



Malampaya  
FOUNDATION



**2014 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**MALAMPAYA FOUNDATION INC.**



# MALAMPAYA FOUNDATION 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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Malampaya  
FOUNDATION



Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI)  
Chairman of the Board Rufino Bomasang  
(third from left, front) with members of the  
community in Lajala, Coron and MFI  
Executive Director Karen Agabin (second  
from left, front).

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S 2014 REPORT

The year 2014 marked Malampaya Foundation's 9th year. It was quite a busy year for the foundation in view of increasing scale and scope of the programs and geographical areas reached. We continue to grow our partnerships with government, non-government organizations and academic institutions to add value to the programs and help attain sustainability of intended goals.

In 2014, we spent a total of P118 million on our various programs covering four areas, namely, 5 municipalities in Northern Palawan, 7 municipalities and 1 city in Oriental Mindoro, Batangas City and Subic municipality.

### OUTPUTS and RESULTS

Allow me to highlight some outputs and results of the foundation's work in 2014:

- About 4,106 hectares of marine protected areas with improved mgmt., four (4) new marine protected areas established (totaling roughly 3,400 hectares) and six (6) new conservation agreements signed under our marine biodiversity conservation programs BAHURA in Palawan and VIP Conservation in Oriental Mindoro;
- We reached 2,950 direct beneficiaries through our livelihood, enterprise development and skills training programs LAMBAT, SIKAP and Project GANDA which also resulted to 1,152 jobs being created and environment-friendly enterprises being established as conservation incentive for partner people's organizations;
- 949 vocational graduates under the BEST program, with almost 30% immediately employed after schooling. In addition, some 533 BEST graduates from years 2013 and 2014 ended up working for the supply chain of Malampaya;
- 2,562 individuals capacitated on disaster preparedness and management and 139 bgy disaster risk response mgmt. councils made functional under our SHORE program. We are a 2014 GAWAD KALASAG Awardee of the NDRRMC-OCD from a nomination by Batangas City LGU;
- Our work on our health programs have resulted to 5,303 service counts for the community-based health insurance Impok Pangaklusugan established in 2007 in Batangas City, 719 bgy health workers trained in Palawan and 2,576 service counts for the Doctor-to-the-Bgy (Batangas City);
- On education, we have 72 university scholars in the undergraduate and post-graduate levels for the Malampaya Sustainable Devt Scholarship and 100 teacher graduates of the ACCENT Program;
- On community-based waste mgmt., the 25 Batangas school beneficiaries of the Young Eco-Savers program have reported 75% less waste collection and the ENVISAN program in Coron has expanded to two new sites;
- The KALSADA program has produced 1,920 two and three-wheel public utility drivers who are more educated, 90 traffic enforcers who are better enforcers and a reported 17% decrease in accidents involving tricycles in Subic;
- Our micro-finance support to three cooperatives under the BLP program in Batangas have increased income levels by an average of 100-120%; and,
- We signed the MOA for the Malampaya Clinical Laboratory in 2014 and have trained 20 community members who will help build the structure.

In 2014, we were also able to leverage approximately P19.7 million worth in counterpart from our partners. The figure is from our flagship programs alone. Monitoring and tracking is being improved so we can obtain a more complete data on fund leveraging amounts for all the programs.

The organization has also been building-up ample manpower to be able to deliver the scaled-up programs for the coming years, assurances and controls have been vastly strengthened and efficiency drive is continuous.

As the social arm of the Malampaya joint venture partners, we have made significant contributions to laying the foundation to uplift lives in Malampaya's areas of operation. As independent trustee and chairman, I am pleased to say that Malampaya has remained true to its sustainable development commitment twelve (12) years after being bestowed with the World Summit Business Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships by the United Nations Environmental Program and International Chamber of Commerce. It has remained economically viable through gas revenue returns, environmentally viable through clean natural gas and socially acceptable by working with partners and communities in the upliftment of lives.

Maraming salamat.

  
**RUFINO BOMASANG**

Chairman of the Board  
Malampaya Foundation Inc.



## SAVING THE SEA CONTINUES

Beneath the breathtaking beaches the Philippines is world-famous for lies a rich and diverse marine life. Three areas with a seemingly endless variety and abundance of marine species are located in the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME): the Verde Island Passage, a strait that connects the provinces of Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon; Tablas Strait, the body of water that divides Mindoro and Panay; and Cuyo Pass, a marine channel in Southern Mindoro. Otherwise known as priority marine conservation corridors, these corridors continuously sustain fishing grounds in Balayan Bay, Tayabas Bay, and Northern Palawan. They also supply fish eggs and larvae to the Sulu Sea.

Since its founding in 2005 as a joint venture of Shell Philippines Exploration, Chevron Malampaya LLC, and the Philippine National Oil Company Exploration Corporation, the Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) has remained steadfast in its commitment to conserving the vast waters and marine life in Northern Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, and Batangas City—areas where the Malampaya Deepwater Gas- to-Power project operates.

This it achieves by forging partnerships with communities in areas that rely on the seas to support their families. Of the 123 identified Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs), 10 are part of MFI's biodiversity focal sites.

Through efforts like Palawan's Barangay Aquatic Habitat and Underwater Regeneration Assistance (BAHURA) program and the Verde Island Passage (VIP) conservation program in Batangas and Mindoro, MFI has facilitated

partnerships with fisherfolks and their families to impart knowledge, skills, and conservation incentives necessary to improve and sustain coastal resource management. Upon signing a Conservation Covenant with MFI, barangays and partner community organizations are educated on the importance of the sea and their surroundings and provided trainings on proper coastal maintenance, eco-friendly sanitation and waste management practices, and the rehabilitation of damaged and degraded ecological resources. To ensure the continued interest and commitment of the stakeholders, they are made to be involved in reef assessment, habitat monitoring and evaluation, marine protected area (MPA) establishment and management, social mobilization and advocacy, information education campaigns, and resource rehabilitation initiatives.

Advocates of marine conservation will tell you that theirs is no easy undertaking. Natural and man-made accidents happen—like the time a barge ran aground in a marine sanctuary in Puerto Galera at the height of Typhoon Ruby on December 2014, crushing coral reefs in the process. Five months earlier, another ship grounding incident, also in Puerto Galera, resulted in up to P20 million pesos worth of damages, with some 1,422 square meters of damaged coral area noted in a coral garden site and approximately 1,089 square meters of damaged coral area spotted in a giant clam site. Indeed, reports of blasted and degraded reefs, algal overgrowth, improper waste disposal, and the absence of herbivore and predatory fish in BAHURA and VIP sites are enough to overwhelm even the most dedicated of volunteers.

## BEST MANAGED MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND BANTAY DAGAT GROUPS

Yet for all the challenges of saving our seas, there are still many willing to take it on. In 2014, four focal sites under MFI landed in the 10 Best Managed Marine Protected Areas and Best Performing Bantay Dagat Groups (Agsalin, Gloria, 1st; Puting Cacao, Pola, 2nd; Lazareto, Calapan, 7th; Corima, Pola, 8th). Winners were chosen based on the findings of an independent team of evaluators from the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro through the efforts of the Provincial Agriculture Office. The recognition is a regular event in conjunction with the Province's Foundation Day Celebration.

Last year also saw new MPAs established in Oriental Mindoro (Sta. Theresa, Gloria; Baco; Sigayan, Puerto Galera; Tacigan and Ilag, San Teodoro; and Balatasan and Maasin) and Northern Palawan (Bulalacao, Coron; CYC Coron; San Miguel and Pical, Linacapan; Bucana, El Nido; Buena Suerte, El Nido; Tumbod and Liminangcong, Taytay). Volunteer MPA managers and environmental law enforcers in these areas received logistic support for duties that include regular patrolling, the maintenance of boundary markers, the management of regular clean-ups and the collection of Crown-of-Thorns starfish, and conducting regular monitoring, evaluation, response, and feedback of conservation efforts.

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Meanwhile, numerous awareness campaigns mounted by MFI kept communities up to date on the latest in environmental issues. In May 2014, talented young artists celebrated the Month of the Ocean in an art workshop set up by MFI and the Local Government Unit in Puerto Galera. That same month, MFI teamed up with Palawan's Provincial Government's Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for an Enforcement and Coastal Resource Management Workshop. School-based IECs were facilitated by MFI with the Local Government of Gloria in Oriental Mindoro and the staff of the Provincial Agriculture Office in June of 2014, reaching over 600 kids. In September 2014, fisherfolks and members of barangay fisheries and aquatic resource management councils (BFARMC) were among those who attended an Education and Deputation Workshop organized by MFI together the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the El Nido Foundation. In October and November 2014, four-day youth camps in Oriental Mindoro and Palawan saw over 150 students and teachers take part in lectures informing them about coastal resources and concerns, environmental laws, and other eco-related topics.

While six barangays signed conservation agreements with MFI before the end of 2014 (Barangays Buena Suerte and Bucana, in El Nido, Palawan; and Barangays Ilag and Tacigan in San Teodoro, Barangay Lazareto in Calapan City, and Barangay Sta. Theresa in Gloria, Oriental Mindoro), communities who have solidified earlier partnerships with MFI are now beginning to reap the rewards of their hard work and perseverance.

## MFI'S PIONEER PARTNERS TODAY

Placing first in among the 10 Best Managed Marine Protected Areas and Best Performing Bantay Dagat Groups in an awards presentation held in November 2014, Agsalin Fish Sanctuary in Barangay Agsalin, Gloria, has come a long way from the time it was established in 2005, reconfigured to its current size from 36 hectares to 80 hectares in 2011, and when it signed a conservation agreement with MFI in September 2013. "Madugo, mahirap nung una (It was bloody, hard at first)," admits Jonathan Fajilagot, president of the Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Agsalin and chairman of the Agsalin Fish Sanctuary Management Council. "Pero ngayon, pati kababaihan at kabataan ay kasali; ang mga bata nga gusto maging diver (But now, even the women and children are involved; the children, in fact, want to become divers)."

Once armed with information and skills, the community rallied together towards the regular management and patrolling of its MPAs, as well as scheduled clean-ups, collection of Crown of Thorns, and maintenance of MPA boundary markers. Safety and enforcement tools like lifejackets, life buoys, megaphones, binoculars, and other life-saving equipment were also provided to Bantay Dagat volunteers as part of MFI's VIP conservation program.



Strengthening of community-based bantay dagats to improve enforcement.





Launching of the 1,000+-hectare marine protected area at Bulalacao, Coron with the Tagbanua tribal chieftain and Bgy, Chairman.

For successfully maintaining 80 hectares of strict protections zone, Aagsalin Fish Sanctuary received P225,000 worth of projects incentives. The MPA Management Council utilized the incentive for winning as the best managed MPA in Oriental Mindoro to purchase a piece of property in front of the sanctuary. A management decision that is rare, if not the only one in the country to date, which can be attributed to the community recognizing the need to effectively manage its coastal and marine resources.

Placing second was Barangay Puting Cacao's St. John the Baptist Fish Sanctuary, which maintained 49 hectares of strict protections zone. "Nakikilala ang bayan namin (Our town is getting recognized)," beams Jonathan Minge, president of the St. John the Baptist Fish Sanctuary and chairman of its management council; the accolade is the second for the group since it was founded four years ago.

The award has inspired members to continue the conservation actions introduced by MFI's VIP program after an agreement was signed in September 2013; these actions include the management and enforcement of MPAs, regular clean-ups, collection of Crown of Thorns, maintenance of MPA boundary markers, mangrove reforestation, and upland reforestation. It also allows them to make much-needed improvements in their community. Minge says they plan to use the monetary incentive to upgrade the multipurpose hall where meetings

and training sessions are held. Barangay Puting Cacao was likewise a recipient of equipment and training for Bantay Dagat.

For Barangay Balatasan's Fish Sanctuary Management Council, MFI's conservation and protection practices enhance the community's own efforts at keeping the sea and their environment safe and clean. "Every last Saturday of the month, talagang nagtutulungan kami maglinis dito (we really help each other in clean-ups)," says Lojim Toribio, president of the group that signed a conservation agreement with MFI in September 2013. Added awareness from the program has made the community want to step up its security measures. "Gusto sana namin magtayo ng guardhouse. Kung may guardhouse, makikita talaga namin kung sinong mangingisda ang pumupunta sa sanctuary (We'd like to construct a guardhouse. With it, we can really see the fishermen who go to the sanctuary)," he says.

Since signing a conservation agreement with MFI in June 2013, residents of Barangay Tumbod, Taytay, Palawan have turned from a group of people with zero environment-saving practices to a community united in protecting its surroundings. They've facilitated and gone through the rigors of identifying and consulting with other community members the need to establish management zones in the outer Malampaya Sound. These proposed management zones include strict

protection and sustainable use zones encompassing mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs. They have also committed three hectares for reforestation and have been conducting regular coastal clean-ups as an indication of their heightened consciousness on the long-term effects of mindless trash disposal. "Kung ano ang nasa itaas, 'yun din ang bumababa sa dagat (Whatever is on top eventually sinks to the bottom of the sea)," says Nolita Rey, president of the Samahan ng Nagkakaisa sa Kaunlaran ng Barangay Tumbod. "Ever since naging samahan kami, marami ang nagbago sa amin. Unang una, sa kalinisan. Dati, kalat na kalat ang basura dito, ngayon lahat ng purok may trashcan. At ngayon, wala nang pwedeng pumutol ng bakawan at inaalaan na namin ang corals namin. Unti-unti kami nagkaisa (So much has changed since we formed our group. First, the cleanliness. Before, trash was all over the place; now, each area has a trashcan. And now, we no longer cut bakawan and we care for our coral reefs. Slowly, we've become united)."

Ultimately, these efforts have a transformative effect not just on the sea and marine life but on the people committed to their conservation. Echoing the sentiments of his fellow fishermen, Minge says, "Tumataas ang kaalaman ng mangingisda. 'Di tulad ng dati na pangisda lang ang alam nila. Ngayon, marami na silang alam (Fishermen's knowledge is improving. Not like before when fishing was all they knew. Now, they know much more)."



Grassroots education and action planning with the community is a year-round activity in MFI's marine conservation program.



### Improved data-gathering methods

MFI's investments on biodiversity conservation seek to integrate changes, not only on the system of resource management and governance, but also from the perspective of utilizing empirical and science-based information on resource management decisions. The formation of community-based reef-watch teams composed of fisherfolks, focal persons for CRM of local government units and Protected Area Offices of National Parks is crucial to achieve this. These reef-watch teams are SCUBA divers certified to employ the reef survey protocol popularized by Reef Check. Some 35 members of these teams from Batangas City, Oriental Mindoro, Coron, Culion, Linapacan, El Nido, and Taytay are tapped during survey and monitoring seasons, which happen during summer and October of each year. These teams signed a volunteering agreement with MFI and were provided with insurance incentives, other than the SCUBA diving licensing and Reef Check certifications. The Oriental Mindoro Resource Monitoring Team was recognized and installed by the Provincial Governor, an indication of the full support of the provincial government.

The 2014 reef surveys produced enough information to reflect the status of MPA management in various focal sites. Photo and video documents were likewise produced and have been very useful during community meetings, consultations, and gathering feedback of results to make informed decisions at the local and provincial government levels. Among the most interesting findings of the Oriental Mindoro Resource Monitoring Team (ORMT) are the improvements in reef fish populations of well-managed MPAs in Pola, Pinamalayan and Gloria. Conversely, recommendations to improve the management of other MPAs were made easier because of direct access to information on reef status. The ORMT was also involved in the assessment of coral damage due to ship grounding in Puerto Galera. Some members of the team also helped in the assessment of proposed MPA in Baco and other non-MFI sites in Oriental Mindoro.



Conservation Agreement with local people's organization, the municipal government and Department of Environment-Protected Area Office for Bay Bucana, El Nido.





The reef-watch teams of Batangas City, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan were also instrumental in the significant proliferation and outbreak of Crown-of-Thorns starfish in all MPAs and non-protected reef areas. Through direct collection, the reef-watch teams were able to save over 100 hectares of corals reefs from being devoured by this coral-feeding starfish. Without this intervention, an extreme and continuous outbreak can progressively affect over 4,000 hectares of protected reefs in MFI's focal sites.

The reef-watch teams of Coron and Culion was able to gather information on the impact of Typhoon Yolanda in their MPA and non-protected sites. The data gathered became instrumental in the establishment of the CYC Island MPA and its nearby reefs in Coron. Results of reef surveys in Linapacan was utilized to expand the San Miguel and Pical MPAs. A challenging task for an area that is still known for illegal fishing activities like dynamite and poison fishing, and the use prohibited underwater breathing apparatus or Huka/Compressor fishing.

Results of the reef surveys in El Nido and Taytay National Parks were presented to the stakeholders and the Protected Area Management Boards. The findings were utilized to propose the establishment of management zones in the outer Malampaya Sound and the need to improve the management and enforcement of focal CMMAs in El Nido.

The biodiversity conservation initiatives of MFI continue to gain grounds, with over 4,000 hectares of community-managed MPAs under its support. Crucial to this success is the active involvement of resource management champions in Batangas City, Oriental Mindoro, Coron, Culion, Linapacan, El Nido, and Taytay. With these partnerships, it is possible that the area of coverage of protection will more than double in size in the next fiscal year. ●

#### BAHURA AND VIP AT A GLANCE IN 2014

20	<b>BARANGAYS</b> (12 VIP, 8 BAHURA) covered by end of 2014
17	<b>CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS</b> (11 in 2013, 6 in 2014) signed as of December 2014
4,106	<b>HECTARES OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS</b> created, protected, or improved
~100	<b>HECTARES MPA saved from</b> Crown Of Thorn damage
20	<b>PERCENT</b> (in BAHURA and VIP) reduction in pollution due to coastal clean-ups and other campaigns



■ Payao (fish aggregating device) livelihood project in Oriental Mindoro.

## EARNING WHILE LEARNING

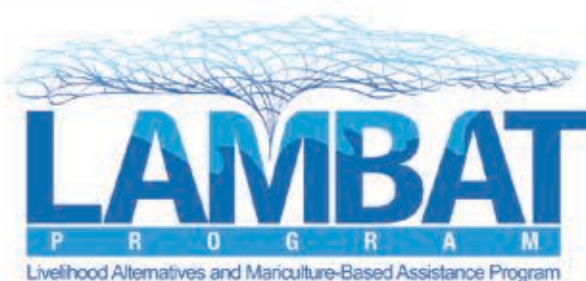


■ Mariculture training in North Palawan.

When you have been a fisherman all your life, the thought of suddenly doing something else for a living is unnerving. Can you still learn a new skill after devoting more than 10 years to a single trade? More importantly, will you be able to support your growing family with it?

Longtime fishermen from Oriental Mindoro Jonathan Fajilagot, Jonathan Minge, and Lojim Toribio discovered they could through the Livelihood Alternatives and Mariculture-Based Assistance (LAMBAT) Program, which introduces fisherfolk communities to other viable sources of income and provides the necessary training for them. Local government units, the Western Philippines University, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority prove valuable partners in this socioeconomic endeavor, one of the flagship programs of Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI).

In Agsalin, Gloria, the Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Agsalin (SaMa) credits the use of the fish aggregating device payao for the marked improvement of its catches. From a kilo, says Fajilagot, president of SaMa, to as much as 3 kilos a day during peak season. This can translate to up to P120,000 worth of fish harvested. "Dati, kung saan-saan lugar kami nangingisda. Ngayon, doon lang kami kung saan may payao (Before, we used to just fish anywhere. Now we only fish in areas with payao)," says the 37-year-old Fajilagot, who learned to fish by tagging along with his father's



■ Eco-tourism livelihood projects are among the most successful income diversification programs of MFI.



■ Seaweeds farming in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro.



■ Animal raising and animal husbandry are highly feasible in all areas as supplemental livelihood.

friends at the tender age of 6. A floating device that attracts fish, the payao also serves as a boundary of sorts to ward off outsiders from trespassing in municipal waters.

In Barangay Puting Cacao, Pola, members of St. John the Baptist Fisherfolk Organization (SJBFO) underwent training for goat raising. Though the alternative livelihood is still in its initial stage (goat mortality was at 32%, and an assessment in November 2014 reported 31 pregnant goats and 8 goat kids), these fishermen managed to make the most of the situation. According to Minge, 37-year-old president of SJBFO and a fisherman for the past 16 years, goat manure was collected and sold to farmers and fish pen owners for organic fertilizer.

Since learning seaweed culturing and processing in October 2014 and banana making and buri weaving in December 2014, folks from Barangay Balatasan in Bulacacao have been very busy. They now produce variants of seaweed (from yema and noodles to pickles) and spicy dilis, and even know how to dye buri bags. "*Malakas ang benta ng banana sa amin* (Our banana has strong sales)," reports Toribio, 36, and a fisherman for 16 years, of the Balatasan Fish Sanctuary Management Council.

Indeed, with LAMBAT's assistance, fishermen and their families can count on continuous earnings all year round through several income-generating ventures. Like the Saint John the Baptist Fisherfolk Organization, families under Calima, Pola's Calima Socio Economic Multi Purpose Cooperative (CASEMPCO) and members of San Andres, Baco's LIKHA KAMI group were trained to raise goats.

For an ecotourism business to thrive, it must serve a strong tourist market. Puerto Galera's Samahang Pangkabuhayan ng mga taga Dulangan reaped big from its ecotourism and wellness projects; the group earned P200,000 from kayak gear rentals alone. In El Nido, the Pagkakaisa Pagtutulungan Kalikasan Pagkaingatan engages in soap making and food processing, items its members can sell when they open souvenir shops.

Meanwhile, the members of Balatasan Fishermen and Farmers Association are supplementing their incomes by making and selling seaweed foodstuff and handwoven products. And like the Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Aagsalin, Pinamalayan's Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Ranzo (SMR) and Samahang Nagkakaisang Mangingisda ng Barangay Banilad (SNMBB) hauled in big catches and

earnings from the fish aggregating device payao. In a report, SNMBB caught P25,000 worth of fish; SMR yielded double the amount.

Abalone farming, a trade taught alongside goat raising in Taytay's Samahan ng mga Nagkakaisa sa Kaunlaran ng Barangay Tumbod, Linacapan's Samahan ng Mangingisda na Cuyunon sa Barangay San Miguel, and Nurunutan yang Manigbila na Tagbanua tong Barangay Pical, offers eco-friendly benefits as well as added income. The species aids in the rehabilitation of reefs. Tumbod, Taytay, in fact, boasted a significant growth of its abalones; because of this development, two other potential sites in the area are eyed for abalone culture.

Alternative sources of livelihood are as good for the ocean as they are to the communities who look after it. While fishermen focus to other ways to augment their earnings, they allow marine life some much-needed time to recover and regenerate. ●

## LAMBAT AT A GLANCE IN 2014

### ECOTOURISM

PAGKAKAISA PAGTUTULUNGAN KALIKASAN PAGKAINGATAN (EL NIDO, PALAWAN)

No. of members: 43

Potential livelihood: Soap making, food processing, souvenir shop

SAMAHAN PANGKABUHAYAN NG MGA TAGA DULANGAN (PUERTO GALERA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 32

Other ongoing livelihood: Health and wellness projects, snorkeling and kayak equipment rental

### FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (PAYAO)

SAMAHAN NG NAGKAKAISANG MANGINGISDA NG BARANGAY BANILAD (PINAMALAYAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 60

SAMAHAN NG MANGINGISDA NG RANZO (PINAMALAYAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 50

SAMAHAN NG MANGINGISDA NG AGSALIN (GLORIA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 68

### SEAWEED CULTURE AND PROCESSING

BALATASAN FISHERMEN AND FARMERS ASSOCIATION (BALATASAN, BULACAO, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 92

### ABALONE FARMING AND GOAT RAISING

SAMAHAN NG MGA NAGKAKAISA SA KAUNLARAN NG BGY. TUMBOD, TAYTAY (PALAWAN)

No. of members: 54

Potential livelihood: Dress making, organic hog raising, organic vegetable growing

SAMAHAN NG MANGINGISDA NG CUYUNON SA BGY. SAN MIGUEL, LINACAPAN (PALAWAN)

No. of members: 50

Potential livelihood: Salt making, free range chicken growing, gardening, hog raising, herbal soap making

NURUNUTAN YANG MANIGBILA NA TAGBANUA TONG BGY. PICAL (PALAWAN)

No. of members: 56

Potential livelihood: Gardening, soap making

### GOAT RAISING AND DISPERSAL

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST FISHERFOLK ORGANIZATION (PUTTING CACAO, POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 29

FISHERFOLK ORGANIZATION UNDER THE CALIMA SOCIO ECONOMIC MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE (CALIMA, POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 30

LIKHA KAMI (SAN ANDRES, BACO, ORIENTAL MINDORO)

No. of members: 54



## SKILLED FOR A BETTER LIFE

In 2013, a total of 1,836,345 Filipinos were deployed to various jobs overseas, according to a report by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

Expect the figure to rise each year. Fast learners, proficient in English, and industrious by nature, Filipinos are among the most preferred and valued workers around the world, thriving in such fields as engineering, architecture, information technology, education, healthcare, construction, and labor. As professional and skilled Filipinos continue to be in such high demand in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, comprehensive training and hands-on experience are essential to prepare them for opportunities to help elevate their families' lives and shine in the global work place.

Founded in 2006, Malampaya Foundation, Inc.'s (MFI) Bridging Employment Through Skills Training (BEST) provides out-of-school youth and unemployed adults in Palawan, Batangas, Subic, and Oriental Mindoro with a range of technical,

vocational, and educational training (TVET) courses. Partners in this MFI flagship program include the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and each province's local government unit and TESDA-accredited training centers. Industry Networking (I-Net) then connects BEST graduates with local and international companies that could use their newly acquired skills.

Welding, pipe-fitting, piping insulation, scaffolding, various construction skills, machining, and Integrated Construction Skills-Building Operatives (carpentry, electrical installation and maintenance, and plumbing) are among the courses offered by BEST. Recognizing the bustling tourism industry in Palawan, MFI included food and beverage services as well as housekeeping into the province's roster of BEST programs. Scholars also undergo classes in values formation and basic English to enhance their morale and communication skills. A TESDA-accredited National Certification (NC) II is presented to

successful BEST scholars at the end of the course.

To date, BEST has handed out certifications to 3,427 scholars—2,050 from Batangas, 813 from Oriental Mindoro, 496 from Palawan, and 68 from Subic.

While simply learning a skill and landing a job are the initial objectives of BEST students, many, like 2014 scholars Anthony Mangao and Roniel Ibañez, and Diegsar Rios, who graduated in 2013, are realizing that they are also capable of being and doing more. Mastering a trade from scratch may be tough, concedes Rios, "pero kung bibigyan mo ng oras at gugustuhin mo talaga, makakayanan mo siya (if you give it time and you really like what you're doing, you will manage)."

At 22, Anthony Mangao isn't just the first of his nine siblings to finish studies beyond high school; he's also the first to experience life and work overseas. As of this writing, the native of Oriental Mindoro was in

the midst of processing his papers for a two-year contract in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after completing a training program in welding offered by BEST in 2014.

A few years ago, nobody would have expected such a promising future for Mangao—much less he. After high school, Mangao was a typical *istambay* (unemployed) until he and some friends came upon MFI's BEST program. "Mahirap nung una, pero nakayanan din (It was hard at first, but I managed)," he says of the welding course. When he graduated on December 2014, his parents—a farmer and homemaker—proudly witnessed their sixth-born claim his certificate. But Mangao has only begun to tap into his true potential. "Gusto kong tulungan ang mga magulang ko (I want to help my parents)," he says when asked about his life goals, "at pakapag-apon para sa kinabukasan ko (and to save money for my future)."

A resident of Calauag in Taytay, Palawan, Roniel Ibañez just happened to live near MFI's regional office, where he saw a sign announcing scholarships in various vocational courses under BEST. Upon passing the exam, he spent three months immersed in electrical, plumbing, and carpentry courses, then graduated in May 2014. Three months later, he got a job with DDT Konstruct, Inc., a AAA Philippine contractor whose projects include upscale residential condominiums, world-class high-rise business centers, and dynamic retail establishments all across the country. Assigned in the construction of a hotel in his native Palawan, Ibañez worked in the plumbing department for five

months before handling the electrical concerns of the development.

"Masaya po (I'm happy)," says Ibañez, a high school graduate and former security guard of his new profession. "Nung security guard ako, 12 hours ako nagtatrabaho, wala pang bayad sa overtime, Ngayon, eight hours kami sa trabaho, binabayaran kami ng overtime (When I was a security guard, I worked 12 hours a day without overtime pay. Now, we work eight hours a day and we're paid when we work overtime)." With the added income, Ibañez was able to purchase a motorcycle, which he drives to and from work. He's also able to set aside savings for his growing family; he and his wife are the parents of a six-year-old. Presently living with his father, Ibañez would like to invest in a piece of land so he and his family can finally build a home of their own.

Indeed, more than improved wages and work conditions, the skills he learned from BEST have inspired him to dream. "Gusto ko sana makakuha ng exam para sa [Registered Master Electrician] (I want to be able to take the exam for Registered Master Electrician)," says Ibañez. "Pag makapasa ka doon, mas madaling kumuha ng trabaho sa ibang bansa (Once you pass it, it's easier to get a job abroad)."

Today, the 28-year-old can only speculate what his life might have been like had he not pursued the BEST program. "Siguro security guard pa rin. O tricycle driver (Maybe I'd still be a security guard. Or a tricycle driver)," he muses. "Sayang din ang opportunity na binigay sa iyo 'pag hindi



Diegsar Rios are among the BEST scholars hired as rigger for the Malampaya Phase 3 project in Keppel Shipyard Subic. Afterward, he landed a job in Quebec, Canada.

Conduct Pipe Leak Testing  
Work Station



*mo pinagtrabahuan* (An opportunity that is given to you is wasted if you don't work hard)."

Employed as a welder for an international shipping company based in Subic, Diegsar Rios could have easily settled for what he had. Still, there was something about MFI's tarpaulin of its BEST programs, which he saw on his daily bus commute to work, that piqued his interest. "*Subukan ko lang, baka sakali* (Let me try, you'll never know)," the 33-year-old recalls thinking.

After undergoing a 10-day course in rigging and signalling, Rios graduated in October 2013 and had a month's worth of on-the-job training at Keppel Subic Shipyard, site of Phases 2 and 3 of Malampaya's Deepwater Gas-to-Power Project. Keppel hired him after his OJT stint and Rios completed a year-long contract.

The job was a godsend in more ways than one. While his previous employer paid him P340 a day, "*may kaltas pa yan* (with deductions)," he reminds, he received double the amount per hour at Keppel. Apparently, a year with the company was more than enough to make a good impression at a Subic Job Fair. Besting riggers and signallers with more work and travel experience, Rios was one of the few applicants to land a job in Quebec, Canada. As of this writing, he's waiting for his visa and plane ticket to be released; he's also learning to speak French, a requirement of his new employer. "*Matataas po ang mga pinagalaran ng mga kasama ko sa klase, pero nauunahan ko ko pa sila* (My classmates are more advanced academically, but I still do better than them)," says Rios proudly. Citing his dedication and focus, he adds, "*Siempre may pressure, pero kailangan mong dumaan sa pressure para makuha mo ang prize* (Of course there's pressure, but you have to go through it to get the prize)."

For Rios, that "prize" is more than a house, car, and other material comforts—it's the opportunity to help his relatives, his church, and the less fortunate. "*Sana makapagbigay din ako ng scholarship* (I hope I can also give out a scholarship)" says this grateful BEST alumni. "*Sa bawat pag-angat ng Pilipino, umaangat din ang bansa. Dapat lahat maging kabalikat, hindi pabigat* (The country progresses with every Filipino who progresses. We should all help each other, not be a burden)." ●

## BEST AT A GLANCE IN 2014

### BATANGAS

Piping insulation	210
Scaffolding	90
Electrical installation maintenance	84
Pipe fitting	83
Welding	30

Total scholars 497

### ORIENTAL MINDORO

Scaffolding	225
Welding	30

Total scholars 255

### PALAWAN

Food & Beverage Services	73
Housekeeping	69
Integrated Construction Skill and Building Operatives	55

Total scholars 197

TOTAL BEST SCHOLARS IN 2014 **949**

Roniel Ibanez from Taytay, Palawan, a former security guard who gained employment with a development company after his BEST scholarship in 2014.



■ A BEST graduation in Batangas with more than 300 graduates.



Rescue team of Isla Verde, Batangas City.

## TRAINED TO SAVE LIVES

Signed into law on May 27, 2010, Republic Act 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, calls for "strengthening the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management system, providing for the national disaster risk reduction and management framework, and institutionalizing the national disaster risk reduction and management plan, appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes."

It's a law that is relevant to a country prone to natural calamities. Located along the Ring of Fire, a horseshoe-shaped border along the Pacific Ocean region where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions frequently occur, the Philippines is also part of a typhoon belt, which puts it on the receiving end of some of the most deadliest cyclones. Classified a Category 5 storm by US meteorologists, 2013's Super Typhoon Yolanda was the most powerful cyclone ever recorded in history. And in 2014, hundreds more Filipinos lost their lives, while scores were left homeless after the wrath of devastating storms like Typhoon Glenda in July, Ruby in November, and Seniang a month later.

With the effects of climate change becoming more and more apparent, expect forthcoming weather conditions to worsen. In his report for the science forum "Environmental Leadership In Climate Change

Adaptation," held in Los Baños, Laguna, on January 2014, Climate Change Commission commissioner Naderev Saño revealed some disturbing developments as a result of significant global weather changes due to long-term environmental abuse and neglect. Besides the typhoon belt shifting from northern Luzon to the Visayas, the country, which experiences an average of 20 typhoons a year, should brace itself for at least six cyclones packing maximum winds of up to 220 kilometers per hour. Citing a report from Philippine weather bureau PAGASA, Saño added that "the rainy season will be 60 percent wetter, while the dry season will be 60 percent drier."

To prepare barangays, particularly those situated along coastlines, to face inevitable calamities with the appropriate life-saving knowledge, skills, and equipment, Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) created the Shoreline Communities Onwards To Resiliency (SHORE) program. A collaboration between MFI, local government units, the Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Philippine Red Cross, SHORE initiates the formation of community-based disaster management and response teams and trains members how to respond to fires, earthquakes, floods, landslides, and other emergencies. Basic first-aid methods,

including CPR, are taught, and facilities like spine boards, stretchers, life vests, helmets, throw bags, and telescopes are also provided.

For the residents of Barangay Calapacuan in Subic, Zambales, training with SHORE facilitators in the early part of 2014 has made a huge difference in their lives. An agricultural and fishing community, Calapacuan is vulnerable to both landslides and flooding. "Lalung-lalo na po sa mga mabababang lugar. 'Pag ulan at bagyo, umaabot hanggang hita o baywang ang baha. Nung habagat po, umabot hanggang leeg. At kahit mababa lang po ang baha, malakas naman ang current (Especially in the low-lying areas. During rain and typhoons, floods reach leg or waist level. During monsoon rains, floods reach neck level. And even if the flood is low, the current is strong)," says Joseph Guerrero Mauricio, 47-year-old barangay administrator of Calapacuan and head of its Barangay Emergency Response Team (BERT).

Disasters, however, are not limited to natural calamities. Road-related incidents, says Mauricio, are the most common type of calamity in a community with a population of more than 15,000.

Admittedly, he and the fellow volunteers used to tackle such emergencies in haphazard fashion.



Training with SHORE has armed them not only with proper skills but the confidence to save lives. In 2014, when continuous monsoon rains brought landslides in Calapacuan and another barangay some 10 kilometers away, BERT members were one of the first to respond in the middle of the night, moving distraught residents from their flooded, muddied homes to the barangay hall and schools that served as evacuation centers. BERT has also successfully tracked down three of its local fishermen four days after nonstop rains swept them westward to San Antonio. These days, the vigilant monitoring of weather disturbances as well as advanced warnings given to residents are among the preventive measures used by BERT to ensure minimal to no casualties.

Mauricio says, "napaka-useful po ng information. Ngayon alam na po namin na hindi lang basta galaw ka lang ng galaw. Malaking improvement sa kaalaman namin ang naibigay ng SHORE na training. At least masasabi namin na kahit hindi kami graduate ng medicine or nursing, natuto pa rin kami sa maikling panahon (the information is very useful. Now we know that it's not just a matter of taking action. Training with SHORE has greatly improved our knowledge. At least we can say that even if we didn't graduate from medicine or nursing, we still learned something in a short period of time)."

Still, the most important lesson for this husband of a homemaker and father of children ages 22 and 17 was this personal realization. "Dati kasi, sa lakas ng loob ko, hindi ko naisip na ilinalagay ko pala sa risk ang sariling buhay ko (Before, because of my boldness, I didn't realize I was putting my own life at risk)," says Mauricio. "Dahil sa training, alam ko na po kung paano ko ilagay sa safety yung sarili ko bago ako tumulong sa kapwa ko. Kung hindi mo ilagay sa safety yung sarili mo, paano ka makakatulong sa iba (Because of training, I now know how to keep myself safe before I help others. If you don't secure your safety first, how can you help others)?"



Various rescue and emergency response skills are taught in a ladderised manner.

### SHORE AT A GLANCE IN 2014

#### BATANGAS

- 33 Trainers training for contingency planning and disaster action planning
- 540 Community contingency planning and disaster action planning
- 30 Basic Swimming
- 350 Flood Drill Hygiene Kit

#### MINDORO

- 160 Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management training with Basic Life Support-CPR and First Aid
- 161 Basic Water Safety
- 110 Water Search and Rescue
- 45 Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Contingency Planning
- 90 Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Summit

#### TOTAL KITS GIVEN:

- 11 First Aid Kits
- 4 Water Search and Rescue Kits

#### SUBIC

- 414 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training (including barangay DRRM)
- 396 Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training
- 375 First Aid and BLS/CPR
- 161 Water Search and Rescue kits

#### TOTAL KITS GIVEN:

- 20 sets First Aid Kits
- 11 sets WASAR Kits

#### ROMBLON

- 60 Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan

#### TOTAL KITS GIVEN:

- 3 sets First Aid Kits

## WOMEN EMPOWERED

With two young children to raise and a full-time job as treasurer of Tabinay, Puerto Galera, for the past nine years, Marites Quinto has her hands full. Still, when she heard that Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) was conducting a series of livelihood trainings under its Galing at Negosyo Dulot ay Asenso (GANDA) program in nearby Barangay Dulangan in April 2015, she did not miss this opportunity to learn. "*Kahit conflict ang oras sa trabaho, sinabi ko sa sarili ko na sasali ako. Pinagbigyan naman ako ng barangay* (Even if the time was in conflict with my work, I told myself I was going to join. The barangay allowed me to attend)," says Quinto, 32.

Launched in 2013 as part of MFI's Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programs, GANDA provides indigenous, disadvantaged, and out-of-school women in the communities of Batangas, Subic, Palawan, and Oriental Mindoro with capacity-building skills that make them employable here or abroad, or enterprising enough to start their own business.

2014 produced the most number of GANDA graduates, an impressive 1,294 women. In Oriental Mindoro, 30 women learned massage therapy and 30 studied manicure, pedicure, hair trimming, and foot spa. In Palawan, 54 women learned dressmaking, 25 studied herbal soap making, and 30 learned how to sew. In Subic, 75 women took up hairstyling, 125 learned how to rebond hair, 140 studied commercial cooking, 140 focused on baking and pastry production, 100 mastered manicure and pedicure, 58 were taught how to give a facial, 186 trained to make home cleansers, 125 took up sewing, and 176 studied toiletries production. To date, GANDA's total number of graduates is 1,962.

Like most trainees, Quinto used her skill in polvoron making to augment her family's income. Preparing her goods on weekends and in her spare time, she sells her treats in stores and the barangay. "*Ako lang po kase ang nagtitinda ng polvoron kaya nakakabenta* (I'm the only one who offers polvoron that's why it sells)!" she says with a laugh. A graduate of a two-year vocational course in computer programming and the wife of a house painter, Quinto likes the idea of learning—and dreaming. "*Matagal ko na pong pangarap matutong gumawa ng mga pastry na ganito* (I've always wanted to learn how to make pastries like these)," says Quinto, who hopes to set up her own food business some day. "*Kaya nung dumating ang pagkakataon, naisip kong i-grab ang opportunity* (So when the chance came, I decided to grab the opportunity)."

### GALING AT NEGOSYO DULOT AY ASENSO (GANDA) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

<b>ORIENTAL MINDORO</b>	
Massage and therapy	30
Manicure, pedicure, hair trimming, footspa	30
<b>PALAWAN</b>	
Dressmaking	54
Herbal soap making	25
Sewing	30
<b>SUBIC</b>	
Hair rebonding	125
Hair styling	75
Commercial cooking	140
Baking and pastry making	140
Manicure, pedicure	100
Facial aesthetic treatment	58
Home cleanser making	186
Sewing	125
Toiletries production	176
<b>Number of beneficiaries for 2014</b>	<b>1,294</b>



Teresita Bacay of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro

The SIMCO cooperative in Batangas City.

## SUPPORTING MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS

Successful entrepreneurs will tell you that independence doesn't happen overnight; before achieving self-sufficiency, you need to accept help and guidance from nurturing mentors and supportive organizations.

In its effort to develop the entrepreneurial spirit of Batangueños in TALIM-TSR (Tabangao-Aplaya Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam-Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok, and Sta. Rita Karsada), Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) launched the Batangas Livelihood Program (BLP) in 2010. BLP does more than teach would-be microentrepreneurs new skills for a potential venture and added income; it also gives people access to financial assistance through its partnership with established micro-lending organizations Buklod Unlad ng Batangas, Inc. (BUBI); Silangan Ibabaw, Batis, Bulihan, Araneta Proper Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SIBBAP MPC), and San Isidro Multipurpose Cooperative (SIMCO).

Founded in 1991 but formally registered with the Cooperative Development Authority in 1999, SIMCO signed a Memorandum of Agreement with MFI in 2010, and received a P100,000 grant from the foundation a year later. In 2013, it received another grant in the same amount from MFI, and together with members from BUBI and SIBBAP MPC,

attended refresher courses in various aspects of microfinance, as well as technical training assistance with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

While Internet cafes, photocopying services, and modest food stalls are typical ventures proposed, it's the sari-sari store, says SIMCO manager Marites Ramirez, that remains the popular business of choice. SIMCO's ceiling for loans is P50,000, and for as long as you can settle your payments (with an interest of 3 percent a month) on time, you remain in good standing with the cooperative—and even qualify for another loan. In fact, several of the 21 who were granted a loan by SIMCO in 2014 have ongoing loans with the cooperative. "*Yan ang ginagawa ng iba* (That's what the others do)," says Ramirez. "*Pag nabayaran mo na ang 50 percent ng loan mo, pwede ka na mag-apply ng bagong loan* (Once you pay 50 percent of your loan, you can apply for a new one)."

Having been with SIMCO since 1993, Ramirez has witnessed countless microentrepreneurs' success stories. Naturally, her favorite success story is her own: as the entrepreneur behind two thriving sari-sari stores and a direct-selling business in Batangas City, this wife and mom of two could not have expanded her ventures without additional capital from SIMCO. From

P20,000, she borrowed P30,000, and then P40,000, diligently settling each loan while her businesses grew. Disciplined by nature, Ramirez was also conscious about maintaining her spotless record with SIMCO. "*Siempre, kung magbabayad ka ng [2 percent] penalty, masisira ang pangalan mo* (Of course, if you pay the [2 percent] penalty, you'll ruin your name)," she says.

Ramirez's clean record with SIMCO and history of well-run businesses will serve her well when she decides to go for her ultimate goal: "*Magkaroon ng sarili kong department store. Or at least sarili kong building* (To have my own department store. Or at least my own building)," she boldly declares. Indeed, these are the kinds of dreams—fearless and ambitious—encouraged by MFI. "*Oo naman. Habang may buhay,*" reminds Ramirez, "*may pangarap* (Yes, of course. While we're alive, we have dreams)."





A plumbing and electrical installation community-based training in Coron.

## ENHANCING EXPERIENCE WITH EDUCATION

Experience may be the best teacher, particularly in construction, where skills are mastered through years of good old-fashioned, hands-on hard work, but that's not to say even the most experienced laborer won't benefit from a bit of classroom time.

This Edwin Diputado, Arly de la Cruz, and Crisanto Yayon realized after undergoing short courses in masonry last year under Malampaya Foundation, Inc.'s (MFI) Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan (SIKAP), a program that offers unemployed males as well as out-of-school youth, indigents, and indigenous groups from Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, Subic, and Batangas with livelihood training designed to give them employable skills and an opportunity to improve their family's financial standing. Launched by MFI in 2013, SIKAP took off last year, awarding 1,621 participants with certificates for finishing courses in carpentry and masonry (199), food processing (253), banana and buri weaving (30), consumer electronics servicing (120), small engine training and assessment (219), electric installation maintenance and plumbing training (30), tile setting training (32), computer hardware servicing (100), slaughtering (60), Masonry NC II (28), Barbering NC II (100), Housekeeping NC II (150), Bartending NC II (125), Front Office NC II (100), and Massage Therapy NC II (75).

As two of the 43 students who underwent SIKAP's masonry program in Palawan in 2014, Diputado and de la Cruz have come a long way from the time they took on any job just to make ends meet. Originally from Negros province, the 51-year-old Diputado moved to Bulalacao 30 years ago in search of a better life—only to discover that work was scarce for him in his new home. Indeed, jobs were just as elusive to de la Cruz, a native of Bulalacao. "Pa-extra-extra lang dati (I used to be a temp)," says the 48-year-old.

After taking SIKAP's masonry course, the two now enjoy steady employment with the construction company that's in the middle of building new structures for Coron, Palawan's world-class Two Seasons Resort & Spa. "Malaking bagay yung pag-training po namin. Marami po kaming natutunan sa masonry (Our training was a big thing. We learned a lot in masonry)," says Diputado. Cruz, who was already with the construction company when he took the 10-day masonry course, "para matuto ng ibang kaalaman (to learn other things)," says he received a salary increase when he returned to his job.

In Culion, Palawan, Yayon was employed at Gabarda Construction since 2012 when he signed up for the Masonry NC II course offered by

SIKAP in 2014. "Para magkaroon ng certificate (To get a certificate)," says the 52-year-old. The course gave him more than a certificate, it gave him direction: back on the job, he focused on carpentry and earned more than he did doing a string of odd jobs for the company whose projects include schools and residences. Yayon, who went as far as his freshman year in mechanical engineering, knows and appreciates the value of education. "Para sa dagdag kaalaman at oportunidad (For additional knowledge and opportunities)," says this husband of a housewife and father of five kids.

Coming from humble beginnings, these family men are content to achieving their simple goal of steady work; any other dreams, they say, are for their children. "Sa edad kong ito, kailangan ako dito ng pamilya ko. Magtatapos yung isang anak ko, dito ko kinukuha yung allowance niya (At my age, my family needs me. One of my kids is finishing school, I get his allowance from my salary)," says Diputado, a father of two and husband of a barangay worker. Meanwhile, De la Cruz, who has six children and is also married to a barangay worker, hopes to stay on the job to support a child who is now in college. "Mahirap po kumuha ng trabaho pag 'di ka marunong (It's hard to get a job if you're not trained)," he says. ●



Cris Yayon of Culion, Palawan.



A small engine repair training for coastal communities in Coron.



A butchering class in Subic, Zambales.

**SIKAP**  
PROGRAM  
Sanayan sa Ikaunlad ng Kaalamang Pangkabuhayan

## SANAYAN SA IKAUNLAD NG KAALAMANG PANGKABUHAN PROGRAM (SIKAP) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

### BATANGAS

Carpentry and masonry 20

### ORIENTAL MINDORO

Carpentry 136  
Food processing 30  
Seaweed-based food processing 23  
Banata/buri making 30  
Consumer electronics servicing 20

### PALAWAN

Small engine 187  
Masonry 43  
Masonry assessment NCII 28  
Small engine training and assessment 32

### SUBIC

Housekeeping NCII 150  
Bartending NCII 125  
Front office NCII 100  
Massage therapy NCII 75  
Computer hardware services 100  
Consumer electronics services 100  
Butchering 60  
Electronic installation maintenance and plumbing training 30  
Tile setting 32  
Barbering NCII 100  
Food processing 200

Number of beneficiaries for 2014 **1,621**



Arly dela Cruz of Coron, Palawan



Parang Cueva Elementary School in Isla Verde, Batangas, gold medalist for "Project Daghit" in 2014 of Batangas City LGU.

## MOTHER EARTH'S JUNIOR DEFENDERS

Besides reading, writing, and 'rithmetic, practicing the "other three Rs"—reducing, reusing, and recycling—has been a daily habit of public school students in the coastal communities of Batangas City and TALIM-TSR (Tabangao-Aplaya Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam-Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok, and Sta. Rita Karsada), thanks to the Young Eco Savers (YES) Program. Introduced by Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) in 2009, the YES Program is aligned with the foundation's goal to improve coastal communities' sanitation for health and environmental reasons, starting with schools.

After teaching 11 TALIM-TSR schools how to integrate reducing, reusing, and recycling methods in 2013, YES adopted 14 additional coastal schools for schoolyear 2013-2014: De La Paz Proper Elementary School, De La Paz

Pulot Elementary School, Ilijan Elementary School, Mabacong Elementary School, Pinamucan Elementary School, Simlong Elementary School, Talahib Elementary School, Pagkilatan Elementary School, Parang Elementary School, Parang Cueva Elementary School, San Agapito Elementary School, San Agustin Kanluran Elementary School, San Agustin Silangan Elementary School, and Liponpon Elementary School.

From August to October 2013, MFI together with the Solid Waste Management Association of the Philippines and Department of Education's Dr. Socorro Comia visited the 14 schools to assess their solid waste management practices as well as the schools' specific needs. Representatives from each school then attended a School-Based Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) workshop conducted in November

2013. Held in Batangas City, the two-day seminar provided participants with more information on ecological solid waste management, tools to assess their ESWM programs, and guidance to create a sustainable school-based ESWM program.

2014 proved a busy year for YES Program's second batch of recruits. In January, school representatives attended a two-day ESWM Curriculum Integration Training and Workshop, while in April, they participated in a summer camp that had them implementing and monitoring ESWM programs and activities in their homes and schools. For their efforts, student environmentalists from each school were honored during the Young Ecosavers Awards in March 2014.

For the teachers and students of Parang Cueva Elementary School in San Andres, Verde Island, Batangas

City, addressing their solid waste management problems was about turning lemons into lemonade. "Sa totoo lang po, ang isa sa pinakaunang problema namin dito ay ang plastic (To be honest, one of our major problems here is plastic)," admits head teacher Diomedes Briton. "Mahigit pa sa 10 sakong punung-puno ng plastic ang nakokolekta namin araw-araw. (We collect more than 10 sacks filled with plastic every day)."

To reduce the use of this non-biodegradable material, Briton and her fellow teachers discouraged the canteen from selling food and drinks packed in plastic. Students were also required to bring their own containers for storing drinks purchased outside school premises. In time and with vigilance, the strict rule worked: Briton declares Parang Cueva Elementary School "100 percent plastic-free."

As for the sackloads of plastic, those were used for "Project Gupit (Cut)," a recycling program wherein plastics were cut and repurposed into flower pots, decorative pieces, and the like. The effort yielded the school a bronze medal for the Most Innovative Environmental School Project, an award given by Batangas City in 2014.

Recently, the school bettered itself with a gold medal for "Project Daghit." Frustrated by the piles upon piles of daghit (driftwood, coconut husks, bamboo) washed up on



Verde Island's shore daily, the teachers decided to convert the "trash" into materials for the school's fences and landscaping, as well as fertilizer for its gardens. Encouraged by the recognition, Briton says the school is planning to enter "Project Daghit" in a national competition whose winners will be announced on November 2015.

A mother of two, Briton never learned how to protect the environment when she was a student. Today, she is proud to be in a position where she can educate future generations about it. Recalling with a giggle how children routinely report sightings of plastic in their school grounds, she says, "Siempre, natutuwa kami kase kung anong tinuturo namin, sumusunod sila (Of course, it makes us feel good because whatever we teach, they follow)." ●



## YOUNG ECO SAVERS (YES) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

**14** total number of schools adopted by YES for schoolyear 2013-2014:

De La Paz Proper Elementary School  
De La Paz Pulot Elementary School  
Ilijan Elementary School  
Mabacong Elementary School  
Pinamucan Elementary School  
Simlong Elementary School  
Talahib Elementary School  
Pagkilatan Elementary School  
Parang Elementary School  
Parang Cueva Elementary School  
San Agapito Elementary School  
San Agustin Kanluran Elementary School  
San Agustin Silangan Elementary School  
Liponpon Elementary School

**25** schools in Batangas city covered by the program

**75%** reduction in waste collection by end-2014



## GRATEFUL FOR THEIR HELP

Established in Batangas in 2009, Malampaya Foundation, Inc.'s (MFI) Doctor to the Barangay (DTTB) brings medical professionals to the barangays of Tabangao Aplaya, Tabangao Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam, Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok, and Sta. Rita Kalsada to conduct periodic checkups on rural folks as well as lectures on sanitation, personal hygiene, and the prevention and spread of chronic and communicable diseases. In 2014, organizers of DTTB, in partnership with doctors from the Philippine Red Cross, mounted three visits per month in each of the barangays.

Ronaliza Arcega and her son Roenj were among those present during a DTTB visit in Barangay Ambulong's health center last year. According to Arcega, the then 6-year-old Roenj was experiencing persistent coughs, colds, and a fever of 39 degrees. Community health workers registered Roenj, weighed him, then called mother and son when Dr. Basilisa Turno arrived at the center.

Based on tests ordered by Dr. Turno, Roenj was diagnosed with urinary tract infection. After prescribing antibiotics (which Arcega received from the health center), the doctor advised the boy's mother to make him drink plenty of water, and to come back to the health center if his condition worsens. Arcega didn't have to: in two days, Roenj was responding

favorably to the medicine. Now 7, he is as active as his older and younger siblings and bears no traces of his worrisome condition a year ago.

A former househelper and wife to a scaffolding maker, the 33-year-old Arcega says that she usually addresses her family's ailments with paracetamol and herbal treatments like calamansi juice and oregano. Of her first time to consult with DTTB, she found the program well-organized and very helpful. "Maayos naman po at napakaimportante ito (It's orderly and very important)," says the stay-at-home mom. "Bilang nanay, hindi ako pwedeng magpainom ng gamot ng walang reseta ng doktor dahil delikado sa isang bata (As a mother, I cannot give medication without a doctor's prescription because it might be dangerous to a child)." ●



## DOCTOR TO THE BARANGAY (DTTB) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

**396**

total number of doctor visits to the barangays of Tabangao Aplaya, Tabangao Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam, Cuta, Wawa, Sta. Clara, Calicanto, Bolbok and Sta. Rita Kalsada in 2014

Total number of service count: **3,807**

### Service count for patients

MONTH	
JANUARY	480
FEBRUARY	471
MARCH	422
APRIL	151
MAY	118
JUNE	312
JULY	166
AUGUST	298
SEPTEMBER	330
OCTOBER	305
NOVEMBER	629
DECEMBER	105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,807</b>

## HEALTH SERVICE IS HER CALLING

When members of a community in a remote area do not have immediate access to a hospital or doctors, they rely on a barangay health worker (BHW), whose job is to provide information and assistance to such basic healthcare concerns as maternal and child health, first aid, and the prevention and cure of common and communicable diseases. As such, these community health workers must constantly refresh and update their knowledge and skills if they want to serve as effective healthcare front liners and agents of change in their assigned areas.

Together with the Provincial Government of Palawan through its Provincial Health Office, Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) created the Masiglang BHW Training Program which provides comprehensive training and refresher courses to ensure barangay health workers give accurate information and the appropriate assistance to those who need it. Training for Masiglang BHW began in 2012, a year after MFI and Palawan's provincial government formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement.

Since then, the initiative recognized by the Department of Health (DOH) as one of the best practices of Palawan has been replicated to barangay health workers in communities in Puerto Princesa City, the rest of the provinces in the region (Mindoro, Marinduque, and Romblon), and in Quezon province. The DOH is also looking into providing health workers who attended the training with a manual they can use to review topics covered during the program. A total of 2,227 BHWs underwent training as of December 2014.

For 45-year-old Rosalie Amurao, who supplements her work as a BHW in Roxas, Palawan, with regular training seminars on healthcare, the Masiglang BHW program she joined from October 6 to 10, 2014 stood out for several reasons. "Step-by-step po sila mag-explain ng mga procedure at madaling intindihin (The procedures are explained step-by-step and they're easy to understand)," she says. Besides reminding BHWs about the vital role they play in their community, facilitators of the program also polished participants' knowledge and skills in data gathering, first aid, assisting midwives when a mother gives birth, and identifying symptoms of specific diseases. "Nung nag-attend ako ng seminar noong 2006, ang 130/90 ay considered normal pa (When I attended a seminar in 2006, 130/90 was still considered normal)," shares Amurao of blood pressure reading. "Ngayon, dahil sa Masiglang BHW, alam namin na 110/70 ang normal (Now, because of Masiglang BHW, we now know that 110/70 is normal)!"

A wife of a driver and mother of five children, Amurao says it was an elective in high school that initially sparked her interest in health. When she became a community health worker a decade ago, she handled the spectrum of BHW responsibilities—from going house to house to collate information regarding family members' health and presenting the data in monthly reports, to taking neighbors' blood pressures, addressing cases of tuberculosis, urinary tract infection, and the flu, and standing by in case local basketball players incur injuries during a fiesta game.

The job pays a modest monthly incentive, but Amurao insists she's

after the opportunity to keep on learning—and help save lives. Recognizing symptoms of a lung condition on a male patient, she recalls urging his wife to take him to a doctor fast, advise that averted what could have been a more serious illness. Recently, she rushed to the side of a motorcycle driver who crashed a few meters away from her house along the highway after he accidentally hit a dog. Amurao calmly cleaned his wounds and kept him comfortable until the ambulance she called arrived. "Sa totoo lang po, kahit incentives lang ang binibigay, napamahal na po ako sa trabaho ko. (Honestly, even if they just give incentives, I've learned to love my job)," she says, holding back tears of joy. "Willing talaga ako tumulong sa tao at natutuwa ako 'pag nabibigyan ko sila ng advice at nag thank you sila sa akin. Masarap tumulong kahit walang kapalit (I'm willing to help people and I'm happy when they thank me for the advice I give. It feels good to help without expecting anything in return)." ●



## BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER (BHW) PROGRAM AT A GLANCE IN 2014

Number of BHWs reached in 2014

ABORLAN	67
BALABAC	45
BATARA	68
BROOKES POINT	69
EL NIDO	126
NARRA	73
RIZAL	70
ROXAS	33
SAN VICENTE	69
SOFRONIO ESPANOLA	64
TAYTAY	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>719</b>

\* Program replicated in 4 other provinces by the Department of Health.



■ Dedicated barangay health worker Rosalie Amurao of Roxas, Palawan.

## LEARNING CONTINUES —EVEN FOR TEACHERS

The ability to speak and write fluently in English is an asset that has helped millions of Filipinos land decent jobs both here and abroad. An integral part of school curricula in the Philippines, English is taught as early as the pre-school years and remains a medium of instruction in most subjects all throughout elementary, high school, college, and post-graduate studies. To ensure that students are proficient in this language spoken all around the world, teachers must possess an excellent command of oral and written English themselves.

Since 2007, Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) has been enhancing the English speaking and writing abilities of elementary and high school teachers in Palawan, Batangas, and Oriental Mindoro through its Advanced Course on Competitive English for Teachers (ACCEnT) program. Computer- and teacher-assisted lessons allow participants of this program to polish their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Verbal exercises with fellow participants and computer-based exams gauge how much a teacher has learned from the program.

A total of 1,927 teachers (1,689 in Oriental Mindoro, 160 in Palawan, and 78 in Batangas) have graduated from ACCEnT since its implementation seven years ago. While English teachers are the usual target of this program, teachers in other disciplines, including Pilipino, have now been invited to participate. In 2014, 100 teachers in Oriental Mindoro underwent training in five batches.

Reynita Dejucos, one of 10 students of Batch 23 who attended training from June 22 to September 7, 2014, was so into the program, she not only reached the advanced stages of the modules, she also scored her batch's highest post-ACCEnT grade of 3.5. "Nakakatuwa (It was enlightening)," says the 10th grade science teacher at Pedro V. Panaligan Memorial National High School, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. "Na-refresh ang mind ko sa pinag-aralan ko nung high school ako (I refreshed my mind with subjects that I learned when I was in high school)." Meanwhile,

she brushed up on her vocabulary, comprehension, and pronunciation in group activities that involved role playing, reciting poems, and translating songs from Tagalog to English.

The wife of a self-employed husband and mother of one child, Dejucos says she learned most from ACCEnT's oral communication exercises. "I'm better when it comes to writing, but very shy in verbal communication," she admits. "The program added to my confidence."

A year later, many are still benefiting from this science teacher's participation in an English proficiency program. Co-teachers always seek her help when writing their reports, and her students are made to express themselves in straight English during class.

"Sa barangay namin, napakakonti ang magaling sa English (only a few are good in English), so it's still a work in progress," assesses Dejucos, 46. "That's why I advise my students to read books in English. When I was a student, I would write down new words that I learned from the books I read and use them when I write or speak. That's what I tell my students to do because it was a really big help to me."



### ADVANCED COURSE ON COMPETITIVE ENGLISH FOR TEACHERS (ACCEnT) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

**NO. OF TEACHERS TRAINED IN 2014:**  
100 (ORIENTAL MINDORO)

**PERIOD COVERED:**  
JANUARY 25, 2014 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 2014

**AVERAGE PRE-TRAINING PERFORMANCE:**  
78.96%\*

**AVERAGE POST-TRAINING PERFORMANCE:**  
84.91%\*

**AVERAGE % IMPROVEMENT:**  
5.95%

\*Pre and post-training examinations are administered in the course of the program to measure effectiveness of the instruction modules and methods.

## SCHOLARS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Balancing development without compromising the natural environment and its inhabitants require a good deal of expertise. For a developing nation such as the Philippines, attaining sustainable development continues to be a challenge. As such, Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) has taken steps to contribute towards sustainable development for the provinces of Batangas, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan.

With the University of the Philippines, Palawan State University, Western Philippines University, and Batangas State University as its partners, MFI established the Malampaya Sustainable Development Scholarship, which offers full undergraduate and post-graduate scholarships in courses in engineering, energy development, environmental sciences and management, and marine sciences. Besides covering the educational expenses of deserving but financially challenged students, the program prepares these scholars to become future professionals and specialists in energy development and environment and natural resources management in their respective areas.

Since signing a Memorandum of Agreement with MFI on May 7, 2014, the Western Philippines University (WPU) in Palawan has awarded scholarships to eight freshmen, two sophomores, four juniors, and four seniors in BS Aquatic Biology in school year 2014-2015. The four seniors—Karl Aries Sumandal, Leslie Jean Bacani, Vanessa Mae Abrina, and Roselle Dimalanta—availed of the scholarship in their last year and graduated on April 2015. Prior to the Malampaya Sustainable Development Scholarship, the four were under scholarships that funded only their tuition.

"Magandang opportunity po (It's a good opportunity)," says Bacani, 20, the second of four kids and the daughter of a farmer/barangay kagawad (councilor) and midwife. "Bukod sa buong tuition, may book allowance at monthly allowance pa (Besides covering our entire tuition, we're given a book allowance and monthly allowance)."

Like her fellow seniors, Abrina considers the Malampaya Sustainable Development Scholarship a big load off her parents' pockets. "Ang kailangan kong gawin is mag-aral at mag-maintain ng grades (All I had to do was study and maintain good grades)." That's actually harder than it sounds. "Take note," adds Abrina, "ang mga teacher namin hindi lang basta-basta

(Our teachers aren't just your run-of-the-mill types)."

Indeed, even with expenses for their final year already taken care of, these four didn't spend the last two semesters coasting along. Taking on a hefty 27-unit load, Sumandal graduated cum laude. "Interesado po kase ako sa kurso kaya enjoy lang ako sa pag-aaral (I'm interested in my course that's why I enjoyed studying)," says the 20-year-old who has three older sisters and is the son of a Comelec officer and housewife.

Now all employed (Sumandal is project coordinator in Lake Manguao in Taytay, Palawan; Abrina is an executive assistant at the Municipal Fisheries Office in the Municipality of Roxas, Palawan; Dimalanta works as a tour guide in the Palawan Wildlife Rescue Center; and Bacani is on the tail end of her month-long contractual job as an enumerator for the 2015 National Census), these aquatic biology graduates are keen on pursuing further studies and careers that will make them true protectors and guardians of Palawan's beautiful land and seas. Apart from a masteral degree in marine biology, Abrina wants to take the fishery board exams and the civil service exams. Meanwhile, Sumandal would like to work for a government agency like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, or for any company that will allow him to focus on the ecosystem.

The second of five kids and the daughter of a driver and casuy vendor, Dimalanta is serious about earning her master's and PhD someday. "Gusto ko ng veterinary medicine para sa marine animals. Para gusto ko din mag-focus sa rescue (I like veterinary medicine for marine animals but I also

like to focus on rescue)," says the 20-year-old. As for Bacani, her goal is simply to give back to her native motherland using the knowledge that she gained.

### MALAMPAYA Sustainable Development Scholarship



First scholar graduates from Western Philippines University (clockwise): Roselle Dimalanta, Vanessa Mae Abrina, Leslie Bacani and Karl Dimalanta.

### MALAMPAYA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT A GLANCE IN 2014

SCHOOL	NO. OF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS	NO. POST GRADUATE SCHOLARS
Western Philippines University	24	6
Palawan State University	25	2
Batangas State University	10	
University of the Philippines	5	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>

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■ Alan Catimbag (front, right-most) leads TODA-mates to contribute towards road safety.

## HE HELPS KEEP SUBIC'S ROADS SAFE

Next to the jeepney, the tricycle is a popular mode of transportation in the Philippines. A motorcycle with a sidecar, the three-wheeled public utility vehicle that plies secondary roads can accommodate up to nine passengers at a time, and has a compact shape that allows its driver to weave his way past other vehicles in a busy street. Because many drivers learn how to operate tricycles on their own, they tend to take road rules and defensive driving practices for granted. This leaves them—and their passengers—prone to accidents that could have been easily avoided if they were only more careful and aware.

To reinforce road safety in its partner communities, Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) organized Kaligtasan Sa Daan (KALSADA), a program which educates tricycle drivers on basic traffic rules and road signs, defensive driving, and responsible behavior on the road. Drivers attend comprehensive lectures in a Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) Safety Driving Workshop, then demonstrate their skills in a Practical Driving Enrichment Training. Workshop trainers assess their performance after.

Since KALSADA was introduced in Subic in July 2013, a total of 1,480 tricycle drivers have participated in the workshops, training, and assessment. Attendance is up from 444 drivers two years ago, to 1,036 in 2014. Thirty-four workshops and practical driving trainings were conducted last year.

The increase in tricycle drivers' attendance in these trainings has seen a decrease in tricycle-related road accidents in Subic. Prior to KALSADA's implementation, the Traffic Management Bureau (TMC), Subic Police Station, and Zambales' Provincial Highway Patrol Group reported that tricycle-related incidents accounted for 24% of road accidents from January to June 2013. After KALSADA, the figure dipped to 14%, based on reports from July to December 2013. Tricycle-related accidents were even fewer last year—7% from February to May 2014, according to a report.

Vigilant leaders also contribute to tricycle drivers' improved performance on the road. Allan Catimbag, president of the Subic-Zambales Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (SZ-TODA), says he and the heads of

Subic's six tricycle zones constantly remind their members of the importance of programs like KALSADA. "Marami po tayong member na kahit dati pong driver ay nakalimutan na po nila ang modernong pagmamaneho. Lagi ko po sinasabi sa kanila, 'Hindi kayo tricycle driver lang. Kayo ay lingkod bayan. Mga professional kayo (Even if a lot of our members are long-time drivers, they have forgotten the modern way of driving. I always remind them, 'You are not just tricycle drivers, You are public servants. You are professionals),' says the 57-year-old former Marine and father of six.

In between KALSADA trainings, Catimbag and his fellow leaders take the initiative of disciplining the drivers themselves. They routinely warn drivers about the consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol, with worn out wheels, busted head and tail lights at night, or an expired license. "Wala na pong nagmamaneho na lasing (Nobody drives drunk anymore)," he assures confidently. As head of Task Force Colorum, the SZ-TODA president also instills discipline upon tricycle drivers who illegally ply Subic's streets.



While KALSADA attendees appear to have taken the lessons from the program to heart (Catimbag informs that they even wear their KALSADA T-shirts to work on the weekends), the SZ-TODA president will make sure his members sign up again for the next round of workshops and trainings in 2015. "Mas maganda! Para maalala nila yung pinagalaran nila. Kung hindi natin balikan yung pinagalaran natin, paano na tayo bukas (Even better! So they can remember what they studied. If we don't review what we learned, what's going to happen to us in the future)?"



## KALIGTASAN SA DAAN (KALSADA) AT A GLANCE IN 2014

### SUBIC

- 1,036** total number of three-wheel public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers trained
- 34** total number of Practical Driving Trainings and Workshops conducted
- 40%** percentage improvement in pre and post test results of the trainees on Traffic Signs and Road Markings, Road Courtesy and Vehicle Handling
- 17%** percentage reduction in road incidents involving three-wheel PUVs from early 2013 to mid-2014 (Source: Subic Traffic Management Board)

### BATANGAS

- 884** total number of two and three-wheel vehicle drivers trained
- 35** total number of Practical Driving Trainings and Workshops conducted
- 36%** percentage improvement in pre and post test results of the trainees on Traffic Signs and Road Markings, Road Courtesy and Vehicle Handling



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