



From banking to urban farming, Bank of China sponsors Prof. Compas' vision of an urban garden

City dwellers are often removed from the agricultural process that brings food to their tables. But thanks to technology, there's a growing trend of urban farming that is making it possible for people to grow their own food right in their own backyards or balconies.

On July 5, 2022, Bank of China helped spread awareness on urban farming by publishing and launching Professor Compas' book entitled 'Crafting an Innovative Urban Garden' at the Ascott in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The book looks at how city dwellers can now realize small-scale home-based farming technology to produce vegetables right in their own home and small yards.

This collaboration is part of the Bank's larger mission of embedding Environmental, Social, and Governance initiatives into its activities. According to Deng Jun, Country Head at Bank of China Manila, this is because sustainability is a core long-term strategy at Bank of China. "The Group continues to integrate sustainable development into its overall business development strategy and daily business operations, promoting sustainable development through various innovative transformation and digitalization, green operation initiatives, sustainable finance, and green financial products and services," he said.

When asked why a bank would want to promote urban farming, Jun said it was about their commitment to the sustainable development of the Philippines through ongoing CSR efforts that are focused on the environment. "Professor Vernie Compas' book covers topics on innovative urban farming and agribusiness. These are concepts that will improve not only the environment where urban farming is practiced but also play a big role in building a sustainable food supply chain and creating better health conditions for the people in urban communities," said Jun.

For both Compas and Bank of China, there is an alignment of goals and values in that both parties are advocates of creating long-term positive impact on the environment and the Filipino people. "Much like Prof. Compas' aim to educate Filipinos on urban farming and its lasting benefits, we will seek to act as a bridge in contributing to collaborative projects on urban farming methods of both the Philippines and China," added Jun.

"This book should not be an end in itself," shared Compas. "The hope is that more people integrate urban farming within their local communities. Together, we can build greener communities and help address the issue of food scarcity."

"I am very thankful to Bank of China for supporting this advocacy," said Compas. "I hope that this book inspires others to integrate urban farming within their local communities so that we can create greener communities in the cities of the Philippines."

