



Malampaya
FOUNDATION



Malampaya Foundation Inc.
2013 ANNUAL REPORT
Beginning Where We Are

MFI 2013 Annual Report

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From the Chairman of the Board

As a young Non-Government Organization (NGO) formed by a corporate joint venture composed of Shell Philippines Exploration, Chevron Malampaya and Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) set out eight years ago with the ultimate objective of transforming lives through various interventions. Looking back in late 2005 when I was still President of PNOC-EC and had oversight in the formation of MFI, it is suffice to say as current Chairman of the Board that while there have been challenges, likewise there are many rewards.

The first five years of the foundation was dedicated to purely social development: community-based programs in skills training, employment generation, enterprise development, health, disaster preparedness, education and renewable energy were rolled out starting early 2006. Following this, MFI further embarked on environmental programs such as waste management and a complex marine biodiversity program after having seen the continued degradation of natural resources and ecosystems in Malampaya's areas of operation.

Lives Reached

Through the sincere and dedicated effort of foundation staff, officers and full support of the board of trustees, MFI has reached thousands in one form or another. Below is a quick enumeration of accomplishments over the first eight years covering 2005-2013 in Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, Batangas and Subic:

- 2,918 technical-vocational scholars under Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST) Program;
- 1,336 individuals capacitated on disaster preparedness and response for Neighborhood Emergency Services Team (NEST) and Shoreline Communities Onwards to Resiliency (SHORE) programs;
- 1,123 individuals capacitated on various coastal and marine conservation-related skills, 3,300 hectares with improved biodiversity management and 100 hectares saved from Crown of Thorns infestation through MFI's marine biodiversity conservation programs Barangay Aquatic Habitat and Underwater Regeneration (BAHURA) and Verde Island Passage (VIP) Conservation programs;
- 3,873 helped in various forms of livelihood and enterprise development programs through Livelihood Alternatives and Mariculture-Based Assistance (LAMBAT), Integrated Farming Biosystems (IFBS), Batangas Livelihood Program (BLP), Project Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA) and Sanayan sa Kakayahang Ikauunlad ng Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP) programs;



- Close to 30,000 beneficiaries in all health-related programs through knowledge and skills upgrading and health service availments;
- 1,338 individuals, 8 barangays and 25 school beneficiaries for various waste management programs Young Eco-Savers (YES), Environment and Sanitation (ENVISAN) and Adopt-an-Estero;
- 1,827 educators' english proficiency upgraded through Advanced Course on Competitive English for Teachers (ACCENT) Program;
- 1,856 individuals composed of a combination of public utility & private drivers and traffic enforcers educated and capacitated on road safety through Kaligtasan sa Daan (KALSADA) program;
- 449 barangay health centers and 2 public schools in Palawan equipped with solar power to improve service efficiency and learning content; and
- 30 public schools provided with high-quality laboratory equipment through Adopt-a-School program and 3 pilot schools equipped with Knowledge Channel packages to upgrade learning experience through Upgrading the Standard of Education through Technology (USETEC) program.

Continuing Commitment

Over the coming years, MFI will continue to be committed to work towards sustainability of its programs through active collaboration with partners in communities, local governments and local organisations to achieve its mission of supporting the sustainable development of communities in Malampaya's areas of operation.

The body of this report further describes achievements in 2013. Feel free to send us feedback through info@malampayafoundation.org.

Mabuhay!


RUFINO BOMASANG
Chairman of the Board
Malampaya Foundation Inc.



Beginning where we are

How do we make our part of the world a better place? Can we help change things for the better by simply beginning where we are?

The Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) believes so. Since its establishment in 2005 as the social arm of the Malampaya Joint Venture Partners, MFI has actively pursued its vision of promoting, fostering, and encouraging sustainable social, environmental, and economic development of communities in all the areas where it operates - namely, all areas touched by the Malampaya Deepwater Gas to Power project in northwest and north Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, and Batangas City.

Working consistently with its core values of integrity, respect, equality, safety, and humility, MFI seeks to fulfill its vision to be the leading foundation in the upstream energy sector, enabling socioeconomic development and environmental protection wherever it is present.

From skills training to livelihood development, from enhanced education to better health, from marine biodiversity conservation to road safety, and from disaster response to waste management - all of MFI's programs are focused on making life better for the student and the schoolteacher, the barangay health worker and the fisherman, the welder and the housewife with a small home business.

Everything good starts from home, and spreads out to benefit families, communities, nations. We want to make our home, where we are, a place of growth, development, and hope. ✨

Because the sea is life

Marine biodiversity conservation programs

AS AN archipelago fringed by over 36,000 kilometers of coastline, and with a population largely dependent on fishing for survival, the Philippines is inextricably linked with the oceans that surround it.

They are rich and important oceans, indeed, as these islands form part the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME), an economically and biologically critical hotbed known for the sheer abundance and significance of its marine species. The country is home to several priority marine conservation corridors, exchange passageways for fish larvae and other marine organisms from the vast Pacific, the West Philippines Sea, the Sulu Sulawesi Sea, and the internal waters of the country. These corridors teem with life and biodiversity, and act as sources and sinks for the fish to flow into the important fishing grounds in Balayan Bay, Tayabas Bay, Tablas Strait, and Northern Palawan.

The Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) is on the ground in areas where 10 of the Philippines' 123 marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are found - specifically, in Verde Island Passage in Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Northern Palawan.

At the onset of MFI's involvement, most reef areas in the foundation's project sites were already damaged and degraded because of human pressure - over-extraction of resources, illegal fishing methods, indiscriminate coastal development, upland and coastal deforestation, and pollution - and natural phenomena such as typhoons, droughts, and extreme weather changes brought about by climate change. The result was a low fish count, echoing

the grim state of Philippine fisheries over the last several decades; catch per unit effort for hook and line fishermen in MFI's focal sites has drastically decreased from 10 kg in 1980 to barely a kilogram in the last two years.

In some places, protected areas or sanctuaries had already been defined, but the mechanisms to manage these critical habitats are impeded due to inconsistencies in enforcement and the apparent lack of manpower and resources of provincial and local government units. Along with other stakeholders, MFI set out to help bridge these gaps and maintain a consistent pace of action to ensure the recovery of such resources in identified Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Areas, Fisheries Management Zones, and Forest Rehabilitation and Management Areas.

There is a need for the local government units to bolster their investment in biodiversity conservation, considering that the income and sustenance generated from these resources - without even counting their non-use significance - are invaluable, albeit extremely fragile and temporary. Such marine resources can generate millions, yet the Bantay Dagat receive meager support.

MFI began initial steps such reef monitoring and diver training, but soon formalized efforts for marine biodiversity conservation through the establishment of the **Verde Island Passage (VIP) Conservation Program** in Batangas and Mindoro and the **Barangay Aquatic Habitat and Underwater Regeneration Assistance (BAHURA)** in Palawan.

The VIP was singled out in studies by scientists Kent Carpenter and Victor Springer in 2005, as the global "center of the center" of marine shorefish diversity. The VIP MPA Network, of which the VIP Marine Corridor is part, is under the supervision of the provincial government units at the local level and the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the national level. Here, MFI is considered a major partner in the implementation of the five-year Sustainable Coral Reef Management Project of the DENR and the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro. This collaboration helps bring together the community and provincial and local government units for more effective resource management.

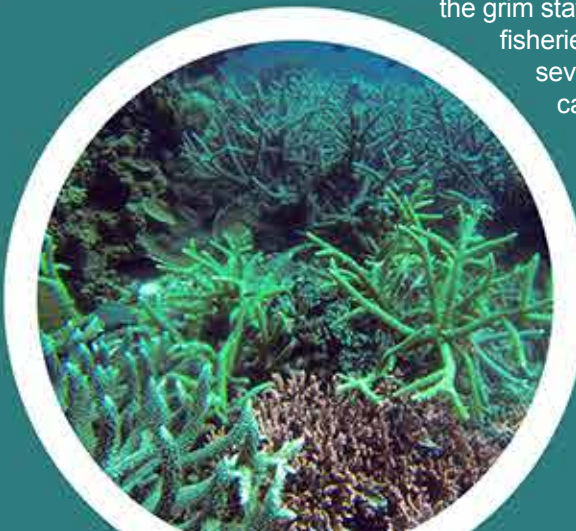
BAHURA, meanwhile, focuses on the implementation of coastal resource management plans and the introduction of environment-friendly alternative livelihoods to give exhausted marine resources a chance to recover. The goals of MFI's marine biodiversity conservation programs include enabling communities to look after their own marine resources, and to rehabilitate any such resources damaged by human or natural causes. The reduction of marine pollution is pursued through better sanitation and waste management, and the importance of resource conservation and proper conservation methods communicated to the people. Poverty is addressed by the consequent improvement of socioeconomic conditions.

In 2012, to ensure the relevance and longevity of these programs, and as part of its commitment to biodiversity conservation in its project sites, MFI laid out the work ahead based on four comprehensive long-term targets covering social, economic, and scientific components, and which will ultimately lead to restored ecosystems, reduced environmental threats, and most important, environmentally responsible

human communities. These targets are social mobilization and advocacy, ecological assessment, ecological enhancement/rehabilitation, and socioeconomic improvement. Specific steps under each target constitute an integrated approach to the work.

For social mobilization and advocacy, work began in 2012, and social and environmental baselines are continuously being gathered in 12 focal areas. People's organizations have been set up in all 12 areas, as well, with MPA management councils established, reorganized, and strengthened. As part of the goal of having a functional law enforcement team for each MPA, basic Bantay Dagat training was conducted in all the areas, and safety gear provided for all sites in Oriental Mindoro, where Basic Fishery Law Enforcement Training was held for 37 participants, in cooperation with the Municipality of Bulalacao's local government unit, in September 2013. Environmental Youth Camps were also held in the province to disseminate information to schoolchildren. Meanwhile, coastal resource management orientations are being conducted in Palawan.

For **ecological assessments**, seven reef watch teams were established in 2013, undergoing dive training and acquiring equipment by mid-year, including teams in Linapacan, El Nido, Taytay, Coron-Culion, Batangas City, and Mindoro. Reports are now regularly submitted from all sites for resource assessment and posted on the MFI website, and MPAs in focal sites are monitored twice a year. Taytay, Palawan has also begun photo and video documentation. Teams carried out reef assessments and installed permanent monitoring stations. With funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), teams in Coron, Taytay, El Nido, and Linapacan conducted an Automated Rapid Reef Assessment Survey (ARRAS), using a "teardrop" camera dropped from the boat like a





fishing line, and suspended meters above the coral bed. The stitched underwater images provided initial visual data before any diver even entered the water.

For ecological enhancement/rehabilitation, the work began in 2013 to establish at least 35,000 hectares of MPAs by 2022; some 10,000 hectares are already in process, with proposed MPAs in Tabinay, Puerto Galera, Mindoro, and in Bulalacao in Coron and Liminangcong and Tumbod in Taytay, Palawan. Boundary markers were maintained in six sites, part of a targeted 1,000 hectares of strict protection zones to allow for the monitoring of fish biomass, density, and diversity. Divers scoured the waters and volunteers descended upon the beaches in clean-ups in Linapacan and Taytay, Palawan, along with more coastal work in Batangas, Mindoro, and Coron. A solid waste management body was also organized in Bulalacao, Coron.

For **socioeconomic improvement**, work started in 2013, with 452 members of people's organizations benefiting from livelihood and skills training. Baseline information is already being collected towards the goal of having 1,000 households benefit from the additional income. Environment-friendly mariculture projects such as abalone and seaweed farming have been implemented in Linapacan and Taytay, Palawan; an abalone hatchery has been set up by Western Philippines University (WPU) in Taytay to support the alternative livelihood.

As of October 2013, 11 conservation covenants have also been forged with community-based organizations. These covenants are important because they seek to advance conservation, protection, and rehabilitation of coastal and marine ecosystems by working closely with the very people who utilize these ecosystems' bounty. The alternative livelihood is an incentive for those who actively participate in the conservation efforts, and must double as a long-term financing mechanism for conservation work after MFI's involvement ends. ✱



The guardian

FONCHING Lauriano, 36, a fisherman from Bgy. Putting Cacao in Pola, Oriental Mindoro knows a thing or two about responsibility: he has been helping guard his community's fishing grounds since 2009, when he started out as a barangay and municipal **Bantay Dagat** member and a caretaker of the sanctuary.

That meant patrolling, and maintaining the buoys that demarcated the area. *"May mga 15 beses na akong nakahuli ng lumalabag sa batas at nangingisda sa loob ng sanctuary"* (I must have caught people breaking the law and fishing inside the sanctuary about 15 times), he recalls.

Lauriano inevitably became more involved in the stewardship work, however, notably after he was trained by the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) to be a reef check diver and a member of the Oriental Mindoro Resource Monitoring Team. In 2011, he joined the Saint John The Baptist Fisherfolk Association (SJBFA), and now heads the group's education committee and acts as vice president of the sanctuary management council. Organizing has paid off; since 2012, the council has recorded an increase of a whopping 2,000 kilos in total fish catch in their area.

After signing a conservation covenant with MFI, Lauriano and 28 other members of the association are now also benefiting from a goat-raising livelihood program. More than the extra income, however, Lauriano has seen how working with the foundation has transformed the community: *"Tumaas ang antas ng pangangalaga namin sa pangisdaan, at lumakas ang unity ng barangay at mga pamilya"* (Our standards in caring for the fish sanctuary have been raised, and the unity of the barangay and families has been strengthened). ✱





relatives, training in basket-weaving, food processing, tourism-related skills, and even personal grooming are offered.

Among the most viable and popular alternatives is environment-friendly mariculture, specifically the farming of abalone and seaweeds. Abalone (*Haliotis asinina*), an edible mollusk, is a high-value species that provides benefits to reefs at the same time. Since abalone is an over-extracted invertebrate species in Palawan, its culture and restocking can help rehabilitate the wild population. Growing abalone has very little effect on the ecosystem, since it feeds only on seaweeds, unlike in fish culture, where the feeds used can actually have negative impacts on the surrounding environment.

MFI has further partnered with the premiere educational institution in the region, Western Philippines University (WPU), to improve its hatcheries for abalone and trochus (*Trochus niloticus* or top shell, locally known as samong) for purposes of restocking, and to aid community members venturing into mariculture. Abalone and trochus breeders are raised in special tanks and underwater cages at the Hatchery Project site of WPU and MFI. Each tank can hold up to 500,000 baby abalones and trochus.

WHEN the sea has provided sustenance for one's family for generations, the concept of depleted marine resources may be hard to fathom, even when it has become an alarming reality. Fortunately, there is always another way.

Under the goal of socioeconomic improvement of the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) marine biodiversity conservation programs, the **Livelihood Alternatives and Mariculture-Based Assistance (LAMBAT)** program provides training and assistance to fisherfolk families on ways to augment their income.

Fishermen learn livestock raising, animal husbandry, eco-tourism and other skills that can supplement earnings when fish catch is low, or when typhoons make daily tasks unmanageable. For fishermen's wives and other adult



During training for abalone mariculture in Taytay and Linapacan, participants learned how to make rafts and cages for the abalones. They were also taught how to set up and maintain their own "farms." The potential rewards are great, as abalone can fetch hefty prices per kilogram on the market.

Other income-generating enterprises in Oriental Mindoro include a seaweed culture and processing center in Bulalacao, a fish aggregating device project for hook-and-line fishing in Pinamalayan and Gloria, an ecotourism project in Puerto Galera, and a goat-raising venture in Baco and Pola.

Livelihood programs have been implemented in eight barangays in Mindoro and four barangays in Palawan; in the works are four more projects for each province.

With alternative livelihood as an integral part of the collaboration, a conservation covenant was signed in Bgy. Tumbod, Taytay in July 2013 by the barangay LGU, the people's organization, the Protected Area Office (PAO), WPU, and MFI - the first marine-based conservation covenant of its kind in the country, followed by another covenant in San Miguel, Linapacan. Eight more such covenants were entered into in Oriental Mindoro. This approach is a concrete step towards truly making marine conservation a team effort. ★

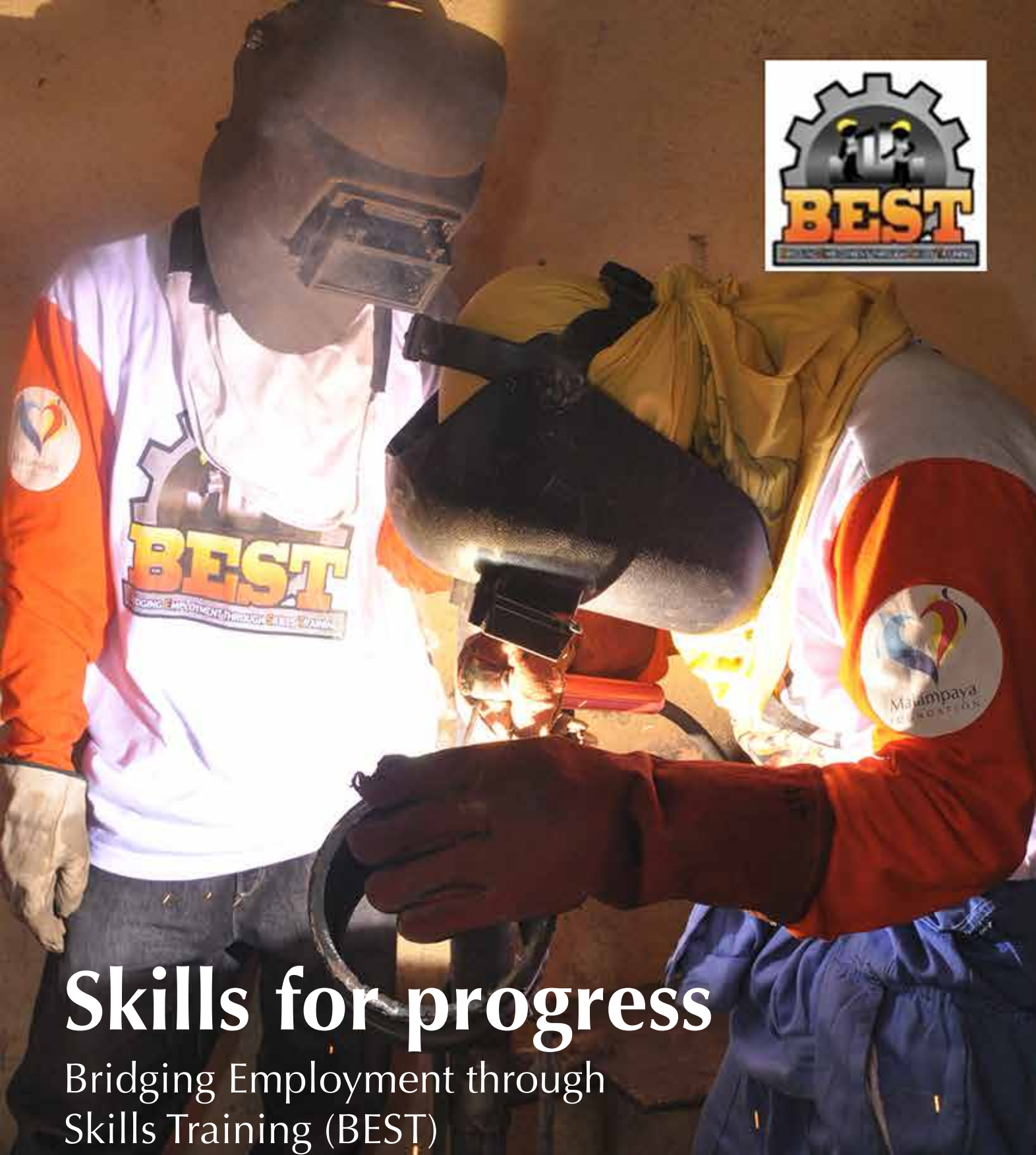
Taking charge of what's theirs

FOR 65-year-old widow Lita Rey of Barangay Tumbod, Taytay, Palawan, a covenant, known locally as a "con-ag" (conservation agreement), is to be taken very seriously. The mother of six used to sell illegally-cut trees to boat builders in Mindoro.

All that changed when Lita was elected president of Tumbod's People's Organization, which the Malampaya Foundation Inc. helped establish, and which is a signatory of the area's conservation agreement, along with MFI and the local government. *"Hindi ko na pinapansin ang mga taong umo-order sa akin ng kahoy,"* Lita says. *"Natatakot akong mawala ang MFI, at ngayon lang nagkaroon ng ganitong oportunidad. Malaki ang bawas sa aking buwanang kita, at umaasa na lang ako ngayon sa sahod bilang isang barangay official, nguni't hindi ko na ipagpapalit ang kinabukasan ng marami at karangalan ng aking pamilya dahil lang sa maling gawain."* (I now ignore the people ordering wood from me. I'm afraid MFI will withdraw its support, it's only now that we have this opportunity. I've lost a lot in monthly income, and I just rely now on my salary as a barangay official, but I would not trade the future of many and the honor of my family for wrong practices.)

This opportunity means not only getting a shot at extra income, but also taking on the responsibility of caring for what is theirs. The Tumbod People's Organization is now applying for a Protected Area Community Based Resource Management Agreement; if granted, they will be given a preferential right to protect and rehabilitate a significant portion of the barangay within the Malampaya Sound Protected Land and Seascape. Their organization also leads underwater clean-ups and awareness campaigns, and has established a tree nursery and reef monitoring sites. ★





Skills for progress

Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST)



The key to success

FOR 39-year-old Michael Bool, it was about adding greater value to his capabilities, a value he considers almost priceless. *"Pag may kaalaman ka,"* says the 2011 graduate of the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) **Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST)** program in Libjo, Batangas, *"talo pa niyan yung ginto."* (If you have knowledge, it's better than gold.)

Bool, a native of San Isidro, Batangas, had worked as a rigger since 1993 and even had a stint overseas, but was looking to expand what he knew about the different aspects of the job. Every time a structure had to be erected, a job site would need riggers and scaffolders, *"para makaakyat ng tama. Kailangan din naman yung safety, kaya hinanap ko yung tamang paraan."* (So we can climb properly. We need safety, so I went for the correct way.)

The effort paid off; after his training, Bool immediately found work with an Australian company based in Newman, Western Australia - a job that paid well enough for this husband and father of three to buy a 400-square

meter lot and build a house for his family after he finished his contract. Today, Bool is set to work closer to home, for the Malampaya project itself, but is proud to report he has saved enough to secure his children's college education. He's convincing the eldest to become an engineer, although the boy also seems interested in becoming a teacher like his mother.

As a role model for other aspiring scholars, Bool, who is active in his church as a way of giving back, likes to encourage future BEST scholars. *"Pag may certification na kayo, hawak na ninyo ang susi ng tagumpay."* (When you have a certification, you will hold the key to success.) ★



IF it is the workforce that builds a nation, then skilled laborers literally lay the foundation upon which progress is realized, and through which visions are achieved.

In the local and global markets, however, the demand has increased for employable skills, the abilities a laborer brings to the job site. More than just having hands-on experience, a worker must be properly trained in order to find a good job, optimize performance, and ultimately improve his lot in life.

The **Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST)** program has been one of the most effective channels through which the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has helped raise standards of living and alleviate poverty among the communities where it works - in Palawan, Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Subic.

MFI identified the need for short-term vocational programs in a variety of industrial specializations. Through these programs, out-of-school youth and unemployed adults, mainly from coastal barangay communities, including indigenous peoples, could become productive citizens, learn a new trade, or even expand and upgrade existing skills to improve their chances for employment and advancement.

Thus, scholars receive technical, vocational, and educational training (TVET) in welding, pipe-fitting, piping insulation, scaffolding, construction skills, machining, and others.

In Palawan, where tourism is a major revenue earner, more options are offered through BEST-Tourism, with scholars training in such allied industry skills as food and beverage and housekeeping. Values formation and English proficiency are also included in the program to increase worker competence, confidence, and social skills.

As additional incentive, outstanding students are recognized through Excellence Awards. In June 2013, seven of 58 graduating scholars in Puerto Princesa, Palawan received such recognition, even as all the graduates were also given starter kits and tools for their chosen vocation.

Since BEST's inception in 2006, a total of 2,918 lives have been transformed through skills training; 925 of those scholars, the biggest batch to date, graduated in 2013. Of this number, in Batangas, 180 of 540 scholars trained in pipe insulation, while in Mindoro, welding was the trade of choice for all 130 beneficiaries. In Subic, 44 of the 68 trainees concentrated on scaffolding, and in Palawan, 68 of 187 graduates expanded their integrated construction skills.

For the scholars, a main reward for the hard work is a coveted National Certificate (NC) II, accredited by the Technical Skills Development Authority (TESDA), which opens doors of opportunity both locally and internationally. Through Industry Networking (I-Net), MFI assists in linking graduates with the companies that need them. Partner organizations and training centers help provide additional venues for hands-on, practical learning; in Batangas, for example, industry giants like Keppel, EEI, and AG&P are among the program's allies.

With such support, the road to gainful employment becomes considerably smoother for BEST graduates. In April 2013, 60 newly trained pipe-fitters and piping insulators from various barangays in Batangas were immediately hired by local firms as well as companies in Australia and Papua New Guinea. In 2012, Jonard Antonio, a Hanunuo Mangyan from Oriental Mindoro, made the news after completing his welding course and immediately landing a job in Saudi Arabia.

In August 2013, TESDA recognized MFI with a Kabalikat Award (Industry Category) for BEST, acknowledging the program's role in helping to continuously uplift the status of Filipino technical and vocational workers. ★

Always prepared

Shoreline Communities Onwards
Resilience (SHORE)





THE grim reality of climate change, a direct result of relentless environmental degradation, has made the Philippines particularly vulnerable to natural calamities and their effects, such as floods and landslides.

An estimated 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year. Many of them, like 2013's catastrophic Typhoon Yolanda, have resulted in damage to property and loss of life, primarily because of lack of preparedness and anticipation by an ill-equipped citizenry. Outside help from both government and non-government groups are not enough, or do not arrive fast enough, in the wake of such disasters.

Republic Act 10121, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, has mandated that a barangay disaster risk reduction and management plan be put in place and properly funded. Consistent with this direction, the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has introduced the Shoreline Communities Onwards to Resiliency (SHORE) program, to encourage community disaster and emergency preparedness at the grassroots level to complement any other disaster management efforts by professional or government agencies.

Through SHORE, community members are organized and trained to identify and carry out the proper response to natural and man-made emergencies. Such response includes helping people in distress and saving lives. Participants also learn how to make their own communities more resilient in the face of such events, and to analyze their

“Through SHORE, community members are organized and trained to identify, and carry out the proper response to natural and man-made emergencies.”



area's specific hazards and vulnerabilities for proper monitoring.

SHORE participants learn to develop the best early warning system applicable to their community, and educate people on how to use it. The preparation of a barangay disaster risk reduction and management plan - and its strict implementation - becomes a priority for survival.

The SHORE program includes such components as social mobilization, with barangay volunteers and leaders recruited; capacity-building, where recruits are trained in several areas, from fire management and earthquake, flood, and landslide response to basic CPR and lifesaving techniques; post-training activities such as SHORE Olympics to hone and upgrade skills; and advocacy, through which the barangay disaster management plan is institutionalized and communicated to all concerned. Partnerships with institutions such as the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Red Cross further enrich the local volunteers' skills.

Such preparation has already borne fruit. In 2013, 31 volunteers were trained in SHORE Batangas, with more undergoing the program in Mindoro and Palawan. Last March 28, 2013, MFI's SHORE-trained Bantay Dagat Rescue Team from San Agustin Silangan, Isla Verde, Batangas City rescued eight people after their boat capsized due to strong winds and large waves. ★

Lifesavers

SITTING beside a channel and surrounded by swift currents, Isla Verde in Batangas is an island exposed to the elements, and as Barangay Captain of San Andres, one of the island's six barangays, Arnold Briton is in charge of keeping his people protected from the wrath of such elements.

The 48-year-old former fisherman, locally known as Pangulo, leader of his barangay's 297 households for the last four years, joined several other volunteers in Water Search and Rescue (WASAR) training under the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) **Shoreline Communities Onwards to Resiliency (SHORE)** program last May 29-31, 2013 in Isla Verde. *“Marami na rin kaming hinarap dito, tulad ng alon at landslide,”* Briton says. *“Dalawang oras pa bago makarating dito ang banca, kaya kami-kami muna, bayanihan na lang muna. Dati, bara-bara lang. Pero ngayon, may sistema na.”* (We've faced many things here, like waves and landslides. It takes two hours to get here by boat, so we have to work together first. Before, it would be haphazard. But now, there's a system.)

Briton recalls how difficult the training was with the Philippine Coast Guard, *“pero masaya naman, pasado naman,”* he says proudly. *“Napabilib nga sila sa amin, para na kaming mga pating sa tubig.”*

(It was fun, we passed. They were impressed with us, we were like sharks in the water.) The team received their WASAR kit upon graduation, which included searchlights, life vests, binoculars, first aid kit, and other essentials.

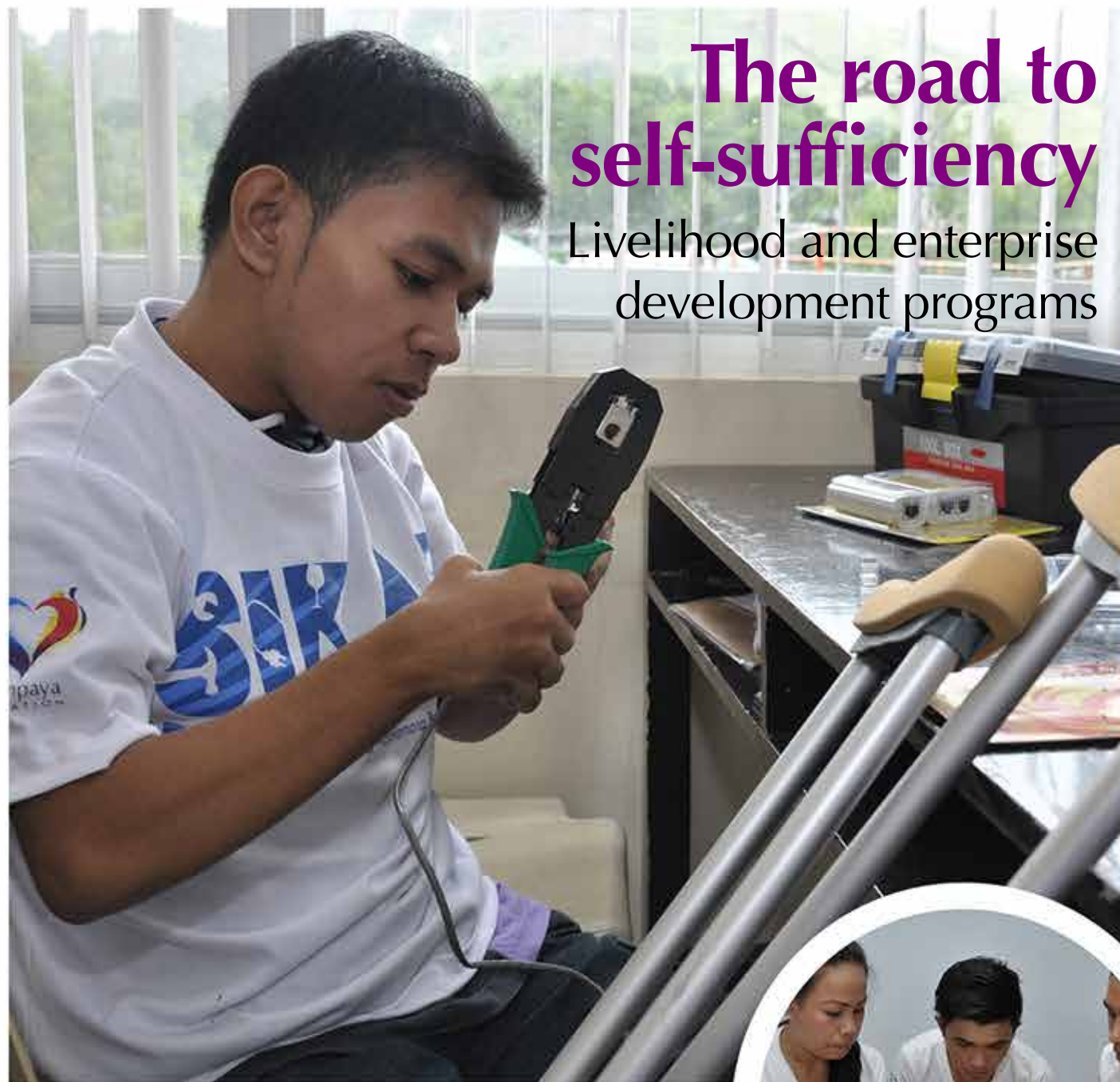
The Department of the Interior and Local Government mandates that the barangay captain must also head the local disaster response team, a responsibility that Briton and other local leaders take seriously. *“Yung water survival training yung pinakamahirap, iiwanan ka talaga sa tubig,”* recalls Briton's colleague, Edmar Rieta, barangay captain of the neighboring community of San Agapito. *“Pero dahil tabing-dagat kami, mahalaga na marunong kami magrisponde.”* (Water survival training was the hardest one, they would really leave you in the middle of the water. But because we live by the sea, it's important that we know how to respond.)

For the people of Isla Verde, it's good to know that in times of trouble, their leaders know how to save their lives. ★



The road to self-sufficiency

Livelihood and enterprise development programs



A VERY concrete way through which the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) is helping improve lives is through teaching people new ways to earn money, and providing seed capital for the pursuit of small enterprises.

Through the **Batangas Livelihood Program (BLP)**, people in MFI project sites in the province - specifically, residents of TALIM-TSR communities (Tabangao-Aplaya, Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam - Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok, and Sta. Rita Karsada) gain access to financial assistance and livelihood training, even as the capacity of local micro-lending institutions to train and aid micro-entrepreneurs is further built up. The groundwork was set in 2010, via a Memorandum of Agreement with three experienced local cooperatives: Buklod Unlad ng Batangas, Inc. (BUBI), Silangan, Ibabaw, Batis, Bulihan, Araneta Proper Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SIBBAP MPC), and San Isidro Multipurpose Cooperative (SIMCO). An initial MFI grant of P550,000 was released in 2011 to the three organizations, followed by another P350,000 in 2012.

In 2013, members of the three cooperatives underwent further training in various aspects of microfinance, such as loan procedures and policies, accounting and audit, and business proposal writing, to enable them to share the knowledge with beneficiaries. MFI provided further technical assistance by helping each organization to work with regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, to put together an operational manual for procedures, and to monitor their respective cooperatives' performance. Microfinancing was given to folks setting up sari-sari stores, or selling fish, rice, meat, and poultry, among other ventures. Livelihood training for beneficiaries, meanwhile, was carried out in partnership with the Lyceum of the Philippines University in Batangas.



Sharing the blessings

EVERY morning, Rosalie Abao, a 34-year-old mother of three and a fish vendor at the *talipapa* (open market) in Sitio Ibabaw, Ambulong, Batangas, is up by 3:30 to buy her stock of tambacol, galunggong, bangus and more of the day's catch from fishermen. She can earn at least P500 a day; on really good days, she can make as much as P3,000. Abao has saved enough to build a small house, and to make installment payments on a piece of land in Ambulong, as well as on books for her school-age children. She and her partner Joel Mendoza dream of saving enough to send all three kids to college.

The savings wouldn't have been possible if not for a series of loans from the Silangan, Ibabaw, Batis, Bulihan, Araneta Proper Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SIBBAP MPC), a partner of the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) **Batangas Livelihood Program (BLP)** - loans which Abao conscientiously paid back. "Dati, nakautang pa ako sa iba, pero 10 percent interest, ang hirap talaga," she recalls. "Dito sa SIBBAP, 3 percent lang!" (Before, I borrowed from elsewhere at 10 percent interest, it was hard. Here with SIBBAP, it's only 3 percent!) On her latest loan of P20,000, interest is a

mere P600 a month instead of P2,000. "Eh di may natira pang P1,400! Malaking tulong 'yon. Saan mo naman pupulutin 'yon? Pambili na ng diaper at gatas." (There's P1,400 left. That's a big help. Where would you get that otherwise? It's for buying diapers and milk.)

Abao is able to augment the seasonal earnings of Mendoza, who works as a scaffolder. Having been given a break, she extends the same compassion to her own customers who are unable to payup at once. "Pag gipit sila, pagbigyan na lang din. Makisama na rin sa tao, at magsipag ka na lang para umasenso." (If they're hard up, give them a break also. Get along with people, and just work hard so you can progress.) *



A homemade success

WHEN 35-year-old Elizabeth A. Cañeta of Barangay Calapacuan in Subic lost her job as a line leader in a cellphone factory, she remembers having to take out loans wherever she could. When the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) was recruiting trainees for its **Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA)** livelihood training program, she actually thought they would give her a job. "Mahirap din maghanap ng trabaho, kahit may pinag-aralan ka," she muses. (It's hard to find a job, even with an education.)

What she found instead was skills training for her own soap-making business, and with her previous experience in direct selling for a women's beauty line, this industrious entrepreneur was soon turning out powdered soap, dishwashing liquid, and fabric conditioner, and even supplying vendors with her products. "Kinareer ko talaga yan," recounts Cañeta, a member of the first batch of GANDA graduates in Subic last November 2013. "Pati yung mga customer ko dati sa pagbenta, na-divert ko. Awa ng Diyos, pangtawid talaga siya." (I really made a career of it. Even my old customers in my direct selling, I diverted to this. By God's grace, it tided us over.)

Today, Cañeta has found another factory job, and with the added income from her home venture, is happy to be debt-free. "Hindi na ako nangungutang, kaya masarap. Kung baga, kahit mahirap ang buhay, hindi mo na gaano iisipin kung saan ka kukuha." (I don't borrow much anymore, so it's great. Even if life is hard, you don't have to worry so much about where to get the money.) She dreams of sending her two teen-age daughters to college in Manila, and of ultimately running her own business, with a line of well-packaged homemade products. The brand name? "Star - kasi galing naman siya sa itaas, eh." (Star - because it's a gift from above.) *





“In 2013, GANDA produced 60 graduates in Batangas and 525 in Subic, for a total of 585 new micro-entrepreneurs.”

Two more programs meant to promote greater self-sufficiency were launched in 2013. **Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP)** carries out skills and livelihood training and capacity building among indigent groups, out-of-school youth, and indigenous people, specifically unemployed menfolk, to help improve their socio-economic status.

Beneficiaries learn basic carpentry, small engine repair, masonry, plumbing, appliance servicing, computer hardware servicing, and consumer electronics servicing. The year it was started, SIKAP counted 60 beneficiaries in Oriental Mindoro, 118 in Palawan, and 50 in Subic, for a total of 228 graduates.



For the women, especially disadvantaged, indigenous, out-of-school females as well as mothers and single women, a counterpart program, **Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA)**, provides training in so-called “soft” skills. Women learn personal grooming, culinary arts, food processing, dressmaking and sewing, hairstyling, manicure/pedicure, massage, soap-making, and other trades that can lead to self-employment and micro-entrepreneurship, and allow them to earn money for themselves or augment the household income.

In 2013, GANDA produced 60 graduates in Batangas and 525 in Subic, the latter in cooperation with the local women’s NGO Subikanya, for a total of 585 new micro-entrepreneurs.

Last December 2013, several graduates of both SIKAP and GANDA marked the milestone at the Keppel Training Center in Subic, proving that it’s never too late to learn a new vocation. ★

Skills you can bring anywhere



ALEXIS John Cuevas, 23, had graduated from an electronics course in his home province of Antique, but came to Subic upon the suggestion of a friend, in search of better opportunities. He worked in a repair shop, but admits that his capabilities were limited. That’s why he welcomed the opportunity to join two other friends in the **Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP)** livelihood program of the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI).

“Gusto ko kasing magkaroon ng karagdagan kaalaman na magagamit ko,” he says, “para mas maganda rin yung kita. Malaking tulong din, at madadala mo yang kaalaman kahit saan ka pumunta.” (I wanted to acquire additional skills so I could earn better. It’s a big help also, because you can bring these skills with you wherever you go.) The hands-on training he received through SIKAP made all the difference, he says.

After his 20-day course in consumer electronics servicing in Subic last November 2013, Cuevas, who stays in a boarding house in Bgy. Baraca Camachile, found work with a Subic-based company that manufactures computer parts, and now does specialized repairs. *“Sinasabi ko sa iba, sumali kayo sa training. Sayang yung makukuha ninyo, salamat na rin sa Malampaya.”*

(I tell others, join the training. Don’t waste what you can get, thanks to Malampaya.)

Although he has yet to start a family, Cuevas says the added income has allowed him to make plans for his future. He is saving money to send his 16-year-old sister to school; she’s also interested in computers. First on the agenda, however: *“Magbukas ng sarili kong shop, kahit dito sa Subic; kahit saan, puede.”* (To open my own shop, here in Subic; anywhere is okay.) ★





Keeping their backyards clean

Community-based solid waste and environment management programs

THE close relationship between proper sanitation and waste management and the state of the environment has been an important message long communicated by the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) to the communities where it is present. To help elevate standards of cleanliness and curb marine pollution in coastal communities, the foundation has tapped several sectors to help actively implement the 3Rs - reducing, reusing, and recycling - in everyday life.

In 2010, working with the local government of Coron, Palawan, the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Dept. of Education (DepEd), MFI established the **Environment and Sanitation (EnviSan)** Program, specifically to educate coastal communities and their local leaders on systematic and effective waste management. By making such practices a habit, people learned that they could protect the environment and make their own lives better in the process, by controlling the diseases and health risks that come with polluted surroundings, and through livelihood opportunities from material meant to be thrown away.

A young 'green'

RICO Cortez is still adjusting to college life as a freshman at the Batangas State University, where the 17-year-old is studying Instrumentation and Control Technology in hopes of becoming a professional technician one day.

Cortez was accelerated to college after excelling in his last year at the Ambulong Elementary School in Batangas, where one of the feathers on this batch salutatorian's cap was the award of Young Eco Saver of the Year 2013, an exemplary participant in the **Young Eco Savers (YES)** Program of the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI). He apparently took his environmental work as president of the school's YES Club very seriously. *"Pag hindi inalagaan yung environment, paano naman yung susunod na generation? Maganda yung YES, kasi bata pa lang, natututo na kaming pahalagahan ang kalikasan."* (If you don't take care of the environment, what will happen to the next generation? The YES program is good because while young, we already learn to value nature.)

Cortez laments that sadly, many of his elders still have bad habits when it comes to waste management, the main mission of the YES troops. *"Pangit yung sira-sira at madumi, kahit saan lang nagtatapon ng basura. Meron pa rin talagang sutil at walang pakialam, kahit yung iba gumagawa ng effort."* (It's ugly when things are damaged and dirty, when people throw garbage anywhere. There are still some stubborn people and those who don't care, even if others make the effort.)

"He always has ideas for the betterment of the environment," a teacher wrote in a report on Cortez's performance. Indeed, he organized and headed such school groups as the Basura Busters and Patrol Pickers.

As YES Club President, he would go from classroom to classroom, discussing such issues as global warming and waste segregation. He's also a big believer in recycling. *"Yung nabubulok, nagiging pataba, tapos puede ka pang kumita sa ibang recyclable na nagagamit sa ibang paraan."* (The biodegradable stuff becomes fertilizer, and you can earn money from other recyclables used in a different way.) He's also proud that the use of plastic is now being limited in his home province.

The eldest of three children, Cortez, who lives in Sitio Silangan, Ambulong with his family, wants to eventually contribute to the family coffers or even find work abroad; his father is a truck driver, and his mother helps out in the school canteen. For now, he's concentrating on his studies, but when the time comes to pick school organizations he wants to join, his choice seems inevitable: *"Sana meron yung para sa environment din."* (Hopefully, something for the environment, too.) No wonder his teachers have lauded him as "the best example of a young ecosaver in his generation." ✱



As a targeted effort at cleaning up the immediate surroundings, MFI worked with the Environment Management Bureau of DENR in Puerto Princesa, Palawan to carry out Adopt An Estero in 2011 in Barangay Mandaragat. The first project site was a 790-meter section of the city's canal drainage system extending from Barangay San Miguel to Puerto Princesa Bay that had been clogged due to waste accumulation and misuse, resulting in a high incidence of sicknesses like dengue and gastroenteritis in nearby communities.

Volunteers and residents were mobilized to help in the cleaning. Vetiver grass or moras was planted on the banks to help prevent erosion. People were also taught how to make and use microbial mud balls, balls of soil mixed with good bacteria that were thrown regularly into the canal to help purify the water. Physical and chemical analyses of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids, the latest one carried out in June 2013, have shown a significant improvement in water quality.

The program also included an alternative livelihood component using the fast-growing vetiver as raw material. At the Livelihood Center in Barangay Mandaragat, Puerto Princesa, which recently got a

facelift, thanks to donated tiles and labor by scholars from MFI's own **Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST)** program, residents generate extra income by making ladies' bags, laptop bags, brochure covers, table runners, placemats, and slippers from the abundant grass.

An ingenious way to introduce the principles of waste management to the younger generation has been through the **Young Eco Savers (YES)** program, launched in 2011 in several public schools in Batangas City, which primarily taps students to practice waste segregation. By applying the 3Rs at an early age in a school setting, millions of youngsters nationwide can learn to develop environmental concern and responsibility.

For school year 2012-2013, YES was established in 11 public schools in Batangas City: in Tabangao Aplaya, Tabangao Ambulong, San Isidro, Libjo, Malitam, Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok, and Sta. Rita Karsada. Through regular assessment and visits by mentors, clear environmental procedures in each school were put in place.

The Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines helped in identifying training programs for leaders. In November 2013, training and skills workshops focusing on



“By applying the 3Rs at an early age in a school setting, millions of youngsters nationwide can learn to develop environmental concern and responsibility.”

ecological and solid waste management planning and implementation were held for Department of Education (DepEd) supervisors, principals, and teachers from 14 coastal schools, six of them in Verde Island.

The schools and students also took the initiative in expanding their own waste management programs, adopting such activities as a “No Junk Food” policy that helped reduce the amount of plastic being thrown away, the cultivation of organic vegetable gardens using recycled and compost materials, and fundraising through the sale of recycled junk material.

The recognition of outstanding Young Eco Savers per school has also encouraged students to keep up the “green” work. In 2013, Bolbok and Sta. Rita Elementary Schools were declared Gold Awardees by the Batangas local government for their innovative environmental programs. In March 2013, the YES program was further recognized with a Merit Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. ★



Bringing light to young minds

Solar electrification of public schools

MANY remote parts of the Philippines still do not have regular sources of electric power and running water, both of which have an inevitable impact on the well-being of schoolchildren. To contribute to a solution, the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) teamed up with the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE), a partnership of governments funded mainly by the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID), to bring electricity, as well as new sanitation facilities, to off-grid schools in Coron, Palawan through a program for the solar electrification of public schools.

Renewable solar energy is used to power a multimedia learning system that has reached thousands of children, and MFI helped bring the program to Lajala Elementary School, located in an island barangay, in 2012, and to Decabobo Elementary School, an inland school, in 2013. After using the CDs, DVD players, and monitors donated through the project, both schools reported positive results, such as improved test performance, greater student interest, and even a better experience for teachers.

In Lajala, where many of the 256 pupils in 2013 were from the native Tagbanua tribe, test results were consistently low from 2009 to 2012, but improved in 2013. Among the 290 students in Decabobo, better attendance and greater interest were also reported, a result of the more engaging, “high-tech” lessons.

To make water more readily available, and particularly to encourage the habit of handwashing among the students, MFI also helped construct sanitation infrastructure as an added component of the program. A water reservoir, two comfort rooms, and a handwashing area were installed at the inland San Jose Elementary School towards the end of 2012, and have been a big help in stocking water and developing hygienic awareness, as reported by the school's head teacher. ★



Lessons coming to life

WHAT difference can a new medium make in helping students do better in school? A lot, say the teachers in charge of two elementary public schools in Coron, Palawan, where the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has helped bring solar electricity to power multimedia learning systems.

“Natuwa sila, kasi nakita na nila ang mga bagay na hindi nakikita dito sa amin,” said Lerma Patron, teacher in charge at the Lajala Elementary School. *“Pag sinabing manonood na, unahan na sila sa upuan!”* (They were happy, because they got to see things that they don't see here in our place. When we say it's time to watch, they race to the seats!)

The learning aids have made lessons clearer and more memorable. Recently, Patron was discussing the life of Filipino national hero Andres Bonifacio, but could not show the children what he looked like, as the school's teaching materials had been washed away by Typhoon Yolanda. Fortunately, one of the CDs in the system included Bonifacio's life. *“Madali na-pi-pick up ng mga estudyante, lalo na yung history at science. Sabi nila, ‘Ah, ganoon pala ‘yun.’ Kaya pag exam, laging 100% pasado.”* (The children can pick up lessons faster, especially in history and science. They say, “So that's how it is.” So when it's exam time, 100% pass.)

Brenda Ortega, teacher in charge of Decabobo Elementary School, reports that with the system, a teacher's job has become easier, as well. *“Napapadali ang pagturo! Kung may gusto kang sabihin o isingit sa discussion, kailangan lang i-pause yung pinapanood. Mas madali maintindihan, kasi Tagalog yung material, saka mas nakikita at naririnig, hindi lang nababasa sa libro.”* (Teaching becomes easier! If you want to say something or insert something in the discussion, you just have to pause what they're watching. It's easier to understand, because the material is in Tagalog, and it's seen and heard, and not just read in a book.)

Out-of-school youth in Decabobo are also given the chance to view the materials on weekends as part of the school's active learning system, Ortega says. The added learning has already yielded results: Ortega reports higher scores for her Grade 3 and Grade 6 students in the last National Achievement Tests (NAT) for school year 2012-2013. ★





Wellness where it's needed

Health programs

THE HEALTH of a community is an important barometer of progress, and the well-being of the people in project areas has long been a priority for the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI). In areas where hospitals and doctors are sorely lacking, community health workers play important roles in addressing such issues as maternal and child health, disease control, and common causes of mortality.

In the province of Palawan, the **Masiglang BHW (Barangay Health Worker) Training Program** was established with a Memorandum of Agreement in 2011, in partnership with the Provincial Government of Palawan through the Provincial Health Office and rural health units. The aim is to enrich the knowledge of the BHWs, the most vital links in the community's primary health care organization, in order to refresh their skills and create a better system for reporting gathered data. Both standard and alternative health care practices are encouraged so that BHWs can back up the limited number of doctors working in community health centers. Training began in 2012, and the program is targeting the training of 3,000 BHWs by 2015; since its inception, it has reached 1,508 BHWs, 769 of them in 2013.

In Batangas, bringing such doctors where they are needed through the **Doctors to the Barangay (DttB)** project has been one of the activities under the provincial Community Health Program. These visits - a total of 272 between January and December 2013 - were carried out alongside health seminars on concerns such as dengue, diarrhea, diabetes, hand-washing, and chronic diseases. Seminars were conducted between August and December 2013 to



educate residents of the TALIM-TSR communities (Tabangao-Aplaya, Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam - Tabangao to Sta. Rita) on correct health practices, hygiene, and particularly on preventive measures to stop the spread of disease. Doctors from Diabetes Philippines-Batangas Chapter went on the barangay visits as MFI's partner in 2013, and also helped conduct the health seminars with the Philippine Red Cross.

Another Batangas-based effort, **Impok pang Kalusugan (IpK)**, is a community health insurance scheme managed by local cooperatives, working with the Batangas Medical Center. The aim is to make health care financing affordable to all. In 2013, the IpK counted 757 paying members.

Other components of the Batangas program also involve skills enhancement for BHWs, and the establishment and operation of community clinic. ★



No village is too far

TWICE a month, 56-year-old Grace Cahayag, barangay health worker (BHW), goes on visits to the different barangays in District II of Brooke's Point in Palawan. Over the last six years, she has helped save the lives of patients stricken with malaria and other potentially deadly diseases, and as a trained midwife, has brought many babies into the world.

"Siempre, proud ka, feeling sikat," she says laughingly of how people thank her after a successful delivery. "Malaki ang pasasalamat ko at nakakatulong ako. Nakaka-inspire din." (Of course, I'm proud, and you feel famous. I'm very grateful that I can help. It's inspiring.)

After graduating from high school, Cahayag found work as a hospital attendant, and kept the job for 21 years before retiring. Thus, looking after people's health comes naturally to this mother of three and wife of a security guard.

The five-day Masiglang BHW training of the Palawan Provincial Health Office and Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has been invaluable in helping augment her skills and refresh old knowledge, she says. "Marami kaming natutunan, lalo na pagdating sa kalusugan ng bata, mga vital signs, ang halaga ng bakuna at pre-natal care," she enumerates.

"Nagba-bahay-bahay kasi kami, at nag-lecture sa mga magulang tungkol sa kalusugan, sa linis ng kapaligiran." (We learned a lot, especially when it comes to children's health, vital signs, the importance of vaccines, and pre-natal care. We go from house to house to lecture parents on health, cleanliness of the environment.)

Cahayag knows how important a BHW's job is, so long treks to remote barangays don't faze her. "Kahit mahirap puntahan - minsan tubigan ang dadaanan - okay naman, pupuntahan namin." (Even if some places are hard to get to - sometimes we have to pass through water - it's okay, we will go.) ★



A learning experience

Education programs

ACKNOWLEDGING that education remains a key to progress for any society, the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has sought to enhance the learning experience for both teachers and students in public schools through various education programs, particularly in poverty-stricken areas. In response to Republic Act No. 8525, "An Act Establishing Adopt-A-School Program and Providing Incentives therefore and for Other Purposes," which encourages private groups to aid public schools, MFI has provided science laboratory equipment packages to 28 schools in north Palawan since 2010.

Working with the Knowledge Channel and the Department of Education (DepEd) through the **Upgrading the Standard of Education through Technology (USETEC)** program, MFI provides the information and communication technology (ICT) and infrastructure to make lessons in the sciences, math, history, social studies, English, values formation, and many other subjects more engaging for elementary school students, while also training teachers on the proper use of the materials. A United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report has indeed identified ICT as the most feasible way to deliver quality education to the largest number of Filipino students nationwide.

The results have been encouraging; with the Knowledge Channel learning system, which includes over 800 educational videos viewed through an LCD projector, fewer students have dropped out, and student performance in national achievement tests has markedly improved, as recently seen in three Batangas City public schools where USETEC was implemented in January 2013.

Teachers are also given the opportunity for further learning through the **Advanced Course on Competitive English for Teachers (ACCENT)**, a program designed to develop better English proficiency among elementary and secondary





“The computer-assisted learning program enhances the teacher’s listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities for greater mastery of the language.”

level public school teachers. The computer-assisted learning program enhances the teacher’s listening, speaking, reading, and writing abilities for greater mastery of the language. Over 1,600 public school teachers in Palawan, Batangas, and Oriental Mindoro have completed the ACCEnT program since its inception in 2007; in 2013, 189 teachers in Oriental Mindoro upgraded their English language skills.

For the first semester of school year 2013-2014, in a more individualized form of direct assistance, MFI also launched the Malampaya Sustainable Development Scholarship (Pilot) Program for Palawan-based resident professionals who can become future local environmental and energy leaders. The program finances graduate and post-graduate studies at the University of the Philippines (UP) for qualified students, covering school fees, books, a monthly stipend, and travel to Manila. The program is now supporting two scholars - one studying Energy Engineering and the other taking further studies in Natural Resource Management. ★

Making learning easy



“SA panahon ngayon, sa mga bata, kailangan talaga modern technology ang gamitin mo sa pagturo, para maka-catch up sila. Nakakatulong din siya sa mga traditional teaching methods.” (In these times, for the children, we really need to use modern technology in teaching so they can catch up. It supplements the traditional teaching methods.) So says Carol Panaligan, principal of the San Isidro Elementary School in Batangas, one of the first beneficiaries of the Malampaya Foundation Inc.’s (MFI) **Upgrading the Standard of Education through Technology (USETEC)** program.

In the two years since the school’s 487 students began trekking to the multimedia room to view videos covering English, math, science, and history, there has been a great improvement in performance in the National Achievement Tests, Panaligan reports. *“Tumaas talaga yung percentage ng nakakapasa, lalo na sa Grade 4-6 students namin. Plus, masaya din sila, parang may field trip, hindi lang naka-focus sa isang classroom.”* (The percentage of those who pass really increased, especially among Grade 4-6 students. Plus, they’re also happy, it’s like they’re on a field trip and not just focused on one classroom.)

Meanwhile, 22-year-old Rachel Eje, a school teacher at Managpi Elementary School in Calapan, Mindoro,

now requires her students to speak only English in English classes. *“Kailangan yung English as a second language para maging globally competitive tayo. Hindi lang kasi taga-dito ang nakakausap natin, pero pati tibang lugar. Tapos sa interviews, dapat good communicator ka.”* (We need English as a second language to become globally competitive. We don’t just talk to people from here, but also from different places. And in interviews, you have to be a good communicator.)

Eje, who underwent MFI’s **Advanced Course on Competitive English for Teachers (ACCEnT)** program in 2013, immediately reaped the benefits of her training. Despite being the youngest in her batch, she completed the course and shone during the school rankings, finishing in the top five and earning a promotion from kinder volunteer teacher to permanent employee. This daughter of schoolteachers, who says she finds fulfillment in seeing her students grow and develop, is now a sixth grade class adviser. *“Mahiyain kasi ako talaga, pero pagkatapos nung training, nung natuto na ako magsalita in public at nung sinabi nilang fluent na ako sa English, na-boost din yung morale ko.”* (I’m really shy, but after the training, when I learned to speak in public and when they said I was fluent in English, it boosted my morale.) ★

KALSADA
Kaligtasan sa Daan



Drive safely
Kaligtasan sa Daan
(KALSADA)

RECKLESSNESS, bad driving habits, and general ignorance of safety rules have made many roads in the Philippines dangerous places for both drivers and pedestrians. Some 1.2 million worldwide deaths per year are directly attributed to road accidents and hazards, estimates the World Health Organization (WHO).

In areas where its work involves frequent road transport, primarily Subic and Batangas the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) has promoted safer roads and defensive driving through **Kaligtasan sa Daan (KALSADA)**, a community-based program that educates road users and pedestrians on traffic rules, responsible road behavior, and safety skills.

In the Philippines, motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles (public utility tricycles) have been identified as the most vulnerable on the road, as well as the most unregulated in terms of adherence to traffic rules.

Basically a motorcycle with a covered sidecar attached, tricycles are a very important mode of transport in the country, plying smaller roads and transporting millions of people, including young children. MFI designed a **Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) Safety Driving Workshop** that includes a three-hour re-orientation lecture on such critical topics as defensive driving, traffic rules and road signs, right of way, vehicle dynamics, and the dangers of drunk driving.

This is followed by a four-hour **Practical Riding Enrichment Training**, where drivers get hands-on knowledge of their vehicle, target braking, proper posture, and other topics, along with a pre- and post-training assessment of driving skills. A similar workshop is offered to motorcycle riders, complete with theory, practice, and evaluation of skills and knowledge.

KALSADA was launched in Subic in July 2013, with the first training workshop held July 16 at Barangay Wawandue. From July to October 2013, 14 sessions had 444 tricycle drivers undergoing training. After a post-training testing evaluation, they registered an improvement of 17.9 percent from pre-training test scores. The Subic program also included a refresher course for traffic enforcers, held in June 2013, and conducted in partnership with the Land Transportation Office-Law Enforcement Traffic Adjudication System Olongapo and the Provincial Highway Patrol Group Zambales.

Batangas followed suit in October 2013, with MFI working with the Batangas City Government, the Land Transportation Office Region 4-A, and the Batangas City Federation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations.

In 19 sessions held from July to November 2013, 327 motorcycle drivers and 223 tricycle drivers underwent training, and registered an improvement of 21.3 percent in their post-training test scores. ★

Rules of the road

DERWIN Abanador, 29, a roving supervisor with the Transportation Development and Regulatory Office (TDRO) under the Office of the Mayor in Batangas City, spends much of his time on a motorcycle. Deputized to apprehend violators, he laments how his province-mates can sometimes be "pasaway" (disobedient). "Marami ditong reckless driver," he says. "Maraming aksidente dahil sa overloading, wala silang helmet, o nakainom." (There are many reckless drivers here. There are many accidents because of overloading, not wearing helmets, or driving when they've had a drink.)

That's why Abanador, who drives a 125-horsepower motorcycle, was happy to be among the 313 riders, 10 of them from his office, who were part of the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) **Kaligtasan sa Daan (KALSADA)** program, launched in Batangas in October 2013. "Siempre, dapat madagdagan ang kaalaman, kasi marami sa amin dito, pati sa opisina namin, kulang sa aral. Marami kaming natutunan, pati yung pag-check ng motor mo." (Of course, we have to add to our knowledge, because many of us here, even in our office, lack the information. We learned a lot, even just checking on your motorcycle.)

"Sa tagal ng panahon namin dito, wala kaming training sa defensive driving" (For the longest time, we didn't have any training in defensive driving), seconds Allan Catimbang, president of the 3,000-man-strong Subic-Zambales Tricycle Operators and Drivers' Association (SZTODA), covering six zones in the area.

Kuya Allan, as the 55-year-old retired Marine and father of six is affectionately called, recalls how tricycle drivers wouldn't stop at intersections, blocked pedestrian lanes, or even drove intoxicated.

The KALSADA training, held in Subic last July 2013, helped change a lot of attitudes. Today, under the leadership of Catimbang and other zone presidents, who meet every two weeks, the drivers wear uniforms, keep the streets clean, and are even planning to organize their own emergency brigade. "Dati wala silang pakialam. Sinabi namin sa kanila, hindi lang tayo driver, public servant tayo. Tayo ang naghahatid ng mga tao dito para umasenso ang Subic. Dapat makatulong din tayo sa kapwa natin." (Before, they didn't care. We told them, we aren't just drivers, we're public servants. We are the ones who ferry people around so Subic will progress. We should be able to help others.) ★





In times of trouble

Disaster and calamity assistance

IN times of crisis or calamity, it is often the poor who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged, with little means to cope with events and to recover in the grueling aftermath. Recognizing that it is the responsibility of private entities with sufficient resources to give aid where it is badly needed, especially to save and restore lives, the Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) stepped up in 2013 to lend a hand after two especially trying events in the nation's history.

The Zamboanga City siege on September 9-28, 2013 saw government troops battling rogue Moro National Liberation Front forces, resulting in protracted urban warfare and a tense hostage situation. Several communities were affected, with numerous casualties and over 100,000 people displaced. MFI donated P1 million to Sagip Kapamilya/ABS-CBN Foundation and another P1 million to the Red Cross as humanitarian aid for victims of the Zamboanga siege.

On November 9, 2013, the Philippines was pummeled by the strongest storm to hit land in recorded history, Typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda. The typhoon



ruin and loss of life, with over 6,000 people dead, 16 million affected, more than a million homes destroyed in 12,000 barangays in 44 provinces, and billions in damage to property, infrastructure, and agriculture.

MFI mobilized a few days later, when community volunteers in Barangay Ambulong, Batangas worked with the Bureau of Fire Protection to prepare an initial 1,300 relief bags. Otto Energy, operator of the Galoc Oil Field, transported the food, bottled water, hygiene kits, and fuel, via their supply vessel, to Coron, Culion, and Busuanga in northern Palawan.

This was soon followed by a donation of 2,000 more relief bags to the Palawan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council in Puerto Princesa for the municipalities of Culion and Busuanga. Some 5,000 more relief bags were distributed in Coron, where many indigenous Tagbanua people, many of whom had seen their humble homes blown away by Yolanda, trekked to collect much-needed supplies.

By December 2013, MFI had gone beyond relief goods to more long-term assistance, through the training of men in basic carpentry and building skills to help in the rebuilding and rehabilitation of houses, schools, boats,

Building again after the storm

"NANGHINA yung loob namin, dahil ang daming nasira," says 42-year-old Andy Babangga, a Tagbanua fisherman from the island of Bulalacao in Palawan. (We were disheartened, because so much was destroyed.) "Hindi biro yung dumaan sa amin," seconds 16-year-old Renan Aguilar, a Tagbanua fisherman's son from the island of Lajala, also in Palawan. "Kaya masakit din." (What happened to us was no joke. That's why it was painful.)

Both are recalling the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda, the strongest typhoon in recorded history that hit the Philippines in 2013, leaving unprecedented devastation. Both men lost a big chunk of their homes - but both also found a way to rebuild, in their own backyards as well as in the community.

Babangga and Aguilar both trained in carpentry under the Malampaya Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) **Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP)** program in December 2013, and received materials such as plywood, lumber, and nails, as well as tools to carry out their new assignments. "Gusto ko kasi matutunan yung carpentry, para maayos yung bahay namin at makatulong din sa ibang nasiraan" (I wanted to learn carpentry so I could fix our house, and also help others whose property was destroyed), says Babangga, a father of six who now takes in carpentry jobs when he is unable to go fishing. Babangga's batch of SIKAP trainees rebuilt Bulalacao's damaged elementary school and day care center.

"Nakakatuwa din kung nakatulong ka" (It feels good to help), says Aguilar, the third among six children, who now also makes boats when he isn't accompanying his father on fishing trips. He is hoping to find more permanent employment as a carpenter in Lajala. "Ngayon, ayos na lahat. Nakakatuwa tingnan. Lumipas na din." (Now, everything is fixed. It feels good to see that. It has passed.) ★





“MFI had gone beyond relief goods to more long-term assistance, through the training of men in basic carpentry and building skills to help in the rebuilding and rehabilitation.”

and other property on the islands of Bulalacao, Canipo, and Lajala that had been wrecked by the super typhoon.

Through MFI's **Sanayan sa Ikauunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP)** program, the men were trained in Coron by Technical Skills Development Authority (TESDA) - accredited instructors from Western Philippines University, and were given complete carpentry kits as well as lumber, marine plywood, metal sheets, and more to get the job done.

Later that same month, Oriental Mindoro followed suit, with some 60 survivors of Yolanda in Barangay Balatasan, Bulalacao undergoing training in basic carpentry skills to rebuild community infrastructure as well as their own damaged homes. Though not directly in Yolanda's path, Bulalacao was one of the hardest-hit municipalities in Mindoro. TESDA instructors also conducted the training, and the trainees, armed with MFI-provided carpentry kits and materials, immediately set out to repair such damaged structures as a school and a public waiting area.★





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