

Innovation Recognition Award: Creation of an Innovative Technology, Product or Service that has led to improvements in products and services

1. Name of Project: **SSS “AlkanSSSyA”**

2. Objective and nature of Project:

The Social Security System of the Philippines (SSS) “AlkanSSSyA” (Piggy-Bank) Program started as a pilot project in November 2012, called “TrikanSSSyA”, upon the initiative of the Las Piñas Branch, one of the cities south of Metropolitan Manila. TrikanSSSyA, is a play for the terms tricycle, “alkansiya”, and SSS. It was developed as a scheme for tricycle drivers and operators associations so that they can remit their SSS monthly contributions in a manner that is convenient, affordable and sustainable for them. It involves the installation at the tricycle terminal of a locked metal structure similar to a post office box with individual slots corresponding to the number of members of the association. The members would then drop off their daily contributions which may be in PhP11 (US\$0.23), PhP20 (US\$0.46) or amounts affordable to them. At the end of the month, representatives of the SSS branch and a bank or collection agency go to the site of the TrikanSSSyA, and count the contents of the individual slots and remit to SSS the monthly contributions of the members. This also spares the members from going to the SSS branch for payments and the need to fill-up remittance forms.

When SSS Management learned about the program, it was enhanced and institutionalized to what is now known as “AlkanSSSyA” that will reach out to the informal sector. It was then meant to cater not just to tricycle drivers and operators but also to other informal sector workers like jeepney drivers, ambulant and market vendors, farmers and fishermen, golf caddies, livelihood and home workers, jail detainees, dumpsite and garbage-pickers or community peace and order brigades (“barangay tanods”), and recently, job contractuels in government agencies, public schools and hospitals, and LGUs who are not covered by the government pension fund, GSIS.

As of the end of June 2015, about 1,175 informal sector groups covering some 111,177 individuals, have become paying members of SSS, with about Php197 million (US\$4.3 million) collected since the Program started in 2012, or

an average of about PhP2 million (US\$43,804) monthly being collected for the past year.

3. Why the project should be recognized:

The project “AlkanSSSya” should be recognized as an innovative program that reaches out and addresses the coverage and collection concerns for growing informal sector workers. It addresses the affordability, convenience, and sustainability of a sector that has no fixed employer, irregular earnings and working conditions, and in most cases, in the lower-income groups of society. The project has provided a venue for inclusive growth and more importantly, a means of providing social security for the vulnerable group that needs protection the most.