2015
Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan
Tribute to the valiant struggles for the environment and for the People

December 2, 2015
NISMED Auditorium, University of the Philippines Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
2015

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4th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan
Cooperating Organizations

Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines is a non-government organization based in Quezon City founded through the initiatives of people's organizations. At the grassroots level, CEC works with communities and organizations, supporting initiatives to nurture ecosystems, defend common access to natural resources, and eventually improve their living and working conditions in the context of a balanced and healthy environment. At the national level, CEC supports people-oriented, patriotic, sustainable, and scientific policies and programs for the protection of the Philippine environment. At the global level, CEC engages in information sharing, international networking, cross-cultural exchanges, and solidarity initiatives on common environmental issues and concerns.

AGHAM-Advocate of Science and Technology for the People Inc. is an organization of patriotic, pro-people science and technology advocates, bonded together by a common interest of promoting science and technology that genuinely serve the interest of the Filipino people, especially the poor. AGHAM aims to vigorously encourage S&T professionals, workers, and advocates to share their knowledge and expertise through direct community service, research, consultancy, campaigns and advocacy, fora, fact-finding missions, and discussion groups.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the government agency mandated to ensure the suitable use, development, management, protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Philippines for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) is a non-government organization that pioneered and continues to promote community-based disaster management in the Philippines. CDRC operates nationwide through a network of regional centers affiliated with the Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN) and through people's organizations.
4th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan
Cooperating Organizations

Alay Bayan-Luson, Inc. works for the realization and strengthening of a regional network of people's organizations and institutions committed to community-based and development-oriented responses in addressing the vulnerabilities stemming from poverty, powerlessness, environmental degradation and political abuse.

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) is an independent federation of progressive peoples organizations, most of them grassroots-based organizations among indigenous communities in the Cordillera Region, Philippines. CPA is committed to the promotion and defense of indigenous peoples’ rights, human rights, social justice, and national freedom and democracy.

Farmers Development Center (FARDEC) is a non-stock non-profit organization established in 1989 by a group of religious and lay persons to serve as a regional support mechanism for the farmers in Central Visayas (particularly the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental).

Magsasaka at Siyentista para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) is a farmer-led network of people's organizations, NGOs and scientists working towards the sustainable use and management of biodiversity through farmers’ control of genetic and biological resources, agricultural production and associated knowledge.

Panalipdan Mindanao is a broad alliance of environmental groups, human rights organizations, religious groups, research organizations, academe, civil society groups, and people's organizations. It is an environmental rights group advocating and advancing environmental protection, land rights, food sovereignty, and national patrimony.
Foreword

Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan was launched in 2009 to recognize unsung heroes who braved the challenges of our critical environment and situation of the society to champion the cause of the people and the environment.

This year’s GBK is themed with the United Nations’ Year of the Soil, and features the connectivity of landlessness of our farmers to the continuing land desertification and environmental degradation.

The soil or land serves as a birthplace and sanctuary for life. At the same time, it is also the main source of disputes, hardships and poverty in grassroots communities. When farmers and herders lose control and long-term security over the land they use, the incentives for maintaining environmentally sustainable practices are also lost. Under land monopoly of landlords and corporations, land exploitation exists brought by extensive chemical inputs and massive land conversions, transforming agricultural lands and forest areas into plantations and/or industrial areas.

Despite the continuing land monopoly, landlessness of farmers and land exploitations, ordinary acts of courage by ordinary individuals and groups continue to struggle for genuine land reform, healthy environment and rights of the people for healthful ecology.

While these fights are being met with various obstacles, this year’s winners have the heart and commitment to carry on serving the people and the environment despite integrity and even life threatening circumstances.

This year, we are honoring and recognizing grassroots efforts of our sisters and brothers who fought and are fighting to protect the environment and people’s rights through various forms such as advocacy, campaigns, research, community services and cultural work.

By recognizing these efforts, we are hoping that all of us will be inspired to act and continue the environmental activism and see the oneness of the environment with land ownership and even the political, economic and social life of the society, such that our solutions are founded in view of its totality.

Let us all be inspired to support and persist with the struggle for the environment and the people!

Ms. Frances Q. Quimpo
Executive Director, Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines
About the Awards

The Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan (GBK) is a biennial awards event recognizing ordinary individuals and organizations that have launched notable actions and programs to defend the environment, lives and rights of the Filipino people.

The Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan aims to:

a. To promote awareness of critical environmental issues and the situation of communities directly relying on the natural resources
b. To recognize the valiant struggles of the people to defend the environment, lives, and rights, to serve as an example and lesson to the people who continue to confront similar challenges.
c. To recognize the exemplary deeds and initiatives of simple individuals and organizations who have contributed to upholding the environment and people's welfare at the national and/or local levels
d. To strengthen the link between the sustainable preservation and conservation of the environment with the struggle for social, economic, and political rights

CATEGORIES

Seven recipients of the Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan will be chosen by the Board of Judges: composed of three (3) individuals (Gawad sa Indibidwal), three (3) organizations (Gawad sa Organisasyon) and a recipient of Natatanging Gawad (Most Distinguished Award).

From a shortlist of ten awardees, the Board of Judges will choose one (1) recipient of the Natatanging Gawad (Most Distinguished Award), in recognition his/her/their being an inspiration and example to the Filipino people for offering time and talents for the defense of the environment and advancement of the people's welfare.

Gawad sa Indibidwal (Individual Award) – Awarded to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary ability and effort to uphold the environment and people’s welfare, whether in the form of advocacy, campaigns, education, research, technology development, community services, mass media, or cultural work.

Gawad sa Organisasyon (Award for Organizations) – Awarded to people's and community organizations and institutions that have demonstrated unity in upholding the welfare of the people and of the environment by exemplary actions and advocacy, campaigns, education, research, technology development, community services, mass media, or cultural work.
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

The Board of Judges will be composed of three personalities selected by the GBK Steering Committee. They will choose the final list of awardees based on the following guidelines and criteria set by the Steering Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual Awards (Gawad sa Indibidwal)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service and Devotion to the People</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed to the defence of the people’s welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense of the Environment and National Patrimony</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actively defended the people’s rights to a healthy ecology and national patrimony serving the welfare of the people</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave inspiration to the people to continue engaging in the defense of the environment and people’s welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrated integrity and principles in the face of challenges and adversity</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organizational Awards (Gawad sa Organisasyon)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of the Organization</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintains a significant and active grassroots constituency and upholds the principles of self-reliance and democracy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Objectives and Principles</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upholds a scientific, pro-people, pro-environment, patriotic and progressive orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaigns and Actions</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiates activities and campaigns to defend the environment and people’s welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Result or Concrete Achievements</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attained concrete victories, helped communities through projects or campaigns, and enabled the organization to build its capacity and unity</td>
<td></td>
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2015 Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan
Awards Committee

Most Reverend Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez Jr., D.D.
Bishop Emeritus of Caloocan

Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera
National Artist for Literature

Atty. Howard Calleja
Attorney-at-Law
Calleja Saulog Law Offices

Dr. Carol Araullo
Chairperson
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)

Dr. Tess Perez
Department Head
Environmental Sciences Department, Ateneo de Manila University

Sister Dianne Cabasagan, RGS
NCR Link Person
Women, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (WJPIC)

Atty. Golly Ramos
Vice President
Oceana Philippines

2015 GBK Board of Judges

Atty. Howard Calleja
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Dr. Carol Araullo
Chairperson
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)

Sister Dianne Cabasagan, RGS
NCR Link Person
Women, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (WJPIC)

Dr. Rowena Reyes-Boquiren
Environmental Historian

Dr. Joseph Carabeo
Spokesperson
Alliance for Stewardship and Authentic Progress
4th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan Nominees

Individual Awards Category

Abiyok “Bai Bibiyaon” Bigkay
Sr. Cecilia Ruiz
Danilo Balete
Diego “Jun” Dela Cruz, Jr.
Engr. Fidela “Delle” Salvador
Glenn Banaguas
Most Rev. Jose R. Manguiran
Marieta Corpuz

Organizational Awards Category

Adat-Betad, Inc.
BUKAL-Batangas
I Can Make a Difference, Inc.
Institute for Environmental Conservation & Research
Kapunungan sa Gagmay ng Mangingisda sa Concepcion
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.
Samahan ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Victory, Inc.
Talibon-Trinidad Integrated Farmers Association
Most Distinguished Awardee
For over twenty six years, the Talibon-Trinidad Integrated Farmers Association (TTIFA) has been proudly toiling a land that they could call their own. This Boholano farmer's organization labored rigorously to obtain their 1,973-hectare land in Sitio Panaghiusa, San Vicente, Trinidad. For TTIFA, sustainable agriculture became a means to make their community richer and healthier.

TTIFA endured a painful history of harassments and struggles dating back in 1979 when farmers asserted their right to own their lands. They launched two land occupations in 1986 and 1987 to conquer the Bohol Cattle ranch owned by Mitras and Cojuangcos. However both encounters failed and the farmers were met with intense harassments. Their huts were torn down, fields sabotaged, and their harvest confiscated, stolen or set on fire. Cases, such as arson, forcible entry and qualified theft, were also filed against the farmers. The grave harassment inflicted by the ranch cowboys and later on by hired goons, Citizens Armed Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and the military pushed the farmers to organize.
TTIFA was born in 1989 with the help of the municipal chapter of the peasant federation Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Bohol-anon. The group started with only 38 members. With an organized group and inspiration from the land struggle experience of the Bohol peasant group Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Kauswagan, TTIFA successfully won their land during their third land occupation in 1990. But despite their first victory, the farmers continued to be harassed. Their leaders were arrested and three of them were killed. But the TTIFA members did not surrender and stayed true to their leaders’ commitments that they would defend their lands with their lives.

With the help of the Farmers Development Center (FARDEC) of Central Visayas, TTIFA started gaining support from non-government organizations as well as from the local government unit during the early 1990’s. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) offered them a Php4.5 million of service facilities, and 600 hectares of land in 1995. TTIFA developed its own governance in the community and became more consolidated and dynamic. With constant lobbying to the LGU and strong support from NGOs, TTIFA managed to build a communal reforestation area, day care center and primary school. Their communal reforestation area, issued with a Certificate of Land Ownership (CLOA) under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform (CARP), is divided among the community -- three hectares allotted for each household and five hectares is declared as a communal farm. Their school is also accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Education. TTIFA also co-managed a potable water system and rice mill put up by FARDEC. The medium scale rice mill served more than 30 barangays including Trinidad, Talibon, San Miguel, Mabini, Ubay, Dagohoy and others.

However, TTIFA’s journey was not smooth all the way. In the early 2000, the provincial government introduced palm oil plantation. Some farmers were enticed with the impression
that palm oil could produce more income and a few members were converted into subcontractors of PALM Inc. But the farmers realized that palm oil became unbeneﬁcial as their lands were contaminated with the intense usage of chemicals and each income incurred deﬁcits of about P 40,000. With the help of HUMABOL, TTIFA conducted research and massive education on the ill effects of converting lands into palm oil plantation. With their campaign, they were able to prevent losing 45,000 hectares of land to palm oil plantation.

It was in 2008 when TTIFA farmers started practicing organic farming in their communal farms on which they collectively work on Saturdays. Majority of the members practice organic rice farming and organic vegetable gardening. They plant assorted vegetables, mangoes, calamansi, pineapple, banana, and root crops such as camote, yam and gabi. Organic farmers are into low external input sustainable agriculture (LEISA) and system of rice intensification (SRI). They also practice composting methods such as vermicomposting and a process called mulching, which involves the combination of rice hull, banana trunks, fallen leaves and other biodegradable matter mixed with carabao or chicken manure. Moreover, the community also produce herbal plants such as ginger ale, oregano and lagundi which can cure common illnesses. Aside from farming, TTIFA members also have their own livestock and poultry. The diverse crops and livelihood allow the community to have sustainable source of food and income.

TTIFA did not remain inclusive to its members. Their organizational success also inspired other communities and their leaders are invited to speak by other farmer and peasant organizations, as well as by schools and church groups. Students and professionals also immerse themselves to the TTIFA community to learn about their struggles, successes, campaigns and advocacy works. TTIFA also founded organizations for youth and women.

For more than two decades, TTIFA grew from 38 to more than 237 members today. Despite living in peace and with security in their own land, TTIFA farmers still experience harassment, but the group continues to assert their right for land and life. Their collective strength gives them the power to overcome any trial that come their way.
Individual Awardees
Marieta Corpuz
Individual Awardee

Living in the rich mountains of Aurora, Marieta Corpuz courageously protects her Alta tribe and defends their ancestral land from development aggressions. Mayet, as she is simply known to her colleagues and friends, is known as a “tribal woman of few words who learned to stand up not only for her rights but for her tribe’s as well.”

Marieta, who is also a mother, proved her leadership with her involvement in the Samahan ng mga Katutubo sa Sierra Madre (SKSM) which is in the core of the broad sectoral network Panlalawigang Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Aurora, Inc (PAMANA). Since the formation of SKSM in 1985, the group has not ceased actions in pursuit of their legitimate issues and concerns.

Marieta actively campaigned against destructive mining and logging for the protection of her ancestral home. She was also active against development aggressions brought by the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone (APECO) law and the Aurora Food Production and Agro-forestry Project (AFPAP) locally known as Aurora Food Basket. These projects were implemented by the Angaras (Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, and former provincial governor Bellaflor Angara-Castillo) and it promoted eco-tourism and mining that threatened the lands and livelihoods of the people of Aurora. Her active campaign against mining and logging and opposition to the Angara dynasty made her a heated target of vilification by the military. Marieta and the other SKSM and PAMANA leaders are being harassed in their homes and work places and are subjected to black propaganda on radio. The military also sowed fear to her tribesmen by using their ancestral land as a “firing range.” Because of these threats inflicted to her and her tribe, Marieta was forced to flee her home in Barangay Diteki and settle in Barangay Detailen in Aurora instead.

Even when she was forced to leave her home, Marieta did not abandon the people of Aurora. She continued defending the lands of her beloved province. Through her organization’s intensive actions, they were able to gain the support of the Sangguniang Bayan against mining and logging in Aurora. It favored her tribesmen when the mining permit of Omnimines Development Corporation was cancelled and a total log ban policy was declared in the province.

Marieta did not only focus campaigning locally but she also represented her organization in international gatherings to gain support in saving their lives and lands from destructive
logging and mining. She recently joined the International People's Tribunal (IPT) in the United States where she stood as a witness against human rights violations and denial to ancestral domains and livelihood to the indigenous people in northern Aurora caused by APECO.

For three years, Marieta actively led the campaign against APECO. SKSM was engaged in the ZERO budget campaign for Republic Act 9490 or ASEZA and the junking of RA 10083 that amended the said anti-people economic program. Marieta also represented the Resist Apeco-Defend Aurora Movement, with SKSM in the forefront, during dialogues for its budget hearings on both the Houses and Congress. There is now a 'Repeal APECO bill' in Congress and a petition to the Supreme Court to again study the law that created it.

Aside from the campaigns, Marieta was also involved in organizing trainings for her fellow indigenous people with support from different organizations. Livelihood projects for women were started with support from the Samahan ng Kababaihang Magbubukid sa Aurora.

Until now, Marieta continues to defend the right to life and land and fight against the destruction of the environment. Marieta's relentless courage served as an inspiration not only to her tribe but also to the other IP groups in Aurora. Her activism did not only stop the exploitation on her ancestral land, but her leadership also united the tribes in the Aurora.
Most Rev. Jose R. Manguiran
Individual Awardee

Bishop Jose R. Manguiran is considered by local church leaders and organizations as “the epitome of a religious leader who has continued to advocate church for the poor and campaign against environment plunder”.

To many, he is also known to have an “incisive and clear view of the relationship between the destruction of the environment and neocolonialism and imperialism”. His visibility as the Bishop of Dipolog City and his active involvement in the defense of ancestral domain against environmental plunder has invigorated the local human rights defenders and Subanen tribe alike in pursuit of defense for Mindanao communities’ healthful ecology and environment.

Bishop Manguiran had worked with the indigenous Subanen tribe against the Toronto Ventures Inc.’s (TVI) mining project in the Canatuan area in Zamboanga del Norte as he head and participate various activities calling the Philippine Government to withdraw TVI’s Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA).

He is also one of the church leaders who participated the Bayog Fact-Finding Mission following the gruesome massacre of Subanen residents in barangay Bubuyan who actively call for the immediate pull-out of TVI and to put a stop in its dangerous explorations of their ancestral domain.

Despite receiving major death threats and character assassination brought by his advocacy against Toronto Ventures Inc. in Siocon, Zamboanga and being an active environmental leader, Bishop Manguiran still continue to lead the fight against large scale mining plunder in Mindanao.

Under his leadership, residents of Zamboanga Peninsula expressed great opposition against the mining plunder of TVI Canada in Mt. Canatuan. A Congressional inquiry on site in Siocon, was conducted by the House of Representatives largely upon the prodding of Bishop Manguiran’s influence and leadership.
Bishop Manguiran also led an Interfaith Pilgrimage to Mt. Canatuan to demonstrate the people's resistance to largescale mining of TVI Canada. The pilgrimage gathered religious leaders from the local parishes in Zamboanga del Norte, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) Northern Zamboanga District, Sisters Association in Mindanao, Imams and Ustadz from Moro communities, and Subanen leaders from Zamboanga Sibugay and del Norte, gathering 500 people from the communities in Siocon, from the provinces of Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte. Bishop Jose Manguiran of the Diocese of Dipolog made a symbolic prayer by lying prostrate on the ground for a minute of silence, and then planted his Bishop's staff on the ground. This prayer, Bishop Manguiran said, symbolizes a prophetic plea for God's intervention to help the people in Siocon.

Bishop Manguiran likewise hosted and led the formation of environmental alliances in Mindanao such as the Panalipdan! Mindanao and PROTECT Western Mindanao.

He has contributed to the advancement of environmental struggle in the country by co-authoring Writ of Kalikasan, a legal remedy that provides protection for Filipinos' constitutional right to a healthy environment. Bishop Manguiran is also known for planting and nurturing various tree species. To date, he has the largest collection of varieties of Balete tree, with more than 400 species in number.
He has consistently participated in a series of water-testing operations in mining areas in Zamboanga Peninsula to monitor the impacts of mining activities on water quality. The monitoring is part of a study on the health of ecosystems and serves as basis for their continuing campaign for the protection of the environment. He is a recipient of Department of Science and Technology award and citation for his consistent environmental works.

Aside from his environmental advocacies, Bishop Manguiran is also known as a fearless advocate of good governance, having been one of the few Catholic bishops who exposed the bribery attempts of the Arroyo presidency in order to enjoin the support of the Catholic Church in calling for the then president's ouster.

Currently on his retirement, Bishop Jose R. Manguiran leaves a legacy as a role model to church leaders, environmental advocates, young people, and even to politicians by continuing living with nature in simplicity and meditation while continuing encouraging social movements in defense of Creation against large-scale mining plunder.
Engr. Fidela “Delle” Salvador
Individual Awardee (Posthumous Award)

Fidela Bugarin-Salvador was a woman with selfless devotion to her God and people. Delle, as she was fondly called by others, was a skilled engineer who advocated the advancement and use of technology in service of the poor. Drawing strength from her Christian faith, Delle, showed preference for the poor and dedicated her life in helping and defending the rural communities in the Cordillera.

Delle was an active member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), first as a church youth and later church worker with various organizations. She eventually transcended her service by being a development worker in the far-flung communities of the Cordillera.

For over twenty years, Engr. Delle shared her expertise in socio-economic and disaster response projects management as a consultant. She worked for the Mining Communities and Development Center (1990-2001), Regional Development Center (2002-2007), Tawid Consulting Services (2008-2009), the Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services (2010-2013) and the Center of Development Programs in the Cordillera.

One of her most prominent works was the implementation of the Philippine Tropical Cyclone Emergency Response Project and Philippine Tropical Cyclone Shelter and Livelihood Response Project. These projects were convened by the Cordillera Disaster Response and Development Services, together with Engr. Delle, to establish relief and livelihood projects to the communities gravely affected by super typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in 2010. The disaster-stricken communities were provided with shelter projects and irrigation systems. Moreover, Engr. Delle helped build storm-resilient shelters to affected families in Bokod, Benguet and Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Aside from being an active member of the church and a professional engineer, Delle was also an anti-open pit mining activist. In the 1990s, during the height of the struggle against open pit mining in Itogon, Benguet, she helped in mobilizing women, youth and elders of the Ibaloi and Kankanaey tribes and was able to set up people’s organizations such as the Itogon Inter-Barangay Alliance, Begnas Women’s Alliance and the Anti-Open Pit Mining Kids. She worked with other organizers to raise social awareness on the issue of destructive large-scale mining and mega dams, and conduct education and livelihood trainings to the affected. Engr. Delle reached out to the other sectors such as professionals and church
groups to support the campaign against open-pit mining and anti-San Roque dam. Her campaign efforts contributed to the success in defending the life, land and resources of the people of Itogon.

In 2009, Engr. Delle also became an organizer of the Regional Development Center Katinnulong dagiti Umili ti Amianan of Northern Luzon in Mankayan, Benguet. Her task was to organize poor peasants for the Alyansa dagiti Pesante ti Taeng Kordilyera and aid them in their struggle against the greedy mining corporation Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC).

Being an active protester against development aggressions, Engr. Delle was mercilessly killed by government military forces on September 2014. Engr. Delle was only visiting a rehabilitation project in Lacub, Abra for a community-based monitoring and evaluation. The Armed Forces of the Philippines claimed that Engr. Delle manned the machine gun in a so-called encounter between their troops and members of the New People’s Army. Up until now, justice for Engr. Delle’s brutal yet meaningful death is still not served.

Engr. Delle dedicated her life in nurturing the people and environment of Cordillera. She was a strong believer in human rights and she chose to work for peace and justice, even up to her death. Engr. Delle’s unwavering passion will forever live in the hearts of her family and colleagues and most especially in the heart of Cordillera.
The Bukluran para sa Inang Kalikasan (BUKAL) Batangas was formed in the midst of rallying cry of different sectors in September 2008, pledging to protect the province of Batangas against large-scale and destructive mining projects.

From a supposed multi-sectoral consultation, BUKAL Batangas became a network which leads environmental campaigns, education and actions against large scale mining projects and for the conservation and protection of the natural resources, ecology and communities in the province of Batangas. The network is comprised of organizations and individuals from various sectors such as the church, academe, scientists, fisherfolks, peasants, youth and environmental advocates.

The network achieved its first victory by stopping the large scale mining of Asturias Mining Company and Mindoro Resource Limited (MRL) in various municipalities of Batangas. But despite the victory, the province is still being targeted as a mineral resource for other local and foreign mining companies.

Bukal Batangas, together with the Archdiocese Ministry for the Environment, is currently conducting dialogues, protest actions, massive education and signature campaigns to halt the forthcoming entry of the Egerton Philippines Mining Project in Lobo, Batangas. Brought by the continued resistance of the communities against the said mining project, the Municipal Council of Lobo immediately dismissed its first decision, giving permission to Egerton Philippines to operate and replaced it insteads with a resolution declaring the
town as an Ecotourism and Agricultural Area.

The network is also leading a national campaign calling the national government to declare the Verde Island Passage, known as the Center of the Center of Global Marine Biodiversity, located near the provinces of Batangas Mindoro and Palawan, as a Protected Biodiversity Area and a No Mining Zone.

Since 2011, BUKAL Batangas has also been initiating dialogues with the City Council of Batangas City to build an Environmental Code, restricting the entry of environmentally destructive projects in the city.

Many of their campaigns gained ground not only in province of Batangas but are also amplified in the national level, giving inspiration to other local organizations and communities defending their own environment and rights.

Being active on campaigns involving protest actions and resistance against development aggression, leaders and members of BUKAL Batangas continue to face harassments and surveillance from state military and police forces. Communities where they are engaged in organizing are also being militarized both by state and private forces. But despite all these, more than seven years after its establishment, the institution still continue to stop any form of destructive projects trying to enter the province of Batangas through various forms including the campaign for the passage in the Provincial Council of the 25-year moratorium against large scale mining in Batangas.
Since its establishment in the year 1990, Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research (INECAR) of Ateneo de Naga University has been in the forefront of environmental conservation and research in the Bicol Region. INECAR was formed through the efforts of former president Fr. Raul Bonoan, SJ, unknowingly transforming a shapeless group of student organizations and science faculties working for environmental conservation into a named institution. Under Dr. Emelina Regis, the INECAR continue to expand since year 2000.

As a leading environmental organization, it has exhibited commitment to the conservation of the environment, integrity, pro-people initiatives, and creative dissemination of environmental awareness in the region.

The INECAR has maintained its scientific and technical integrity through evidence-based analysis, tools for assessment, method for research, investigation policy reforms, and position papers on the environmental concerns faced by Bicol Region. INECAR also conducts environmental awareness seminars and forums to increase awareness and capacities of communities, local government units, schools and non-government organization regarding the processes in the environment and its problems. To effectively communicate environmental messages, INECAR is also tapping various creative approaches in environmental education, such as environmental plays, and enrichment and exposure trips.
The institution has also been consistent in pro-people research and advocacy for the environment. INECAR’s papers, studies and researches helped communities affected by environmental problems by providing concrete evidences, helping them on further advancing the people’s movement for their rights.

One of the most recognized advocacies of the institute is its strong opposition against the large-scale mining project in the small island of Rapu-rapu in Albay.

As an institute dedicated for environmental conservation and protection, INECAR, backed by the Ateneo de Naga University, stood firm against the mining project in Rapu-rapu Island. Since year 2000, even before the commencement of the project, and up to its current rehabilitation, INECAR provided baselines and technical studies on the impacts of the large scale mining in Rapu-Rapu Island, including vigorous documentation of the ill impacts of mining in the environment, health and socio-economic situation of people in affected communities. Recommending for the immediate closure of the mines, these studies served as basis for the Position Paper of Ateneo de Naga University, No Mining in the Island of Rapu-Rapu: Close Lafayette Mine.

INECAR’s position and studies also served as a concrete and objective basis for the advancement of campaigns and people’s movement against the said project. INECAR has released several position papers against mining in Rapu-rapu. It also produced guides in assessing environmental impacts such as new methods for detecting heavy metals in
mining sites. The institute also challenged technical studies and government issuances that lack technical credibility and put the lives of residents and the ecosystems in danger.

In pushing forward for people's rights and mining policy reform, INECAR also led the gathering of local communities, academe, Church, and local government units in the regional consultation on mining in Bicol. The participants have drafted policy recommendations on the regulation and compliance with the law of mining companies, taxation, monitoring, sustainable development and healthy ecology and critiques on Mining Act of 1995.

Aside from Rapu-rapu Island, INECAR also conducted monitoring and assessment studies for Lake Buhi in Camarines Sur, effects of Acid Mine Drainage on Mogpog River Ecosystem in Marinduque and possible impacts on communities and others.

The institute also released several position papers on the various environmentally critical projects such as the Libmanan-Cabusao Dam Project (LCDP) in Lupi and Sipocot, Camarines Sur, and mining in Palawan and similar islands in the Philippines, among others. Twenty five years after its establishment, the INECAR still continue to commit itself on protecting the environment and disseminating environmental awareness in the Bicol Region through expanding its programs in environmental research, advocacy and conservation.
Previous Awardees
2009 Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan Awardees

Eliezer “Boy” Billanes
Dr. Margarita dela Torre-dela Cruz
Emmanuel Maria Calonzo

Datu Guibang Apoga
Cordillera Peoples’ Alliance

Central Visayas Fisherfolk Development Center, Inc.
Seamancor Eco-Developers, Inc.
2011 Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan Awardees

Dr. Gerry Ortega
Leonardo L. Co
Datu Tomas Ito
2013 Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan Awardees

Rodne Galicha
Armin Marin
Wilhelmus Geertman

Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization
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