



Second Quarter
June 2014

there is knowledge in news CALABARZON

The Official Newsletter of the Regional Development Council IV-A

UNDP funds migration and development project in Calabarzon

by *Lovely S. Mores, PFPD NEDA IV-A*

Calabarzon has been one of the pioneers in migration and development (M&D) initiatives in the country with an estimated 10 million overseas Filipinos coming from the region.

Last April 15, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) officially awarded for implementation the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI II) Project to Region IV-A. The Regional Development Council IV-A, through NEDA IV-A, will implement the project entitled “Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development in Calabarzon”. It will be in partnership with Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, Atikha Overseas Communities and Initiatives Inc.,

Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and Local Government Academy.

For the 22 months, the project aims to mainstream M&D into local development plans, establish overseas Filipino database, organize and strengthen provincial migration centers and develop knowledge products and tools utilizing the PhP11 million project fund.

The initial activities of the project include stakeholder consultations meeting, orientation of local chief executive and M&D focal persons on establishing and operationalizing of the provincial migration centers. Ultimately, the goal of the project is to assist OFs in their successful reintegration and link them to local economic development.

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Calabarzon RDC holds 2014 Q1 meeting

by *Kathleen DC. Melendrez, DRD NEDA IV-A*

The officers and members of the Regional Development Council (RDC) IV-A converged at the TESDA Women’s Center in Taguig City for the First Quarter 2014 Full Council Meeting held last March 27. Present were representatives from the LGUs, regional line agencies, private sector and state universities and colleges.



PSR Atanacio receives a plaque of recognition from the RDC by Acting RDC Chairperson and NEDA IV-A Director Agnes M. Espinas, for having been awarded as one of “The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Social Entrepreneurship”. With him are Laguna Gov. George “E.R.” Estregan and Sectoral Committee Vice Chairpersons.

Dr. Adoracion Navarro of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies presented the issues on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Integration by 2015. The AEC integration will lead to a free flow of goods, services,

investments, capital and skilled labor. Calabarzon’s potential as supplier to the demand chain for the manufacturing and source of talents

for Information Technology-
Business Process Management

Continued on page 2

DILG IV-A spearheads "Enhancing the Capacity of CSO Participation in the Local Governance"

by Angela O. Maligaya, DILG IV-A

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from the province of Cavite attended the Enhancing the Capacity of CSO Participation in Local Governance Workshop held last May 7-9 at Country Chateau Hotel in Tagaytay City. The Workshop aimed to empower the local CSOs.

During the workshop, the CSOs are tasked to come up with proposals on how they could participate more in local development councils and to develop a provincial work plan on Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process (GPBP) participation. They are also to create an initial database of Cavite CSOs.

The discussion in the workshop revolved around the following topics: CSO Framework of Engagement with Government for Community Empowerment and Good Governance presented by Active Citizenship Foundation (ACF) Consultant Ana Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros; Community Organizing and Community

Development: Building and Strengthening CSO by ACF Consultant Edwin C. Chavez; and CSO Legitimacy and Accreditation by ACF Local Governance Program Coordinator Elaine E. Teope.

Other relevant topics that were included were the PhilHealth Benefit Packages for Sponsorship Program and Informal Sectors; SSS Alkansyang Bayan; DSWD Social Welfare Packages and Sustainable Livelihood Program including KALAH, SEA-K, 4P's; Department of Agriculture Assistance Program for Small Farmers



ACF Consultant Anna Theresia "Risa" N. Hontiveros discusses the CSO Framework of Engagement with Government for Community Empowerment and Good Governance during the orientation-workshop.

Continued on next page

Calabarzon RDC... *Continued from page 1*

industries in the region was discussed.

Other issues deliberated and approved during the meeting were the following: (1) Revised RDC Ground Rules and Regulations; (2) Kaliwa Dam New Centennial Water Source Project of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, subject to the proponents securing of documentary requirements; (3) Joint Migration and Development Initiative Project; and the (4) Creation of the RDC-Technical Working Group on Scale Insect Infestation. The meeting culminated with the recognition of outstanding group and individuals in the region, namely: (1) Private Sector

Representative Emerson B. Atanacio, for being one of the "The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Social Entrepreneurship" awardees given by the Junior Chamber International Philippines and TOYM Foundation; (2) UP Los Baños Electrical Engineering Student Jose Ramon G. Saray, for emerging as National Champion in the 22nd Philippine Statistics Quiz (PSQ); and (3) UP Los Baños, for its excellence in the field of statistics as evidenced by the outstanding performance of Mr. Saray during the 22nd PSQ.

RDC meetings serve as venue to discuss various



Dr. Adoracion Navarro of the PIDS presents the issues on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) integration by 2015.

regional updates, including reports on the previous year's RDC Accomplishments, the coming year's RDC Work Program and the reports of the Sectoral Committees on Social, Economic, Infrastructure, and Macroeconomy and Development Administration.



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NEDA IV-A holds DRR/CCA-Enhanced PDPFP Quality Workshop and Mainstreaming Aesthetic

by Christine Joyce B. Mendoza, PFPD NEDA IV-A

All Provincial Planning and Development Officers from the Calabarzon Region as well as some Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC) members attended the Disaster Risk Reduction/ Climate Change Adaptation (DRR/CCA) – Enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFP) Quality Workshop on March 19 - 21, 2014 at Sol Y Viento Resort, Calamba City. RLUC members include DA, DENR, DENR-MGB, DILG, DTI, and DPWH.

The workshop aimed to review the quality of and ensure that DRR/CCA are mainstreamed in the enhanced/ updated PDPFP as per the draft DRR/CCA guidelines prepared under the UNDP-Funded Integrating DRR/CCA Project.

Two-workshop sessions were designated for the review of the draft DRR/CCA-Enhanced PDPFPs with the RLUC members providing technical inputs and assistance in enhancing the provincial plans. An action plan for integrating comments and refining PDPFPs were prepared by the provinces while some RLUC members committed to provide additional data, information and maps to the provinces.



Participants brainstorm on enhancing their respective Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFP) during the workshop.

Piggybacked in the activity was a brief workshop on Mainstreaming of Aesthetic in Development Planning (MADP). The MADP seeks to make policy makers, planners and implementers receptive of aesthetic or art issues and ensure that mechanisms and structures are put in place to address the said concerns. Mainstreaming of aesthetic promotes attractiveness of communities, its products and services and thereby improving the country's competitiveness as a tourism destination. The inputs of the workshop will be essential for participants to come up with a simplified and practical guide for mainstreaming aesthetics in their local and national plans.

CHED IV-A awards financial assistance

by Dr. Freddie B. Bulauan and Dr. Julieta M. Paras, CHED IV-A

For 2014, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office IV-A awarded 37,958 financial assistance grants to poor but deserving students under the CHED Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) for AY 2014-2015. This number is a lot higher than that of last year.

The breakdown of StuFAPs scholars and grantees for this year from Region IV-A is as follows: (A) *Scholarship Program*: Full Merit – 158 scholars; Half Merit -160 scholars; Private Education Financial Assistance (PESFA) – 160 scholars; Full Merit Gender and

Development (GAD) – 1 scholar; Half Merit GAD – 1 scholar; (B) *Grant-In-Aid Program*: Tulong Dunong (regular) grantees – 109; Tulong Dunong (by Congressional Districts) – 37,259 grantees; and (C) *Student Loan*: Study Now Pay Later Plan (SNPLP) – 110 grantees.

The scholars or grantees for this year were chosen based on the results of the evaluation of their high school scholastic performance and family income which should not exceed Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000) annually.

DILG IV-A spearheads... *Continued from previous page*

Organizations; Department of Labor and Employment Program for workers, women and community; and Department of Trade and Industry Programs.

For the LGU engagement, topics discussed were the General Powers of LGUs, Local Development Planning and Budgeting Process, and the Windows for CSO participation in

Local Governance by Mr. Garry R. Lazaro, Executive Director of the Institute of Politics and Governance (IPG); DILG's Grassroots Participatory Budget Process (GPBP) by Mr. John M. Cerezo, Chief of the DILG IV-A Project Development and Monitoring Unit, and the Finance and Administrative Division; and the DILG Programs and Services for LGUs by Ms. Vilma B. Torres, OIC-

Chief of the DILG IV-A Local Government Capability Development Division. The topic on Community Issues and Claim Making on the other hand was discussed by Mr. Jessie M. Dimaisip of the ACF's Communication Unit.

The workshop was led by DILG Region IV-A in partnership with Active Citizenship Foundation (ACF).

DENR IV-A holds Marikina watershed summit

by Gaudencio Audie L. De la Cruz, DENR IV-A

The Upper Marikina Watershed Summit held at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Conference Center in Quezon City on May 29 gathered about 180 participants from local government units, watershed community leaders, private sector groups, and government agencies.

With the theme “*Learning and Living the Lessons of Typhoon Ondoy*,” the participants had workshops on future rehabilitation, conservation, protection, management and development efforts within the Marikina Watershed or the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

The workshops also discussed solid waste management, water quality and resource management, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity management and conservation, and environmental law enforcement.

According to DENR Calabarzon Regional Director Reynulfo A. Juan, the results of the workshops will be packaged into proposals to be presented in the ‘Partner’s Forum’ which was set tentatively on June 18. The said forum will be organized with government agencies, donor groups and private organizations - who will be encouraged to put in new or additional investments in the Upper Marikina Watershed.

Dir. Juan also reported that the Comprehensive Protected Area Management Plan of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape was affirmed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) last January 20, 2012. He said that with the help of local residents, national and local government agencies and private groups, 10,167 ha of forestlands within the watershed have been rehabilitated.



Rehabilitation efforts of the Upper Marikina Watershed include the building of check dams to slow down the flow of water and help prevent flash floods.

“We have introduced upland farming technologies such as the sloping agricultural land technology or SALT and have built small water impounding dams and silt check dams to prevent soil erosion and avoid siltation and conserve water of the creeks and rivers. We now have 136 units of check dams which can contain about 163,000 cubic meters of water and slow down the rush or flow of water downstream, have been constructed” he added.

However, he said there are still much to be done thus, the summit. “The success of this multi-sectoral effort will contribute to reducing the potential impact of future flooding in the Metro Manila and nearby areas, as well as enhance the ecological functions of the Upper Marikina as a critical watershed,” Juan added.

The DENR Calabarzon was supported by the USAID’s Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (BWiSER) and the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) in organizing the event.

DSWD holds Kalahi-CIDSS NCDDP forum for LGUs

by DSWD IV-A

In preparation for the implementation of the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi)-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services National Community-Driven Development Program (CIDSS NCDDP), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) recently conducted a Local Government Unit (LGU) Forum among its target municipalities in the Calabarzon region.

The said forum, which was held in Tayabas City, Quezon, aimed to familiarize the 22 targeted LGUs on the features and processes of NCDDP, to solicit comments and insights about the program based on past experiences and to ensure their commitment in supporting the program implementation as well.

According to DSWD Field Office IV -A Dir. Leticia T. Diokno, the Kalahi-CIDSS NCDDP is the scaling up of

the regular KALAHI-CIDSS program. It now covers more localities based on a set selection criteria including those affected by Typhoon Yolanda. It also applies an improved fund allocation system, and includes disaster responsive projects in the list of projects that can be followed, among others.

Aside from the program features and process, also presented during the

Continued on next page

Tanauan City and Carmona, Cavite to implement Accelerated Poverty Profiling

by DILG IV-A

Tanauan City Mayor Antonio Halili and Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement the the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) with the DILG, led by Regional Director Josefina E. Castilla-Go last April 3, 2014 at the regional office of DILG in Taguig City.

The said LGUs will be utilizing the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP), which is the latest module developed by the CBMS Network.

The CBMS intends to establish a monitoring tool for poverty diagnosis and monitoring of the Millennium

Development Goal (MDG). The system also includes training the LGUs in building-up the CBMS database. Further, the CBMS is designed to equip the designated technical staff of the LGU and the DILG Regional CBMS Trainers with the necessary information and skills to implement the system.

Stated in the MOA, the CBMS is expected to be implemented in Tanauan City and Carmona, Cavite starting with the conduct of training workshops on CBMS data collection, and data processing for key personnel at regional, provincial, municipal/city, and barangay levels.

After the training workshop, other expected outputs from the CMBS MOA signing include the following: Improved data banking system; report/analysis on consolidated and validated CBMS results; presentation of CBMS information through poverty maps generated from CBMS database; dissemination of CBMS results; integration of CBMS results in Local Development Plans and investment programs; and documentation of best practices and lessons learned during CBMS implementation.

Other signatories of the MOA were Dr. Celia M. Reyes, CBMS Network Leader and OIC-Director Anna Liza F. Bonagua of the DILG Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD). The MOA was signed in the presence of PEP-CBMS Research and Administration Officer Ms. Anne Bernadette E. Mandap, Network; DILG Cavite Provincial Director Allan V. Benitez; DILG Batangas OIC-PD Noel R. Bartolabac; DILG Cavite Cluster Head Divinamor De Pano; and Tanauan CLGOO Marissa Marasigan.



Signatories for the April 3, 2014 CBMS MOA signing held at DILG IV-A Regional Office in Taguig City from left are Carmona, Cavite Mayor Dahlia Loyola; CBMS Network Leader Dr. Celia M. Reyes; DILG IV-A Regional Director Josefina E. Castilla-Go; DILG BLGD OIC-Director Anna Liza F. Bonagua; and Tanauan City Mayor Antonio Halili.

DSWD holds... *Continued from previous page*

forum was the highlight of the 10 year (2003-2013) accomplishment of the Kalahi-CIDSS program in the Region.

Mayor Fernando Mesa of Alabat, Quezon, shared the positive impact of the Kalahi-CIDSS in his locality. He proudly related how the program empowered ordinary community members and even women to participate and take the lead in implementing projects that respond to the communities' identified needs.

Mayor Mesa also expressed that taking into consideration the assistance to be provided under the program and the need of every LGU

to respond to their respective constituents' needs, the targeted LGUs must participate and support the Kalahi-CIDSS NCDPP.

"Nakita ko kung paano natulungan ng Kalahi-CIDSS ang aking lugar. Kaya patuloy akong makikiisa sa Kalahi-CIDSS NCDDP," Mayor Mesa said. As an acceptance to the implementation of the Kalahi-CIDSS NCDDP, the local government officials of 22 municipalities agreed to undergo the enrollment process, which is a requisite for program implementation, within June.

Aside from Mayor Mesa, other local chief executives present during the

forum are: Mayor Joselito Alega (San Francisco), Mayor Pepito Reyes (Perez), Mayor Ramon Orfanel (Catanauan), Mayor Erwin Caralian (Gumaca), Mayor Cesar Isaac III (Guinayangan), Mayor Nelson Traje (Macalelon), Mayor Crispin Clacio (Quezon), Mayor Luisito Visorde (Calauag), and Mayor Gil Establecida (Burdeos).

The other target municipalities represented during the forum : Tagkawayan, Agdangan, Buenavista, San Antonio, Candelaria, Mauban, Unisan, Sariaya, Plaridel, San Andres, Lopez, and General Luna.

Strengthening, Upscaling and Mainstreaming International Migration and Development in Calabarzon (SUMMID Calabarzon)



Project Partners:



Major Proponent	Calabarzon Regional Development Council c/o National Economic and Development Authority
Project Partners	Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc. Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) Local Government Academy (LGA)
Project Duration	April 16, 2014 to February 15, 2016
Project Cost	USD249,364 (~PhP11.0 million)
Funding Source	United Nations Development Program through European Union and the Swiss Development Cooperation

Overall objective

SUMMID Calabarzon aims to strengthen, upscale and mainstream migration and development in the local level through inclusive and sustainable programs that will minimize social cost and maximize gains of overseas migration.

Specific Objectives

- To develop and institutionalize development framework in mainstreaming migration and development (M&D) into the subnational/local development planning in the identified project areas;
- To develop a unified and disaggregated M&D database in the region for better targeting and identification of appropriate interventions;
- To reinforce convergence initiatives, develop engagement models and knowledge products, and strengthen capacities of local government units, NGOs, migrant organizations, private sector in establishing operational migration resource centers and providing comprehensive social and economic gender-sensitive programs to minimize the social cost and maximize the gains of migration;
- To enhance the engagement of OFs and their families in the mobilization of migrant resources through various initiatives locally and overseas to promote investment and entrepreneurship to create jobs and economic opportunities.

Calabarzon is a top overseas Filipino sending region in the Philippines and one of the pioneers of M&D initiatives. The influx of remittances in the country kept the national economy afloat and serves as sources of non-traditional investment for Calabarzon. An estimated US \$ 26.7 million annual remittances were received by the region from 2010 to 2012.

M&D interventions in the region had developed champions from the ranks of the LGUs, migrant and family organizations, cooperatives and other private sector and civil society organizations in Laguna, Batangas and Cavite. The region has a big potential in implementing migration and development initiatives that can impact family, community and regional levels. The region had been mobilizing the OF remittances toward local economic development through various convergent public and private initiatives during the past five years such as investment missions held in Italy (2010) and in the United Arab Emirates (2012).

Despite the benefits derived from remittances, there are also social costs and challenges that have to be addressed to sustain the gains of migration, as follows: (1) the need to continuously explore opportunities where the economic gains of migration are harnessed and effectively managed, and (2) the rights of migrant workers, especially women, need to be protected and the social costs of migration on the families left behind had to be minimized.

The Updated Calabarzon Regional Development Plan 2011-2016 identified migration as one of the opportunities that should be tapped in spurring local economic activities. Moreover, RDC recognizes institutionalizing interventions that would address not only the cross cutting issues relative to the social cost of migration particularly those affecting women and children, but also mainstreaming of M&D in the existing policy structures and development plans to ensure inclusive growth in the region.

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DOH pushes for upgrading health facilities with minimum cost

by DOH-CHD IV-A

Combating maternal and neonatal mortality has been one of the reasons for conceptualizing the Health Facility Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the Department of Health (DOH).

According to DOH Secretary Dr. Enrique T. Ona, the HFEP aims to improve peoples' access to quality hospital and health care facilities by upgrading public health facilities. HFEP provides funding for the capital outlay requirement of selected health facilities.

In the Calabarzon region, which has about 14 million people in 2014, the focus of HFEP is the construction of Birthing Facilities through renovating and reconstructing Rural Health Units and Municipal/City Health Centers to provide space for labor / recovery and delivery rooms.

In addition, health care facilities can be more efficient if they can offer services with minimum payments if



Ibaan Birthing Home



Lipa District Hospital

they are PhilHealth accredited as 5-in-1 centers. They can offer services for PCB, MCP, TB Dots Animal Bites, and Malaria.

However, upgrading and improving of health care facilities can be difficult with the limited budget available. Most of the LGUs were allotted only 2 million pesos for their healthy facility upgrading. It is in this context that the Project Management Unit of DOH-CHD IV-A conceptualized a standard plan that is economical – with a ceiling amount of P20,000 to P22,000 per sqm - but still has modern design and uses high quality materials.

We came up with the standard birthing home plan which is compliant to DOH's licensing requirement. A newly constructed standard birthing home was recently inaugurated by Secretary Ona.

Cost-effective projects such as these generate savings to the agency. In 2012, after completing the HFEP projects, a total of P13 million was generated as unobligated funds/savings while P16.1 million was saved in 2013. These funds will be used to construct health care facilities in GIDA areas of the region.

Beyond Steel Bars: DOLE Laguna's YES Program sparks dog cage business for students

by DOLE IV-A

A pile of steel bars and wire mesh sparked an idea in their young minds. Six students from Jacobo Z. Gonzales Memorial School of Arts and Trade got an idea of building and selling dog cages as an income generating activity while in school. Albert, Arnel, Efren, John Michael, Melvin, and Michal's dream was turned into a reality by the DOLE Youth Employment for Students (YES) program.

DOLE Laguna Provincial Office awarded a check worth P100,000 to

the technical school so they can start working on their project of building dog cages. The amount will be used to buy the materials. With the assistance of their professors, the students will design and build dog cages while studying at the technical school. They will then sell their product to pet shop owners.



Ms. Lorena Gacosta of the DOLE Laguna Provincial Office turning over the check to school officials.

The boys will still have to stay in school to earn their certificate but with the YES Program they are given the chance to earn while learning.

Provincial News

Batangas Environment Response Team (BERT) formed

by Provincial Government of Batangas

Batangas Governor Vilma Santos Recto formally signed the Executive Order 2011-12 which organized the Batangas Environmental Response Team (BERT). The team was formed during the Provincial Environment Summit 2014 held at Hotel Pontefino on March 26.

BERT aims to encourage stakeholders to strictly impose environmental compliance in the province of Batangas. Forming BERT also intends to strengthen the collaboration and harmonious relationship of the municipalities, especially the coastal municipalities in the province.

Before it's establishment, series of meetings were already held to formulate the Operation Plan to be implemented by BERT.

This year's 3- day Batangas Environmental Summit was participated by the national and local government officials and technical members from different organizations – NGOs, business communities, and government



Stephen Adrian Ross (PEMSEA), Governor Vilma Santos-Recto, and Bro. Joaquin S. Martinez (DLS-Lipa) signs the Memorandum of Agreement between PEMSEA and Academe.

agencies- committed in the stewardship of coastal areas and the environment in general.

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Kingdom of Bhutan officials visit Cavite Provincial Capitol

by Cavite Provincial Information and Community Affairs Department

Last May 30, the 12-man delegation from the Department of Local Government of the Kingdom of Bhutan, led by Mr. Tshering Keznag the Dzongdag or Governor of District Administration, came to Trece Martires City. The Bhutanese government officials and executives came to learn and customize good practice tools and procedures in Cavite's local governance for application in their country.

Delegates were welcomed by Governor Jonvic Remulla at the Provincial Capitol alongside Vice Governor Jolo Revilla, 7th District Board Member Irene Bencito, as well as the department heads from the different agencies. The Bhutanese delegation learned of Cavite's good practices through various presentations by the following offices, namely:

- Cavite, First Class, World Class by the Provincial Information Office;
- Cavite's Vision/Mission by Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Jesus Barrera;

- History of the PGC ISO 9001:2008 Certification presented by Quality Management Representative Dr. Eva Defiesta; and
- Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office Programs and Projects by OIC Mr. Rene Tongson.

The delegation, together with representatives from the ISO Quality Management Office, also toured the Office of the Provincial Administrator, the Legislative Building, and the Finance Building for a briefing on Cavite's ISO certification experience and its continuous expansion.

Since Cavite's ISO 9001:2008 certification in May 2012, the provincial government has assisted various provinces to share its best practices in local administration and legislation, investment promotion, revenue collection and other areas of governance for replication by visiting local and international government units.



Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla (in blue top) poses with the delegates from Kingdom of Bhutan led by Mr. Tshering Keznag (center) during a learning visit to the Cavite Provincial Capitol.

Provincial News

Former Sen. Kiko Pangilinan graces Konsultasyon Kontra Coco-Lisap

by Laguna Web Team

Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agriculture Mechanization (PAFSAM) Secretary Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan graced the Konsultasyon Kontra Coco-Lisap on June 11 at the Cultural Center of Laguna in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Concerned stakeholders gathered to discuss ways to fight the widespread infestation of scaled-insects on the coconut trees or Coco-Lisap in

Laguna and other provinces in the Philippines.

PAFSAM identified five steps how to eradicate the pest, namely: pruning; trunk injection; organic spraying; biological control; and tree fertilization.

Though the procedure is simple, Sec. Pangilinan stressed the importance of coordinated and holistic efforts to

eradicate the said pest. “Dapat sabay-sabay natin itong gawin at hindi tayo magkanya-kanya,” he said. After the discussion by Secretary Pangilinan, those who attended signed the covenant of commitment which strengthened their promise to eradicate Coco-Lisap not only in Laguna, but in the Philippines as well.

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Quezon launches Adopt-A-Reef Project in Catanauan

by Reygan Mantilla and Geneva Palma, Quezon Provincial Information Office

About 300 fishermen from Barangays Ajos, Pala, and Madulao in the town of Catanauan are set to benefit from the Adopt-A-Reef project. The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) launched the project in Brgy. Ajos last June 2.

The Municipality of Catanauan initiated the project in cooperation of the private sector through Oscar “Ka Oca” Tan. According to Provincial Agriculturist Roberto Gajo, Quezon Governor David Suarez established the said project because of the growing concern regarding the

protection of the province’s saltwater fishing resources.

Prov. Agriculturist Gajo went on to add that since the initial execution of the project, fishermen have reported fishcatch increase from roughly a kilo or so to 3-5 kilos daily – tangible proof of the positive results from the OPA’s impact assessment.

“Patuloy na isinasagawa ng gobernador ang iba pang proyektong pampangisdaan para higit mabigyan ng kakayahan ang mga kababayan nating mangangisda,” said Gajo.



Locals and several staff of the Provincial Agriculturist's Office prepare to place the artificial reefs in Catanauan, Quezon this June 4, 2014.

Ka Oca Tan, the private counterpart of the said project, also expressed his

Continued on page 10

Rizal launches YES to Green Program

by Provincial Government of Rizal

YES (Ynares Eco-System) To Green Program was launched by the Rizal Provincial Government in response to the environmental challenges that the province and the country has been facing. The program was launched through Executive Order No. 11 series of 2013 and Executive Order No. 8 series of 2014.

The program will be Rizal’s ecological banner. It has six (6) components, namely: Cleaning, Greening, Recycling, Tourism,

Environment Protection, and Disaster Risk Reduction Management.

Through this project, Rizal Province under the stewardship of Governor Rebecca A. Ynares, intends to protect and preserve the natural environment while also giving importance to the provision of

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Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares, through the YES Program, has partnered with various national government agencies and civil society organizations in the development of protected landscapes such as the Tinipak na Bato of Daraetan River in Tanay, Rizal, for tourism purposes.

Sanchez Farms

by DA RFU IV-A

Ms. Edna Sanchez's 2-hectare farm in Jala-Jala, Rizal has dragons – but not the mythical creature that we know of. She plants dragon fruits (red variety). The trees last for about 15 years and can bear fruit once to thrice a year.

In 2012, Ms. Sanchez was able to earn P353, 000 from her harvest of 4,400 kilos. She sold them at P80.00 per kilo. This year, she was able to harvest 5,000 kilos of dragon fruits. She started dragon fruit farming when she attended a seminar and met Mr. Ed Silan of Cavite City.

Because of her success, Rizal Governor Rebecca A. Ynares, along



Dragon Fruit Lady of Rizal: Ms. Edna Sanchez harvests the fruits of her labor.

with the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and Municipal Officials of Jala-Jala, visited her farm. She and her farm's produce was also featured in ABS-CBN's Umagang Kay Ganda during the town fiesta of Jala-Jala last September 2013.

Aside from dragon fruits, she also engages in value adding activities like vinegar-, juice-, wine-, and jam-

making. She also intends to plant organic lettuce and *siling pansinigang* to make good use of the support given to her by the Department of Agriculture (DA) IV-A. She was a recipient of starter vegetable seeds and a greenhouse, courtesy of the High Value Crops Development Program of DA IV-A. Prior to her being a dragon fruit farmer, she used to plant bitter melon, okra, tomatoes, eggplant, and garlic.

Apart from the healthy benefits provided by dragon fruit and the good income, Ms. Sanchez has also used her farm to help some out-of-school youth find work. She has also housed and provided on-the-job training (OJT) to BS Agriculture students who are also Meralco Foundation scholars.

Former Sen. Kiko Pangilinan... *Continued from page 9*

Present in the consultation were the following: Laguna Governor Ramil L. Hernandez; Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Prof. Edel Guiza; Philippine Coconut Authority Region IV-A Manager Joselito Alcantara; Laguna Liga ng mga Barangay President Lorenzo Zuñiga, Jr.; DILG -Laguna Provincial Director Lionel Dalope; Laguna Provincial

Agriculturist Marlon Tobias; and Laguna Provincial Police Office Provincial Director (OIC) PSSUPT. Romulo Sapitula.



[L-R] Laguna ABC President and Board Member Lorenzo Zuñiga, Jr.; PAFSAM Sec. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan; Laguna Governor Ramil Hernandez; DILG-Laguna Provincial Director Lionel Dalope; and Provincial Agriculturist Marlon Tobias after signing the covenant of commitment to eradicate Coco-Lisap.

Quezon launches... *Continued from page 9*

confidence in the Adopt-A-Reef project for protecting and replenishing the richness of Catanauan's waters.

Aside from receiving 9 concrete artificial reefs, 20 bottom set payao, and 7 bamboo racks, Governor Suarez also donated 2 motorized boats to Brgy. Ajos, which can be used by the residents to look after the artificial reefs.

Aside from Catanauan, the project had also been launched in the municipalities of Infanta, Sariaya, Padre Burgos, Unisan, San Francisco, Plaridel, Gumaca, and Guinayangan, Quezon.

The Adopt-A-Reef Project works through a partnership system between the beneficiary barangay and the OPA. The provincial government provides the necessary materials for the artificial reef, which will then be turned over to the community. The Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, the beneficiary's barangay council, and other concerned local sectors shall be



Provincial Agriculturist Roberto Gajo with Mayor Ramon Orfanel during the turn-over of motorized boats at the launching of Adopt-A-Reef project last June 4, 2014.

responsible for taking care of the project at the community level, while the OPA monitors and controls the activity at the helm.

Batangas TIPC puts new wage order on the spotlight

by DOLE IV-A

A total of 345 labor, management, and government representatives attended the 2nd General Assembly (GA) to discuss the recently issued Wage Order No. IV A-16. The assembly was headed by the Batangas Province Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (BPTIPC), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment-Batangas Provincial Office (DOLE-BPO). It was held last May 9 at the Cinema 1 of SM City Lipa with Ms. Rovelinda dela Rosa of the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) as a resource person.

Previous GAs were usually held at the DOLE Region IV-A WODP Training Center in Lipa City but to accommodate the expected number of participants, the council decided to conduct it at a bigger venue, thus the cinema.

The RTWPB issued the Wage Order No. IV A-16 on April 8 to take effect on May 1, coinciding with the celebration of Labor Day.

During the discussions, the participants asked about issues on performance-based pay and wage distortion. Several key questions, which arose during the GA, were the following:

Why is the increase under Wage Order No. IVA-16 in the form of an allowance?
Why don't we just add the CTPA and the SEA to the basic pay?

If the employee is already receiving an above minimum wage, do we still need to add the SEA?

How do we convert the Service Incentive Leave (SIL), regular holiday falling on a day-off, and half-day?

The participants also recommended mechanisms how the wage board can conduct consultations as well as the term limit and nominations of board members.



Ms. Dela Rosa, as she discusses the new wage order in the region.

Batangas Environment Response Team... *Continued from page 8*

Another highlight during the Summit was the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing between Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and the Academe followed by another MOA signing between Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Ecosystems Improved

for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) Project.

The MOA signing was witnessed by representatives and officials of PEMSEA led by Stephen Adrian Ross, Mr. Geronimo T. Silvestre of ECOFISH, Bro. Joaquin S. Martinez of De La Salle Lipa, Dra. Nora

Magnaye of the Batangas State University, Board Member Dexter Buted also representing the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas, Dr. Florencio Reyes of the University of Batangas and Dir. Esmeralda Paz Manalang of BFAR.

Rizal launches... *Continued from page 9*

livelihood by maximizing its agricultural productivity.

This project was inspired by the Governor's desire and vision that cleaning the environment, like the water tributaries, could avoid massive flooding and will subsequently protect the Laguna de Bay from further siltation and degradation and could provide for additional sources of income to fisherfolks. It is also viewed that tree planting could help in preventing landslides leading to improved agricultural productivity. Additional trees will produce cleaner air that promotes better health while recycling will mean less trash and



The provincial government of Rizal headed by Gov. Nini Ynares (5th from left) conducted recently the first ever YES (Ynares Eco System) Environmental Summit at the Ynares Hall, Antipolo, Rizal, which aims to assess the progress of the YES to Green Program of the province.

more cash because the YES To Green Program also aims to turn garbage into reusable materials that

can provide extra income opportunities to the people of Rizal.

Pinoys abroad learn PinoyWISE Financial Education Course

by Ms. Aileen Constantino-Peñas, Atikha

Many Filipino migrants, despite long years of working abroad fail to achieve their long-term goals for migration because they cannot save and invest.

This is due to the migrants' lack of financial education or they have family issues such as luxurious lifestyles, dependency, and family break-up. Some of the migrants also had failures in the businesses they've set up due to lack of information and skills or they were victimized by unscrupulous money-lenders and bogus investments.

The alarming financial and family situation of overseas Filipinos abroad and their families left behind in the Philippines prompted the various stakeholders to organize PinoyWISE Movement.

PinoyWISE or Pinoy Worldwide Initiative for Investment, Savings and Entrepreneurship Movement is a convergence initiative in minimizing the social cost and maximizing the gains of overseas migration. It is made up of a network of national and local government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector involved in promoting financial education, investment mobilization, trade and eco/agro-tourism to migrants and families.

One of the important contents of PinoyWISE is the Financial Education Course developed by Atikha Overseas Workers and



Training of Trainers held in Singapore

Communities Initiative, a non-government organization. The course is designed for migrants and the families left behind.

PinoyWISE Movement critically looks at the realities of both sides of the migration corridor. Recently, the Financial Education program reached Filipinos in Italy, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Hongkong and Germany. Together with Filipino migrants, leaders from Myanmar and Indonesia attended the Training of Trainers held in Singapore.

Minda Teves, a migrant leader in Italy and an accredited PinoyWISE trainer said, "*Salamat sa Pinoy WISE Financial Education Course, maraming nabago sa buhay ko at inihahanda ko na ang aking sarili sa muling pagbabalik sa Pilipinas.*". She added that they do not only share what they learned on financial management through formal seminars but also in informal settings such as when they are riding buses with other Filipino migrant workers in Italy.

trainings:

- Understanding the Positive and Negative Impact of Migration;
- Goal Setting; Family Income Management;
- Saving and Investing;
- Borrowing and Getting Out of Debt;
- Family Issues and Coping Mechanism; and
- Return and Reintegration

In Calabarzon, PinoyWISE Financial Education Course is being implemented in the provinces of Batangas, Cavite, and Laguna, with some municipalities already institutionalizing it. Aside from top migrant sending provinces in Region IV-A, activities of PinoyWISE Movement are also held in Bohol, Cebu, Mindoro, and Tarlac City.

PinoyWISE Movement is part of the activities of the Migration and Development Committee of Regional Development Council in Region 4-A. It is the only region in the Philippines with such committee that is engaged in programs and services for overseas Filipinos and their families.



Workshop with overseas Filipinos in Germany

The course is presented through hands-on trainings where the migrants and families are provided a workbook, which serves as their Financial Planner. The following topics are discussed in the

PinoyWISE financial education trainings and other capacity building activities of Atikha abroad are made possible through the support of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), International Labor Organization (ILO), Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), European Union United Nation Joint Migration and Development Initiatives (EC-UN JMDI) and private sector partners such as the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI).