



“I learned how to save and budget, I wrote my own business plan, I learned how to schedule my time, and, most of all, I learned to think about my future.”

heden dayawon: land owner and future grocer

Like many of the aidha graduates who've gone on to achieve their goals, Heden Dayawon holds herself with quiet dignity combined with a cheerful countenance whenever she's on duty at Project Makan. Serving as one of its current managers, Heden says the position has been a good challenge for her. "You need good communication skills to handle all the people in my group. I have to manage everyone's opinions because we need each other's help to succeed."

Heden has been working as a domestic helper in Singapore for 17 years and is financially supporting her family, including her two sisters and her nephews. She and her sisters were raised by an aunt after their parents passed away. Despite the hard life she has led, Heden is determined to remain strong and is pushing her family to dream and work harder like she has been doing all these years.

Heden graduated from aidha in 2011. When asked about her learning experiences, Heden couldn't say enough about her Compass Club and entrepreneurship courses: "I learned how to save and budget, I wrote my own business plan, I learned how to schedule my time, and, most of all, I learned to think about my future."

Heden aims to go back home in four years and wants to return with the certainty that she and her family will have a better life. Her business plan is a mini grocery store that will start with a capital of PHP 80,000 (around SGD 2,300). She has already bought her own piece of land in the Philippines and is well on her way to becoming her own boss.

She says with a cheerful smile: "I am so grateful that we have aidha in Singapore. All the mentors and staff are so friendly and good. Thank you very much, aidha, I have learned a lot."

American novelist, Edith Wharton once said: "There are two ways of spreading light. To be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it." You're definitely the candle, Heden - you light up your own part of the world!"

by mariana marques

Congratulations to Annabel Fajardo of the M1NOV11 Batch for winning a brand-new HTC Phone in our Refer-a-Friend Lucky Draw.

aidha Refer-a-Friend

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