSC is seeking partners to implement the advocacy and program work of enhancing humanitarian response activities initially in Tacloban City, with replication in other parts of Eastern Visayas and Mindanao's CARAGA region.*