

OCTOBER 2016

# Milestones

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3-Part Cover Story:  
Giving Light and Hope  
to Indigenous Peoples

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In Focus: PSFI takes  
part in building a  
#WeatherWiser nation



Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015

In 2015, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) touched the lives of more than one million Filipinos, bringing our total beneficiary count to 11,467,729 since 1982. Our Foundation played a vital role in providing opportunities for employment and livelihood, better quality education, and health care services.

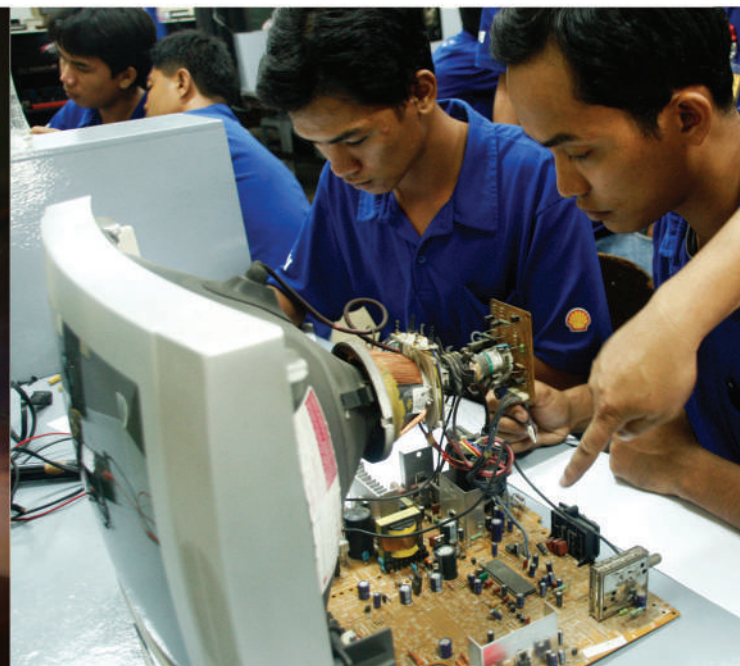
## **Fostering invaluable skills**

PSFI's core technical and vocational skills training program, Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal (SKIL), continues to provide opportunities to deserving out-of-school youth (OSY). In 2015, a total of 105 scholars from Batangas, Pandacan, and Tacloban completed their training on various courses such as Structural Welding, Pipefitting, and Food and Beverage Servicing.

A decade since its launch, the Gas Mo Bukas Ko (GMBK) program, which also offers technical and vocational skills training, helps

ensure a bright future for Shell retail outlet staff all over the country. In 2015, out of the 339 scholars, 89 completed their courses, while the remaining 293 will complete their training this 2016. Many of them took Automotive Mechanics & Servicing, Computer Hardware Servicing, and Motorcycle Repair.

Giving great importance to skills training, PSFI continues to pursue and enhance programs like Driver Reward and Incentive Program (DRIVE) and Unlad sa Pasada (USP). Under DRIVE and USP, 18 and 101 beneficiaries, respectively, started their training in 2015.







### Education is key

Putting a premium on education, the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship program, which started in 2013, has supported chosen Filipino youth taking up Engineering courses in various universities in the country. The program has provided scholarships to 111 students from three batches (2014 to 2016); three of whom have graduated. In 2015, the scholars from batches 1 and 2 joined the Leadership Camp held in Tabangao, Batangas. Batch 1 scholars received orientation and participated in exercises on "Opportunities for Self-Discovery," "Diversity & Inclusion," "Workplace Values", "Self-Development", "Career Dilemmas", "Resume Writing", "Communication Skills" and "Shell Case Studies"; while the batch 2 scholars participated in the LEAD Workshop. The scholars from both batches also had the opportunity to take the Shell Refinery tour and attend the Shell Mentoring Workshop.

The Shell-PhilDev Scholarship program is definitely not just about supporting students in their education. It also serves as a tool providing them with opportunities for personal development.

GMBK-FUEL (Fund for University Education and Leadership Development) is another scholarship program launched in 2014 for 100 students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines taking

up courses in Engineering, Accountancy, and Transportation Management. In A.Y. 2015-2016, 27 of our scholars made it to PUP's Honor's List; 4 were in the President's List (GWA of 1.0 to 1.5) and 23 in the Dean's List (GWA of 1.51 to 1.75). Jomari Gingo, a BS Industrial Engineering student, was also awarded as one of the 10 Outstanding Scholars of the Year.

### Propagating agricultural knowledge

Every year, hundreds of farmers benefit from the Integrated Farming Bio-Systems (IFBS) program, which promotes an environment-friendly and sustainable approach to agricultural practice. In 2015, more than 700 farmers benefitted from the program; 234 were Agrarian Reform beneficiaries from Sorsogon, Masbate, Catanduanes, Albay, and Bulacan; another 468 were farmers from Camarines Sur, Batangas, Puerto Princesa, and Masbate.







### Malaria control and elimination

PSFI remains unrelenting in its goal to eliminate malaria in the Philippines. From 2010-2014, 40 provinces were covered by the Movement Against Malaria (MAM). For 2015-2017, only 13 target provinces remain.

With The Global Fund's grant, there were 805,929 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) and 25,400 pregnancy packs distributed in 2015. In the same year, 94,873 houses were sprayed with residual insecticide and 352 health service providers trained. However, malaria cases increased from 4,937 in 2014 to 8,160 in 2015; and deaths rose from 8 in 2014 to 19 in 2015. These increases in morbidity and mortality, which took place primarily in IP communities in four municipalities in South Palawan, were brought about by several factors such as delayed conduct of indoor spraying of houses with residual insecticide; extended warm weather boosting the rates of mosquito reproduction, and consequently, the number of blood meals they took; and the non-use of mosquito nets by residents at night due to warm weather. Immediate actions were undertaken, foremost of which was mass blood survey in affected IP villages. Prompt treatment of cases that were detected was done to prevent further transmission. Recent reports show that the



number of malaria cases in the country in the first quarter of 2016 has dropped to 790.

In 2015, three collaboration centers were established in Tuguegarao City, Davao City, and Puerto Princesa City. They serve as the hub for malaria diagnostic and vector control trainings. Aside from that, they also provide technical assistance to nearby provincial health offices. In addition, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) has set up an entomological satellite office and research laboratory in the center of Puerto Princesa in order to assess, among others, the impact of climate change on mosquitoes and their behavior.





### The negative state of HIV

In the Philippines, hundreds of new HIV cases arise every month. Year after year, more and more are detected. From 6,011 new cases in 2014, the number increased to 7,829 in 2015; and nearly half of these cases were in Metro Manila. It is an alarming issue that needs to be addressed before it gets worse.

Through the Philippine Business Sector Response (PBSR) to HIV/AIDS, PSFI, in partnership with the business sector, government, and NGOs, continues to provide access to information, training, and services for the institution of workplace policies and programs on HIV and AIDS.

In 2015, PSFI and its partners, through PBSR, engaged more than 130 companies and organizations, and provided HIV orientation (HIV 101) to 18,928 individuals of whom 12,143 submitted themselves to voluntary counselling and testing.

### Yolanda: From destruction to rehabilitation

As a way of helping rebuild the lives of people who suffered the rage of Super Typhoon Yolanda, PSFI partnered with DOE, the Provincial and LGUs, and DepEd in the construction of six multipurpose halls/gyms in Leyte. These multipurpose halls are not only useful, but also of high standard as they can withstand maximum sustained 1-minute surface winds of 240 km/h or category 5 super typhoon. Furthermore, the whole community can benefit from these because they can serve as venues for community events and gatherings, as well as temporary shelters during calamities or disasters.

The six multipurpose halls were constructed at the Palo Central School, Palo National High School, Alang-Alang National High School, San Miguel National High School, Juan S. Tismo National High School, and Manlilisid National High School.







### Access to Energy: A tool for community development

It is quite ironic to think that despite today's developments in technology, there are still communities living without access to the most basic energy services. Shell sees this problem stunting development.

In September 2015, the Access to Energy (A2E) project was launched, benefitting the Batak community situated in Sitio Kalakwasan, Brgy. Tanabag, Puerto Princesa City. The project included the installation of 1-kVA solar panels, construction of a pico-hydro system, restoration of back-up diesel generators and powerhouse, and installation of electric lines and 26 electric posts (15 with overhead lights).

Power was provided to 42 households (36 connected to the grid, 6 with solar home system), a school building, a community church, as well as a livelihood and training center.

### Acknowledgement

With millions of Filipinos benefitting from PSFI's programs for three decades and counting, our organization has come a long way. This is not the end. We will continue to strongly pursue our mission of enabling the disadvantaged become productive and responsible members of society.

To our funding and implementing partners, officers, staff, and volunteers, I thank you all for your steadfast commitment which is very essential in the pursuit of our goals.

Congratulations and more power to all!

Cesar A. Buenaventura  
Chairman

# PSFI takes part in building a **#WeatherWiser** nation

by Rachael Nathanielsz, Roger Borromeo, and Alexa Lasch

What are the various typhoon hazards? How should we act with the onset of a typhoon? – These are basic questions most of us disregard. Living in a country located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, we are vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons, affecting economy and agriculture, among others. Hence, knowing and understanding even just the basics of weather disturbances is necessary. Being equipped with the right knowledge, knowing when to take action, and setting aside complacency could actually save us when Mother Nature decides to express her wrath.

Through the partnership of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and Weather Philippines Foundation (WPF) in 2015, 18 of the agreed 35 Automated Weather Stations (AWS) have already been installed in selected host sites (Pililla, Rizal; Bombon, Camarines Sur; Palawan). Weather and Tropical Cyclone 101





trainings for PSFI employees and host community members have also been conducted. With the objective of transferring knowledge about the “basic concepts, processes, and effects of different weather disturbances and rain-producing weather systems in the country,” the training is designed to aid the participants in “creating appropriate preparedness action plans.”

“Founded in 2012, WPF is the Aboitiz Group’s largest Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. It aims to deliver critical and accurate weather forecasts to the Filipino community, with the hope of improving nationwide disaster preparedness, and timely response to variable weather conditions. By bringing together the Aboitiz Group’s resources and network, and MeteoGroup’s technical expertise, WPF is poised to be the country’s premier private weather information/content provider. WPF plans to have roughly 1,000 automated weather station/ devices installed across the Philippines.” (Source: [aboitizfoundation.org](http://aboitizfoundation.org))

#### Weather and Tropical Cyclone 101 training in host sites

##### Pililla, Rizal

On July 18, 2016, we were transported back to Science class. WPF, through their Sustainability

Specialist Margarette Lim and meteorologists Nilo Millanes and Adonis Manzan, conducted the Weather and Tropical Cyclone 101 training for local government unit (LGU) representatives, concerned community members; and us, PSFI employees, at the Shell Training Center in Pililla, Rizal. The training was intensive but definitely valuable. There were also activities like tropical cyclone mapping and a Q&A game, which tested our knowledge.

##### Bombon, Camarines Sur

The same training was conducted on July 14, 2016 at the Shell Training Farm in Bombon, Camarines Sur. Sustainability Manager Kaye Rosario-Sangalang and meteorologists Mike Padua and Neil John Ramal made up the WPF team.

The participants actively asked questions and showed interest to the topics. Most of the barangay officials who attended the training said they refreshed their knowledge on the basics of meteorology. Meanwhile, Calabanga Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management (MDRRM) Officer, Daniel Abalayan, said he learned a lot in the training, especially on how to maximize the use of AWS. For Alaine Fornoles from the office of Vice President Leni Robredo, the topics were new, but the training was interesting and worth attending.



### Palawan

In Palawan, a series of trainings was conducted from August 1 to 3, 2016 in Aborlan, Taytay, and Sabang, respectively. Sustainability Manager Kaye Rosario-Sangalang and meteorologist Adonis Manzan conducted the trainings for participants from various agencies, LGUs, and sectors (agriculture, fishery, tourism, and business).

Hon. Romy Salvame, Municipal Mayor of Taytay, highlighted the training's use in creating appropriate disaster preparedness action plans and making practical decisions to reduce the impact of weather-related disasters.

MDRRM officers also shared different strategies for weather information dissemination. In San Vicente, they monitor the weather from the AWS 24/7 and inform different barangays everyday through handset radios. They are also planning to tap their radio station in San Vicente to reach more people.

The community of Sabang expressed their gratitude and commitment through the testimonial of Maria Fiechter, tourism sector

representative: "We are delighted because there are NGOs like you (WPF) that help us with firsthand weather information. Through you and the coordination of different agencies, the weather could now be our companion to run our business better. We will be active and try our best to contribute to this endeavor."

PSFI Program Manager Aquino Veran hoped that when the participants went back to work, they were able to share the knowledge they gained so more people could benefit from it.

### The road to a #WeatherWiser nation

To date, there are more than 750 AWS nationwide. With easy access to more localized weather information and updated weather forecasts, WPF, together with its partners like PSFI, aims to build a #WeatherWiser nation.

To access free weather information, you can visit the WPF website ([weather.com.ph](http://weather.com.ph)) or download the Weather Philippines app on the App Store or Google Play.





# Giving Light and Hope to IPs







## The A2E pilot project in Palawan

by Rachael Nathanielsz and Mitchell Gimena

An issue raised during the Malampaya Social Performance Review was the lack of energy access of far-flung communities in Palawan. Finding the need to address the issue, Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) mapped out the Save, Invest, Nurture Access to Green Energy (SINAG) program. Promoting the value of sustainable energy, SINAG benefits small off-grid communities composed of rural households with no immediate prospects of being connected to any electricity grids over the next 5-10 years.

Under the SINAG program, there is the Access to Energy (A2E) project, primarily benefitting indigenous people (IP) communities, especially since they

are located in Shell impact zones. The electricity provided through renewable energy sources helps in the growth of their community enterprise, development of livelihood, improvement of basic health services, and enhancement of education.

On September 23, 2015, in cooperation with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Shell's A2E pilot project was launched in the home of the Batak ethnic group – Sitio Kalakwasan, Brgy. Tanabag, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. A hybrid power system (using solar and hydro energy) was set up, providing electricity to 42 households, a school building, a community church, as well as a livelihood center. Following the energy needs assessment, it took

two months and over 20 people to finish the project.

The inauguration started with the unveiling of the bronze marker at the entrance of the Kalakwasan village, followed by a short tour to their home-food production area, organic vegetable garden, and livelihood center, which also serves as an exhibit area of Batak products; these projects are being supported by PSFI.

Sankie Simbulan, SPEX Social Performance Manager, initiated the ceremonial activation of the pico hydro turbine by opening the canal gate to let the water from the river flow, transmit energy to the powerhouse, and generate electricity. "To have a stable supply of electricity is a dream come true for this off-grid village. It can now



## ACCESS TO ENERGY PILOT PROJECT



foster development even in the simplest form. This is what Shell wants, to have more communities in the country have better access to energy,” remarked Simbulan.

Kalakwasan Tribal Chieftain Dionisio Saavedra expressed his gratitude by saying how Shell made it possible for them to have light, a necessity that has enabled them to extend working hours and earn additional income to support their families. “Through this project, we now have a means to support the full schooling of our children. It has also opened the door for us to learn how to communicate. The buyers of our forest products now easily check our available supply through text messaging. Thus, enabling us to save time and effort going back and forth to the city,” added Saavedra.

The hybrid power system, which generates around three-kilowatt electricity, is able to help

Kalakwasan residents extend their productivity during the night because their homes have been equipped with LED lamps; these lamps also aid students in finishing their homework and other school tasks.

Puerto Princesa Vice Mayor Luis Marcaida III said, “This A2E pilot project hopes to serve as a model of a self-sustaining community with increased productivity and better standard of living.”

Celebrating the success of the project, the Bataks showcased their talents in a musical performance. There was also a back-to-back medical mission spearheaded by the Western Command and the Palawan Health Office, assisted by PSFI staff.

Also present in the event were SPEX Communications Manager Paulo Gavino, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Executive Director Nelson Devanadera,

PSFI Program Managers Marvi Trudeau and Benny Veran, former Batak Tribal Chieftain Teodorico Villanueva, NCIP Provincial Officer Engr. Roldan Parague, and Tanabag Barangay Chairman Marcelito Dancil.

### Palawan as the pilot site

Shell has chosen Palawan as A2E’s pilot site due to its growing demand for energy, being an island isolated from the main grid suppliers in Luzon and with populations scattered in hard-to-reach areas. Because of the high cost of electricity in the province, there is a great need to provide an affordable and low-maintenance power system in remote villages.

Promoting access to energy as a theme within its global social investment portfolio, Shell hopes to continue what it started in Puerto Princesa to other parts of Palawan.





## PSFI launches second A2E project in El Nido

by Alicia Robang

Sitio Ligad and Sitio Catuldan in Brgy. Teneguiban, El Nido are coastal villages located 32 kilometers away from El Nido city proper. Home of the Tagbanua and Cuyunon tribes, both villages had been neglected in terms of electricity and urban development. Lack of lighting in schools and households, absence of cellular signal in the area, and limited food sources are part of their daily struggle.

Through the efforts of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), in cooperation with the Department of Education (DepEd) Palawan, and funding from Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX), Sitios Ligad and Catuldan are the new sites of the Access to Energy project (A2E), with the establishment of the microgrid hybrid power system (using solar and wind energy) last September 15.

On July 12, 2016, a joint meeting with the community, DepEd, and PSFI was held to inform the residents of the significance and timeline of A2E. DepEd Palawan representative and head of schools of indigenous peoples (IPs), Jess Pagliawan, emphasized the importance of energy in a school and community, and its subsequent beneficial effects: "Once there's electricity, several things would follow. I dream of making Ligad Elementary School a model Green School," said Pagliawan.

He then specified the factors that make up a Green School: renewable energy, integrated farming bio-systems (feeding program, income for the school, scion grove), and proper waste management.

Pagliawan brought up the long-term advantages of having electricity, such as setting up an Audio Visual Room (AVR) and library, improvement of reading competency of students, employment of proper farming techniques, and implementation of the Alternative Learning System (ALS). Residents, in response, displayed their resounding support.



PSFI Project Officer Antero Rebuena laid out the timeline of the A2E project to the community. The work started on June 25, 2016, with the fabrication of electric posts and wind turbine tower. In the fourth week of August, PSFI and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) representatives trained community members on the maintenance and management of the solar panels and wind turbine. And last October 2, the microgrid hybrid power system was officially launched.

Furthermore, PSFI Palawan Program Manager Benny Veran aims to establish a livelihood center for the community, and enable Sitios Ligad and Catuldan to independently augment their income. He ended the meeting by extending his invitation to both men and women involved to actively support and participate in the farming and skills training of PSFI in the months to come.



# Reaping the benefits of DepEd-Shell educational partnership

by Elvin Madamba

Sitio Kalakwasan is six kilometers off the national highway in Puerto Princesa City. There are no paved roads and there are eleven river crossings leading to the mountain forest community. Totally inaccessible during the rainy seasons, this is the home of the Batak ethnic group.

April 5, 2016 marked a milestone in Batak education in Sitio Kalakwasan. Aside from the Batak children in kindergarten and elementary who graduated from Heaven's Eyes Tribal Missions Academy, 37 Batak men and women, most of whom are parents and elders, also graduated from the Department of Education's (DepEd) Alternative Learning System (ALS). It is the first ALS graduation in Sitio Kalakwasan, which was conducted by Heaven's Eyes Tribal Missions Academy, with principal sponsorship from Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.'s (PSFI) Integrated Support to Indigenous Peoples (ISIP) program.

It was an exciting day for the Batak tribe in Sitio Kalakwasan, one of the original indigenous hunter-gatherer tribes of the Philippines. There was heightened energy in the community; children were playing – some were jumping on and off chairs, some were running around pushing bicycle tires, and some were dancing to the booming music playing and practicing their choreographed numbers, while the adults decorated the stage with colorful flowers and garlands.

"Masaya ako (I'm happy)," Maritess Villanueva, 29, ALS first place merit awardee, expressed her gratitude for ALS. "Kasi tapos na pag-aaral namin (Because our studies are completed)."

Many Filipinos do not have the opportunity to attend and complete formal basic education due to different reasons such as the immediate need to work to survive, cost of schooling, and inaccessibility of schools. Indigenous peoples (IPs), such

as the Batak, are often at a greater disadvantage when it comes to receiving education because of aforementioned reasons. Consequently, many Batak men and women do not know how to read, write, and do basic math.

Since every Filipino has the right to basic education, DepEd has established the ALS program to provide all Filipinos, especially those who are underprivileged like the Batak, the opportunity to complete basic education in a way that fits their and their communities' needs.

Girlie Salvador, 37, a widowed basket weaver and a single mother of five, is one of the 37 beneficiaries of the ALS program in Sitio Kalakwasan. With her young





daughter beside her, she said, “Kaya ako sumali sa ALS kasi hindi ako marunong magkwenta (I joined ALS because I don’t know how to count money)... Dati, ‘di talaga ako marunong mag-budget ng pera. Ngayon, unti-unti na rin akong nakakapagtabi ng konti. At nahahati-hati ko sila, may pang-ulam na, may pang-bigas, at sa iba pang pangangailangan namin (Before, I didn’t really know how to budget our money. Now, I save a bit, and I’m able to allocate money for food and other things we need).”

Through the joint efforts of Heaven’s Eyes Tribal Missions Academy’s teaching manpower and facilitation, and PSFI’s sponsorship support of educational materials, supplies, modules, infrastructure, and merit-based incentives and rewards to ALS students (e.g. groceries, rice, and homeware), the ALS Basic Literacy Program has been a beneficial success for the Batak community.

Second place merit awardee, Mary Jane Saavedra, 36, is not only grateful towards ALS and its teachers from Heaven’s Eyes Tribal Missions Academy, but also towards Shell’s altruism, particularly pertaining to its Access to Energy (A2E) project that provides electricity through renewable energy sources in Sitio Kalakwasan.

“Pagdating sa gabi, nakakapag-aral kami at ang mga anak namin dahil may ilaw at kuryente na (At night, we and our children can study because there is

light and electricity now),” she said, referring to the A2E project. “Nakakagawa rin kami ng mga basket [na aming binebenta] sa gabi (Now, we can also make baskets [which we sell] during nighttime).”

“Isang magandang halimbawa ang proyektong ito na kaya rin natin maging maunlad sa sama-samang pagtutulungan na ginagawa ng Shell at DepEd, kasama rin ang Heaven’s Eyes at pamayanan ng Batak sa Sitio Kalakwasan (This is a shining example that we can achieve development through collaboration from Shell, DepEd, Heaven’s Eyes and Sitio Kalakwasan),” said Benny Veran, PSFI Program Manager. “Malaking tulong ito sa sustainable development ng ating IPs dito sa Palawan (This is a big help to our IPs’ sustainable development in Palawan).”

For the Batak, life was a lot harder then, as they did not know how to read, write, and count, which heavily disadvantaged their livelihood. “Kung sa bulag, ‘di ka makakita, kinakapa mo ang lahat (It’s like you’re blindly maneuvering in the dark),” Maritess said about life before her ALS education.

Now, life for the Batak in Sitio Kalakwasan has improved. “Yung ‘di ko naiintindihan noon, naiintindihan ko na ngayon (What I don’t understand before, I already understand now),” smiled former Batak Chieftain Teodorico Villanueva Sr., 64.





# PSBR to HIV/AIDS: Moving forward and paying it forward

by Julius Elope and Maria Stella Flores

## The scenario:

The latest World Health Organization (WHO) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Global reports (2012) named the Philippines one of the nine countries with very steep increase in the number of HIV/AIDS cases reported in the last ten years (15-49 years old bracket, more than 25% among vulnerable groups). The affected, as young as they are, are considered as our economic backbone, the machinery that sustains the country's national progress.

Numbers do not lie. Statistics show it all as the June 2016 HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) data released by the Department of Health (DOH) state that the age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger: 35-49 years from 2001 to 2005, and 25-34 years from 2006 to 2016. Notably, the proportion of HIV-positive cases in the 15-24-year age group increased from 25% in 2006-2010 to 28% in 2011-2016. It is a sad reality, and we cannot afford to do nothing as we watch our young generation suffer the deadly complications of HIV infection. Until now, it is not curable. Yes, we have the treatment to manage the infection, but are we just going to rely on it? We can prevent the infection. We can prevent HIV from having a foothold in the lives of the young generation by providing them with the correct information about HIV, how it affects life, how it destroys the family, and how it creates health implications if left untreated and unmanaged.

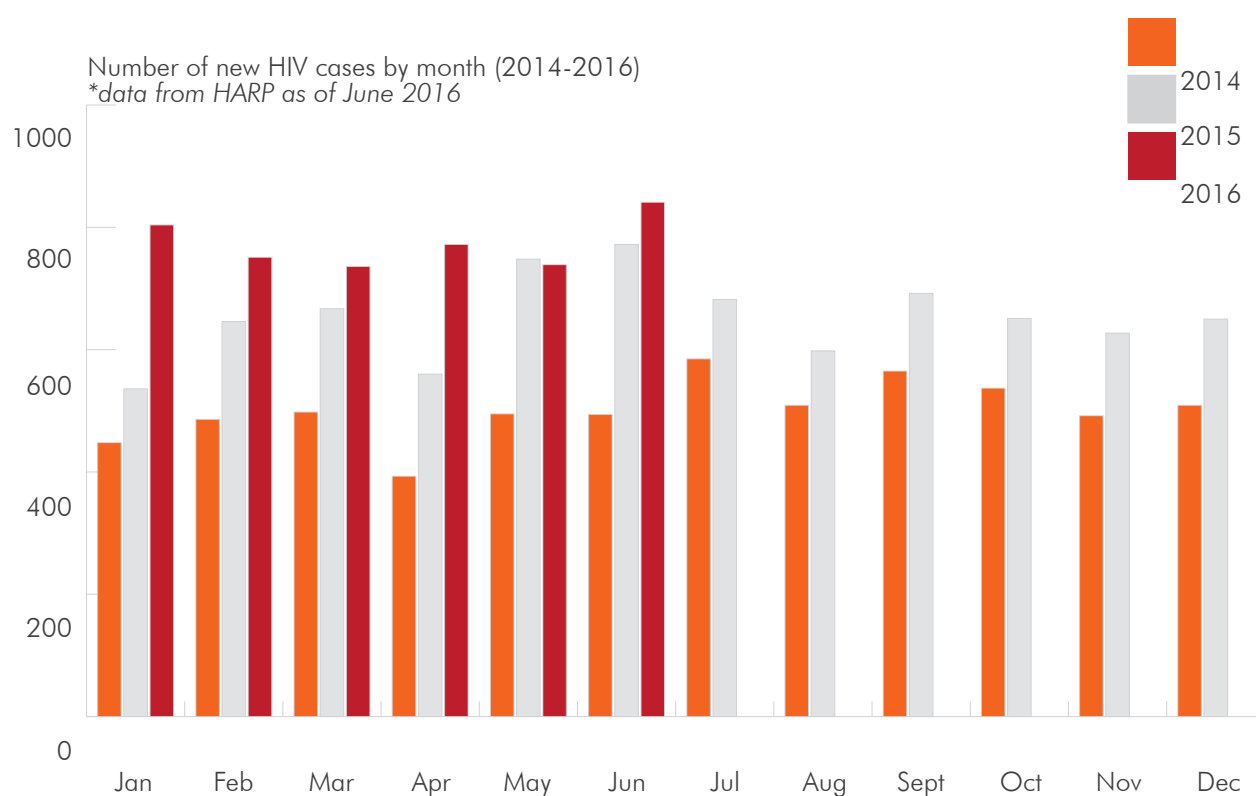
Quick facts

\*data from HARP as of June 2016

Demographic Data	June 2016	Cumulative January 1984 – June 2016
Total Reported Cases	841	33,999
Asymptomatic Cases	737	31,825
AIDS Cases	104	3,174
Male	798	32,371 <sup>a</sup>
Female	43	2,617 <sup>a</sup>
Age Range (Median)	1-66 (28)	1-82 (28)
Less than 15 y/o	3	99 <sup>b</sup>
15-24 y/o	226	9,393 <sup>b</sup>
25-34 y/o	456	17,940 <sup>b</sup>
35-49 y/o	142	6,497 <sup>b</sup>
50 y/o & above	14	996 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>No data available on sex for (11) cases

<sup>b</sup>No data available on age for (74) cases

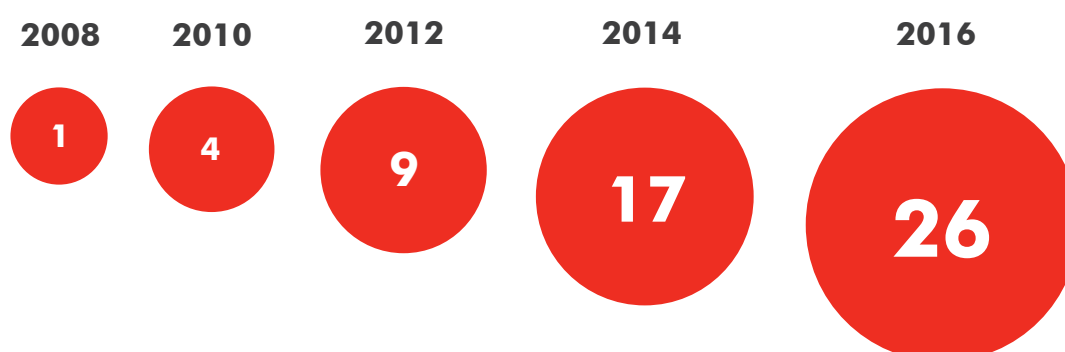


Percentage of newly diagnosed cases per region (Top 5)  
\*data from HARP as of June 2016

Regions	June 2016 (N = 841)	Cumulative January 1984 – June 2016 (N = 34,999) <sup>b</sup>
NCR	355 (40%)	15,053 (43%)
4A	126 (15%)	4,843 (14%)
7	121 (14%)	3,187 (9%)
3	57 (7%)	2,887 (8%)
11	46 (5%)	2,071 (6%)

<sup>b</sup> From January 1984 – June 2016, no particular region were reported for 1,146 cases

Number of newly diagnosed with HIV per day:

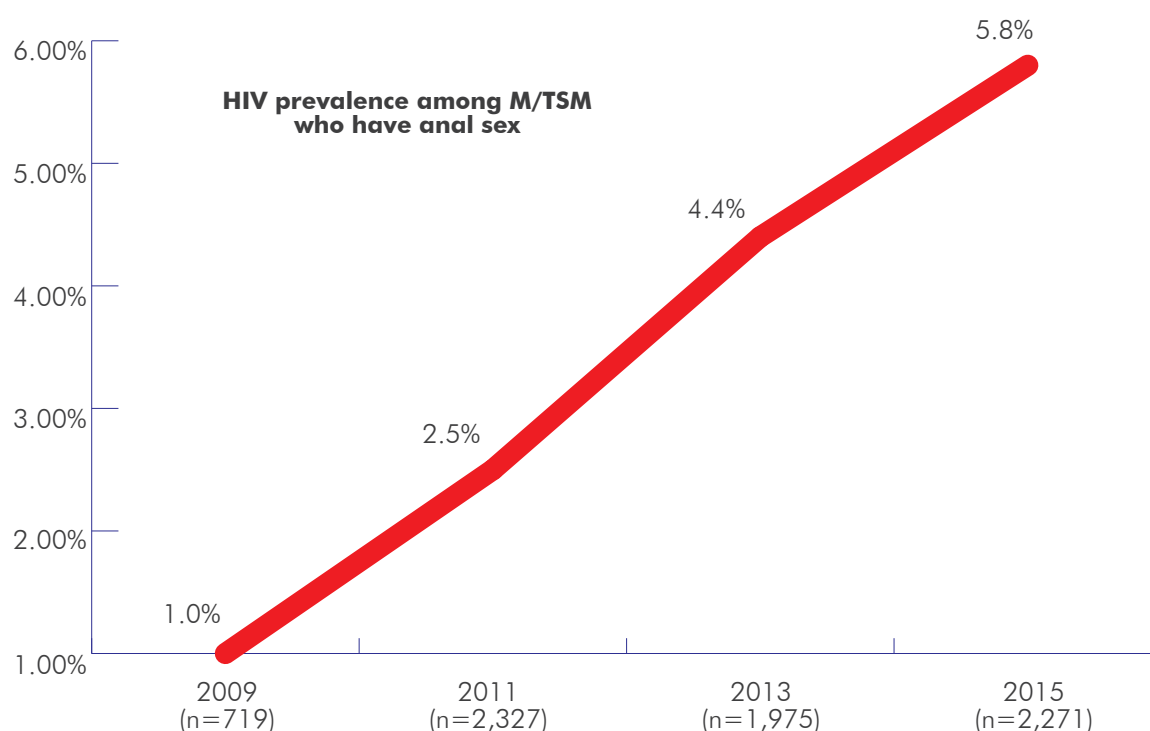


As projected by DOH, the increasing trend will remain in the coming years. The number of people living with HIV accessing antiretroviral (ARV) drugs will also increase and further strain the national budget allocation for health, as ARV is a lifetime management. External help from international donors are dwindling, refocusing on nations with lesser capacity to allocate budget for HIV programs. The impact to DOH's national HIV program and its sustainability is put on the line, whether we can work on meager budget and focus on practical but effective interventions or increase budget allocation to cover all possible impactful interventions in exchange of cutting budget allocated to other health programs.



In 2015, the results of the Integrated HIV Behavioral Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) conducted by the Epidemiology Bureau showed that the cities of Puerto Princesa and Cagayan de Oro breached the 5% mark set for a city to be called a hotspot for HIV. The cities, which had been at the backseat in terms of increase in the HIV prevalence among men having sex with men/transgender having sex with men (M/TSM), surprised the nation when they registered 7.7% and 9.3%, respectively. The dramatic increase overshadowed the cities of Parañaque, Makati, and Mandaue, which have been on the watch list of the Epidemiology Bureau for the last five years.

Furthermore, the increase in the number of cases for both Cagayan de Oro and Puerto Princesa is among the young population aged 15-24 years old who engaged in unprotected sexual activities. The advent of technological innovations like the use of multimedia, cheap mobile phones, and access to the internet further complicated the already complicated nature of the infection.



\*HIV prevalence is unweighted. Data is an aggregate of sentinel sites only, not all IHBSS sites. The sentinel sites include Angeles, Baguio, Cebu, CDO, Davao, Gen San, Zamboanga, Pasay, and Quezon City.

2015 IHBSS Cities with HIV Prevalence >5%**:	
Cebu	14.0%
Cagayan de Oro	9.3%
Puerto Princesa	7.7%
Quezon City	7.4%
Mandaue	6.5%
Parañaque	5.9%
Davao	5.5%
Makati	5.2%

\*\*HIV prevalence is weighted. These are the highest prevalence cities among the 36 cities that participated in the 2015 IHBSS (n=9,498)



### **The contributions:**

#### **Strengthening PSFI-LGU partnership**

The partnership of Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) with the local government units (LGUs) was the missing link needed to finally take off from the tepid response of the business sector in HIV advocacy. Since the inception of the Philippine Business Sector Response (PBSR) to HIV/AIDS in 2009, the program has only enjoyed sporadic success. In the middle of 2014, with the inclusion of PSFI as a member of the Local AIDS Council (LAC) of LGUs, the program took off, allowing it to yield better results and penetrate the business sector with lesser resistance. At the same time, the program served as a bridge of the business sector to access health services offered by LGUs.

Through the PSFI-LGU partnership, we were able to provide HIV 101 orientation to 7,742 employees from 14 companies in 2015 alone. Out of the 7,742, 37% or 2,864 underwent HIV testing (our indicator for behavioral change expected for those who were given HIV 101).

Furthermore, with PSFI's seat in LAC, it puts itself in a vantage point to contribute valuable inputs in crafting HIV ordinances with specific provisions for the business sector, and at the same time,

facilitates the business sector to take a more active involvement in local issues and concerns.

#### **The PLHIV Response Center**

The creation and operation of the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) Response Center is supported by PSFI, which believes in the objective of the project in helping the PLHIV community have better access to critical HIV services. The Response Center is a communication platform helping facilitate access to HIV treatment, care, and support for PLHIV in the Philippines. Handled by Pinoy Plus Association Inc. (PPAI), an organization of Filipinos/PLHIV, the center started operations in January 2016 in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

#### **Anglo and Uni clinics**

The PSFI and The Love Yourself Inc. (TLY) partnership started in 2012 and has produced a very exciting relationship. TLY's Anglo and Uni clinics, located in Mandaluyong and Pasay, respectively, exemplify the result of such relationship geared towards the common goal of encouraging testing among key affected population in the workforce. The clinics boast a friendly ambience that is missing or disregarded in many laboratories in the metropolis. These clinics provide a light and conducive atmosphere for individuals who want to get

tested without feeling stigmatized and discriminated. They are havens filled with love, making you feel the comfort of your own home. In 2015, a total of 1,045 HIV cases were diagnosed in the clinics, representing 46% of total new cases in NCR that year.

#### **SOGIE Guide for Health Care Provider**

PSFI, through its PBSR to HIV/AIDS program, involved itself in assisting craft-relevant guides and policies to guarantee smooth implementation of and assure immediate access to critical health services.

The Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE) Guide for Health Care Provider is one great example of a special guide specifically drafted for the transgender community. PSFI, together with PBSR to HIV/AIDS program stakeholders, drafted the manual guide.

The manual aims to provide health care providers strategic but personalized approach in providing health services to the transgender community, minimizing the clutch of discrimination and stigma, which hinder transgender people to fully access critical health services. Moreover, the manual is a living manuscript depicting the forward movement of realizing a discrimination-free society.



# AMOS TARA!(Let's go) and fight HIV/AIDS together

by Rachael Nathanielsz



Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) partnered with Project: Health, Help, Hope, Happiness (Project H4); The Love Yourself Inc. (TLY), the Department of Health (DOH) Region IV-B, and the City Government of Puerto Princesa in setting up *Amos Tara!*, a community center designed to address the HIV/AIDS situation in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Every month, there are hundreds of new HIV/AIDS cases in the Philippines. In 2015 alone, 7,829 cases were recorded. Furthermore, in Palawan, HIV continues to thrive, with 40 new cases in 2015. In the same year, figures show that its capital, Puerto Princesa, ranked 3rd out of 36 cities having the highest HIV prevalence among men having sex with men/transgender having sex with men (M/TSM); this is based on the 2015 Integrated HIV Behavioral Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) conducted by the Epidemiology Bureau of DOH.

As a response to the need of the community, Project H4, TLY, DOH Region IV-B, and PSFI partnered in setting up a volunteer-run community center, a safe haven where people can take an HIV test without the fear of being judged or looked down upon.

Last May 19, we witnessed the inauguration of the community center, *Amos Tara!* ("Let's go!" in Cuyunon), in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. With its welcoming vibe, you would think it is a house. Painted in white with wooden touches and an interior wall painted with Palawan cherry trees and birds, it aims to be a place of recreation, acceptance, and security. In the words of Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Program Manager, "I hope people don't see it as an HIV clinic, but a community center, a youth center, a place to be happy and safe." Aside from counseling and testing, *Amos Tara!* will be the venue for HIV 101 mini-sessions, which will promote peer education. It also aims to provide livelihood and personality development to the youth.





*Amos Tara! opening hours:  
Wednesdays-Sundays, 8AM-5PM  
Location: 41 Abad Santos St.,  
Brgy. Masipag, Puerto Princesa  
City, Palawan*

Present in the launch was Edgardo Veron Cruz, PSFI Executive Director. He talked about how PSFI started to become proactive in fighting HIV/AIDS through its program, Philippine Business Sector Response (PBSR) to HIV/AIDS. According to him, the course of the organization, business, and even the economy of our nation will be affected if most of our young employees are getting sick. To educate individuals about HIV/AIDS, PSFI launched the said program with the aim of encouraging companies to have access to information, training, and services, necessary for the

institution of Workplace Policies and Programs on HIV and AIDS.

PBSR to HIV/AIDS' area of coverage was initially focused in NCR. It was then expanded to Batangas and Palawan, as Shell work sites are present in these provinces. Through its involvement in the creation of Amos Tara!, PSFI steps up the fight in helping save lives in the province.

Expressing his joy towards the benefits of meaningful partnerships, the Executive Director of TLY, Ronivin Pagtahakan, said: "When you see the dynamism or flexibility of public-private partnership, you will see the joy in it because people feel safe, people feel accepted; they feel it's private, but it's also government, so the accessibility is there, the support is there."

Also present in the event were Roy Ventura, City Councilor – Puerto Princesa; Calvin June Sintoy, Executive Director, Project H4; and Dir. Eduardo Janairo, Regional Director, DOH Region IV-B. Like what the other speakers pointed out, they highlighted the significance of working together in defeating HIV/AIDS and encouraged everyone to take part in the fight. They also made commitments to provide support to the center to ensure its success and sustainability.

*Get tested to know your status.  
15 minutes is all you need to do  
the test. For further information,  
contact Stella at 09999955601 or  
Julius at 09273320578.*





by Rachael Nathanielsz and Julius Elope

An excerpt from *The Witch of Portobello* written by one of the most celebrated authors of our times, Paulo Coelho, says, "The purpose of light is to create more light, to open people's eyes, to reveal the marvels around."

In its 33rd year, we witnessed the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial (IACM) bring people together to light up hope and drive out darkness. More than a commemoration for those who have died from HIV/AIDS, IACM is a reminder for all of us to act in order to bring the enemy down.

With the aim of shedding light on the gravity of increasing HIV/AIDS cases in the Philippines, various organizations united and committed to take part in the battle during the Philippine AIDS Candlelight Memorial (PACM) held on May 14, 2016 in the Quezon City Memorial Circle (QCMC). With the theme, "Know Your Status, Get Tested," one of the main goals of the HIV/AIDS awareness drive is to end the stigma towards the disease, said former Health Secretary Janette Garin in a news release. According to her, "We need to raise awareness because many people living with HIV do not know what health services are

available to them. Others are afraid to consult or are socially stigmatized for being HIV-positive."

Delivering his remarks during PACM, Vicente Belizario Jr., Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary, stated important facts about social hygiene clinics (SHC) and the increase in HIV screening, treatment, and counseling budget for 2016. He stressed that there is still hope to defeat HIV. An important step is spreading the news for our countrymen to avail of the free screening.

Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), being proactive in the fight against HIV/AIDS, together with DOH, and The Red Ribbon Project spearheaded this year's PACM. In his speech, PSFI Executive Director Edgar Veron Cruz said that through Philippine Business Sector Response (PBSR) to HIV/AIDS, PSFI is always ready to help. With the coordination and support of businesses, success will be fully achieved.

Apart from the speeches and lighting of the ceremonial candle, there were other activities that spiced up the event, making it different from the traditional way of commemoration:

**AIDS Hour:** By launching the first ever AIDS Hour in the world, the Philippines joins the global effort to combat HIV/AIDS. The concept is no different from Earth Hour. People in their homes participated by uploading a picture of themselves lighting a candle, symbolizing a commitment to light the path towards ending HIV in the country.

**The Passing of the Torch:** Similar to that in the Olympics, Quezon City, being this year's host, passed the torch to the city that will host the 2017 PACM. The goal is to have a yearly host encouraged to come up with unique and inspiring activities for the event.

In recognition of its undying commitment to the program, major stakeholders led by DOH feted a plaque of recognition to PSFI, honoring the foundation's invaluable contribution in helping halt the HIV epidemic in the country.

"As we join the rest of the world in this memorial, let us remember that every candle we light represent our struggle to overcome HIV and AIDS." – former Health Secretary Janette Garin



## Malaria Stakeholders' Forum: On reviewing the past and working towards the future

by Rachael Nathanielsz



Last May 17, the Malaria Stakeholders' Forum was held in Puerto, Princessa, Palawan to review and update the strategy utilized by the Movement Against Malaria (MAM) program.

Representatives from various agencies and organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO); city, municipal, and provincial Health Offices; Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP), among others, attended the Forum. Significant achievements in combatting the disease in the province were discussed. However, we are still in the process of elimination. Hence, there is a need to review our strategy. With the general objective of disseminating information to partners in order to strengthen local health system capacities, the forum pushed for the implementation of a malaria elimination strategy focused on attaining zero transmission that we will be able to sustain.

"We cannot afford more lives to be lost," Vicente Belizario Jr., Undersecretary, Department of Health (DOH) – Office for Technical Services, uttered in a hopeful tone. It is a simple yet powerful statement. Not only does it direct us towards our goal, but also reminds us that there is nothing more valuable than life itself.

In 2015, there were 8,160 total confirmed malaria cases and 20 malaria-caused deaths in the Philippines. Of the 8,160 cases, 91% were from Palawan. Some of the problems identified were delayed spraying of residual insecticide, irregular use of bed nets, more exposure to vectors (e.g. sleeping outside the house or near rivers), lack of access to diagnostic facilities, physicians' non-compliance to treatment protocols, change in mosquito behavior, and attitude or outlook in life. With that, as Dr. Belizario said in his welcome remarks, we are to explore solutions and not find faults. "We should be prepared to see things that are not entirely acceptable and try to address them," he added. By following the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) roadmap to elimination, he is positive that we can achieve a malaria-free Philippines earlier than the 2030 target.

### *APLMA Roadmap Priority Actions*

1. *Unite national efforts and regional actions*
2. *Map, prevent, test and treat the disease, everywhere*
3. *Ensure high quality malaria services, tests, medicines, nets and insecticides*
4. *Improve targeting and efficiency to maximize impact*
5. *Mobilize domestic financing and leverage external support*
6. *Innovate for elimination*

After identifying key issues, strengths and weaknesses, the representatives of different sectors were grouped accordingly. Armed with great enthusiasm and determination, each team came up with noteworthy commitments to help wipe out malaria in Palawan.

Closing the forum, Dr. Mary Ann Navarro, Fellow, Philippine Obstetrics & Gynecology Society (FPOGS) Provincial Health Officer emphasized the importance of collaborative effort. Come hell or high water, through the steadfast cooperation of everyone involved in the movement that we started years ago, victory is closer than we think.



# Collaboration centers as sustainability mechanism

by Ynna Lauron

The renovation, refurbishment, and set-up of three collaboration centers for malaria in Davao City, Tuguegarao City, and Puerto Princesa City have already been completed. One more center is being established in Zamboanga.

The collaboration centers in Davao and Zamboanga cover regions in Mindanao; the one in Tuguegarao covers Luzon; and the one in Puerto Princesa, solely caters to the island of Palawan, which continues to account for about half the number of cases in the country. These centers aim to centralize all resources in the said areas and bring them within ready access of the health service providers.

The collaboration centers are facilities established with their own structures and systems, designed to provide a package of technical assistance geared towards strengthening and sustaining the quality of malaria care services. They serve as a sustainability mechanism to keep track of all achievements on malaria control for the prevention of new resurgence in cases and acceleration of ongoing malaria control initiatives to levels of complete elimination. These are all in line with the medium-term development plan of achieving country elimination status by 2030.

The centers' quality assurance services focus on malaria diagnostic and treatment capacities, and malaria prevention activities, specifically vector control. The thrust at every collaboration center revolves around providing the venue and manpower for the conduct of trainings (malaria diagnostic and treatment, vector control) as well as the conduct of routine and special quality assurance activities; these include proficiency testing of microscopists, evaluation of rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs),

therapeutic efficacy studies (TES), and in the case of entomological studies, bioassays and susceptibility studies.

For the conduct of microscopy training activities (basic skills training, malaria microscopy refresher courses), each collaboration center was provided with one unit 10-header training microscope, 15 units of stereoscope, and laboratory supplies for insectary, slide bank, and giemsa production.

Instead of conducting trainings in hotels and other venues, the collaboration centers have been provided with training facilities, thus helping bring down the cost of activities.

The establishment of the collaboration centers is a joint undertaking among Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), thru the funds from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the Department of Health (DOH); local government units (LGUs); and other stakeholders. In Palawan, the renovation of an existing building that houses the collaboration center was funded by the Malampaya joint venture partners: Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., Chevron Malampaya LLC, and Philippine National Oil Company Exploration Corporation.







## World Malaria Day and stakeholder engagement

by Ynna Lauron

World Malaria Day 2016 was celebrated in the village with the most number of malaria cases in Palawan – Sitio Ogis, Barangay Ransang, in the municipality of Rizal.

As early as April 23, Rizal Rural Health Unit (RHU) workers, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) staff, volunteers, and barangay leaders hiked to Sitio Ogis. The site was prepared for indigenous people (IP) families not only from Ogis, but from other sitios as well – Pinagar, Magtanor, Balen-Balen, and Signapan. A makeshift covered area was put up for the program proper. Small huts were also constructed for the conduct of advocacy activities and diagnostic services and treatment.

The event started early on April 25. A total of 710 individuals completed the blood smear for malaria parasites (BSMP), with 61 being malaria-positive and 14 asymptomatic. All were provided with anti-malarial medicines. Long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs), rapid





diagnostic test (RDT) kits, medicines, pregnancy packs, food packs, and school supplies were also distributed. Meanwhile, the municipality of Rizal provided manpower assistance, a generator set and fuel, a vehicle for transport of commodities, sleeping mats, and additional food for the community members.

Hon. Alrie Nobleza, Mayor of Rizal, graced the event and was very sincere in his message of putting a stop to malaria. Using the Palaw'an dialect, he challenged the IP community to stay away from mosquito bites.

Also present in the event were the health workers from the Municipal Health Office (MHO), led by Municipal Health Officer Nurse Rutchell Laborera. In her message, she called for everyone's cooperation and assistance, including that from the private sector and other agencies. She said, "Every little help we can get will bring us a step closer to providing malaria services to those who need them most."

Malaria lectures were facilitated by Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM) Community Organizers Ryan Paccial and Joseph Hermoso, and PSFI Project Officer Krizel Jane Cañedo. The lectures were translated into the Palaw'an dialect by Barangay Kagawad Joel Layom. While some community members queued for LLINs and BSMP, others participated in informative games and performed malaria jingles. The program was facilitated by RHU staff April Dawn Magnifico and the KLM Community Organizers.

### Stakeholder engagement with missionaries

Missionaries serving the IPs in the upland areas gathered for a one-day meeting on April 27, 2016 in Rizal. Because the IPs trust the missionaries and respect their views, Laborera expressed the need for

their assistance in reaching the affected population. Addressing the missionaries, she said, "We hope that we can count on you to help us in sending help to your church members."

In a presentation delivered by KLM Program Manager Aileen Balderian, she emphasized the malaria situation in Rizal. She particularly discussed issues and concerns of the communities living in the mountains, such as their poor health-seeking behavior and cultural beliefs – two factors affecting the fight against malaria. It can be recalled that there were deaths caused by malaria because parents refused treatment for their children, believing they should leave their fate to a higher being.

The Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health Development (CHD) IV-B Administrative Officer Chona Bulalague provided a malaria 101 session for the missionary participants. During the session, misconstrued information had to be corrected, and several tales, carefully rectified.

To break one major perception that a dose of medicine can cure malaria, the participants were persuaded to engage their constituents to actively use the LLINs when sleeping every night, and take other measures to prevent mosquito bites when conducting social activities such as *tabuan* or market day.

"The fight against malaria is not just the Provincial Health Office's (PHO) struggle; it is each and every one's concern," remarked PHO Representative Julie Gaité. Calling on all stakeholders to be involved in the fight against malaria, she said, "A lot of interventions were made by RHU and PSFI, but our tally of cases last year increased. Hence, we should double our efforts and look after each other."







## Safety first: Batangas City

by Rachael Nathanielsz

The “Industrial Port City of CALABARZON (Region IV-A)” and one of the most competitive cities in the country today is Batangas City. Nationwide, it is the only city with the Junior Fire Marshal (JFM) program spearheaded by Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI). However, in 2015, 15 fire incidents were recorded in the city. According to Senior Inspector (SINSP) Glenn Salazar, City Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Batangas City, in terms of mortality, the most common victims are children 9 years old and below.

Through JFM, one of the social development programs being implemented for the communities surrounding the Shell Tabangao Refinery and the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant, PSFI aims to prevent the occurrence of more incidents by educating and molding children and adults to become advocates, not only of fire safety and prevention, but also of safety as a whole. With the need to sustain the program,

a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed among PSFI, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), BFP Batangas City, local government of Batangas City, and Department of Education (DepEd) Batangas City last June 2. Also present in the signing were the 90 teachers who would undergo the Intensive Module Training for JFM Advisers.

In his welcome remarks, SINSP Salazar, a licensed teacher by profession, emphasized that students should be guided in developing, not only their awareness of safety, but also their sense of nationalism. According to him, “In terms of service to the country and to the school, there is a need for us to upgrade our culture, specifically on safety.”

“BFP is the tip of the sword when it comes to saving lives,” said Jay Javier, PSFI Program Development Manager, as he thanked BFP for its support to JFM in terms of transferring the necessary skills, and more importantly, the attitude.

Addressing the teachers, he said, “It’s a particular challenge for each and every one of you, whether you’ll just pick up a skill or you’ll change your attitude towards safety. It may not happen overnight, but I think you have to help each other in your respective schools when you talk to your students, that safety is always on the forefront.”

As mentioned by Rina Silva, the Asst. Schools Division-Superintendent, DepEd Batangas City, children spend more time in school than at home, and most of the time, they listen more to their teachers than their parents. Hence, if the teachers can initiate proper knowledge transfer, it would be a great help, not only to the children, but also to their own families.

Wrapping everything up, Dar Guamos, PSPC Tabangao Refinery External Relations (ER) Manager, stressed the fact that JFM will only be successful if everyone does his part. “If ever unfortunate incidents occur, at least we are prepared to act in order to prevent injuries and deaths,” he added.

Right after the MOA signing, the teachers from ten public elementary schools and five public high schools underwent the Intensive Module Training for JFM Advisers, which equipped them to be the focal persons in terms of fire prevention and promotion of safety in their respective schools, homes, and communities.





# Hundred Caves:

## A CBST site to watch out for

by Rachael Nathanielsz

Dubbed as the Philippines' "Last Frontier" and the "World's Best Island" (as voted by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine), Palawan boasts of diverse flora and fauna, majestic mountains, fascinating caves, and exquisite beaches. Being the home of two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP), and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP), Palawan definitely has a lot to offer.

A cave within a cave... within a cave? Yes, such a thing exists in Brgy. Tagabinet, Puerto Princesa, Palawan; it's called Hundred Caves. Bueg Lais, a Palawan indigenous tribe member, discovered it in the 1990s while he was searching for caves with *Balinsasayaw* or edible bird's nests. With more or less 100 rooms or chambers, maze-like interconnected passages, and interesting rock formations, Hundred Caves is a new Community-Based Sustainable Tourism (CBST) site to watch out for.

### The role of CBST

Labelled as a Class 3 cave, Hundred Caves is suitable for ecotourism purposes, according

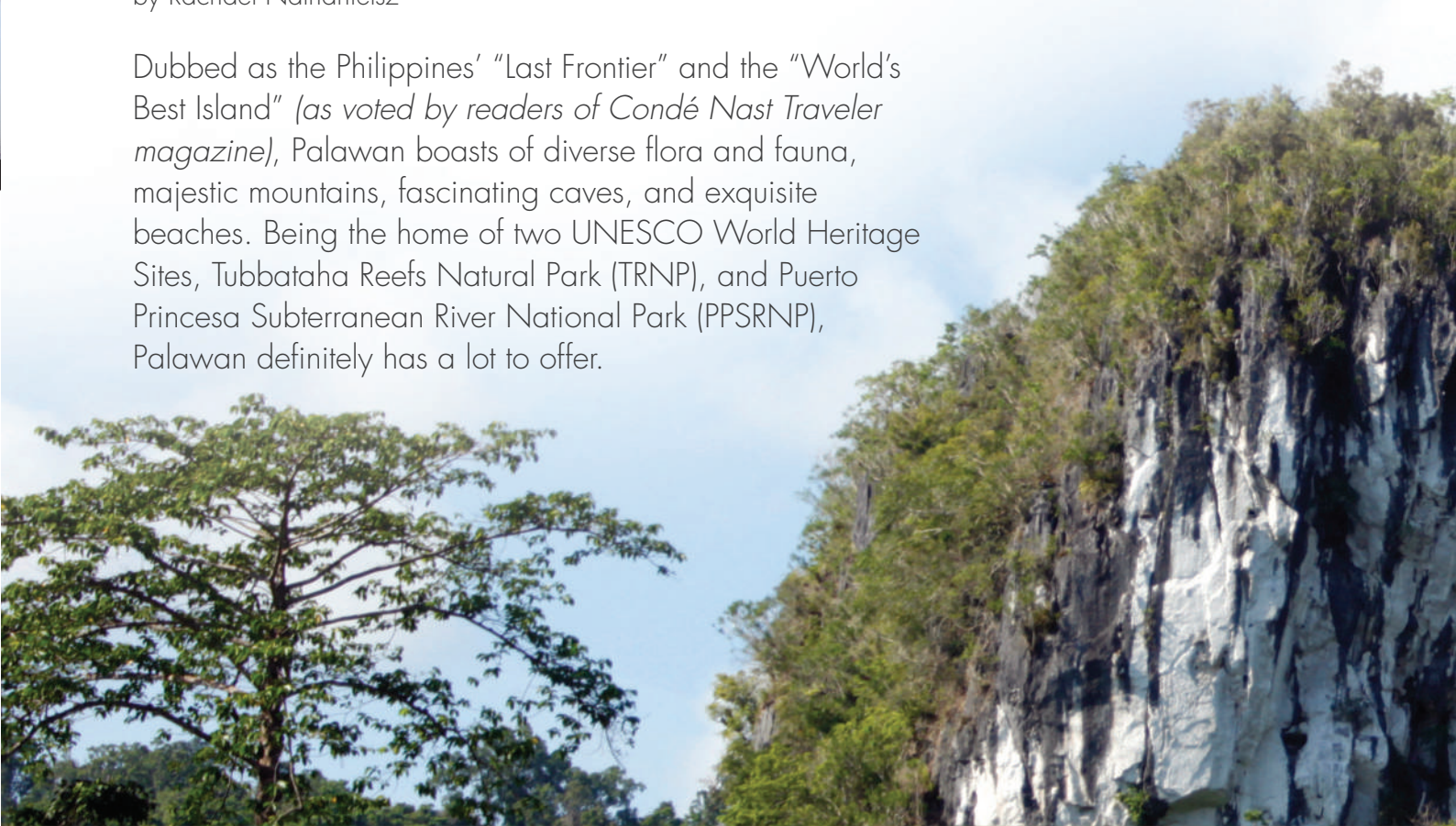
to Jovic Fabello, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) Spokesperson. Talking about the impact of CBST sites on tourism, he said, "These are low-impact projects, and their benefits will directly trickle down to the community. Basically, they will improve the overall economy of the area and will contribute to the growth of the tourism sector."

During the soft launching ceremonies of Hundred Caves held last May 20, guests from varied travel agencies, youth organizations, and the public sector took part in a fun-filled festival-themed celebration. Present in the event was Councilor Matthew Mendoza. Proudly, he said, "CBST is the future of tourism."

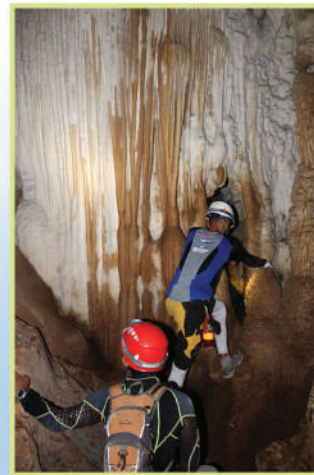
"CBST is very advantageous to the communities within the PPSRNP. Actually, it's a domino effect covering the entire Puerto Princesa City and the province of Palawan," said Elizabeth Maclang, PPSRNP Park Superintendent.

Making sure that there is an activity in each barangay, Maclang mentioned that they are starting within the Park, which is composed of four barangays. With this move, the Underground River will no longer be the only center of tour adventure. Moreover, according to Maclang, this year, they are targeting to open six CBST sites, including the Hundred Caves.

PSFI, through its Turismo at Negosyo Dulot ng Ingat Kalikasan (TANDIKAN) program launched in







2015, supports the development of CBST sites. The said program promotes sustainable tourism through community mobilization and creation of alternative income opportunities, all the while protecting Palawan's biodiversity. Furthermore, through training, mentoring, and coaching, it aims to empower communities as well as individuals whose advocacies are on biodiversity protection, conservation, and sustainable development. When it comes to the support of PSFI to CBST, Maclang said "We cannot disregard that because in terms of capacity building, PSFI has contributed a lot."

*Other CBST sites under PSFI support are Palawan Eco-Adventure Trail, Jungle Trail, Maoyon River Cruise and Rafting,*

*Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour, and Isla Felomina Snorkeling and Diving Site.*

The development of Hundred Caves is made possible by the partnership of PCSD, City Tourism Office, PPSRNP-Project Management Office (PMO), Centre for Sustainability, Barangay Council of Tagabinet, and PSFI.

### **On managing the Hundred Caves**

With the management of Hundred Caves in the hands of Brgy. Tagabinet residents, they will no longer rely solely on fishing and farming as sources of livelihood.

According to Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Program Manager, "People have already been taught the right

caving techniques, the right way to take care of the caves. We have experts to help them understand, to help them to be trained." The site is seen to open to the public before the year ends after the fulfillment of requirements for it to become an official tourist destination. As Arturo Hermoso, Board of Directors Chairman – Tagabinet Neighborhood Tourism Association (TNTA) said, "Once we have a vision, mission, and target, we should always be positive." Filled with determination, he added, "By developing attractions like Hundred Caves, we can make the tourists stay longer in Puerto Princesa." Now, local and foreign tourists alike can visit the Palawan capital not just to enjoy the Underground River, but also discover the beauty and charm of the Hundred Caves.





## PSFI and TMO: Partners in Tubbataha conservation

by Elvin Madamba

Midway through 2016, the partnership between Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) is stronger than ever. Through the Turismo at Negosyo Dulot ng Ingat Kalikasan (TANDIKAN) social development program, PSFI supports Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) under the project “Monitoring Climate Change and Developing a Public Constituency that Supports Adaptation: A Private-Public Partnership.”

Tubbataha Reefs, composed of two uninhabited atolls and the adjacent Jessie Beazley Reef, is located 92 nautical miles from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, at the geographic center of world marine biodiversity. It has an area of 97,030 hectares encompassing 10,000 hectares of coral reefs and surrounding waters.

As one of the Philippines’ UNESCO World Heritage Sites, TRNP is considered an international model for coral reef conservation and a mecca for scuba divers. With no less than 600 species of fish, 360 species of corals, 11 species of sharks, 13 species of dolphins and whales, 100 species of birds, and 2 species of turtles, Tubbataha’s position at the apex of the Coral Triangle means it is an international priority for marine biodiversity conservation. Ultimately, it has a great role in providing the Philippines with adequate supply of marine life for present and future stock and consumption.

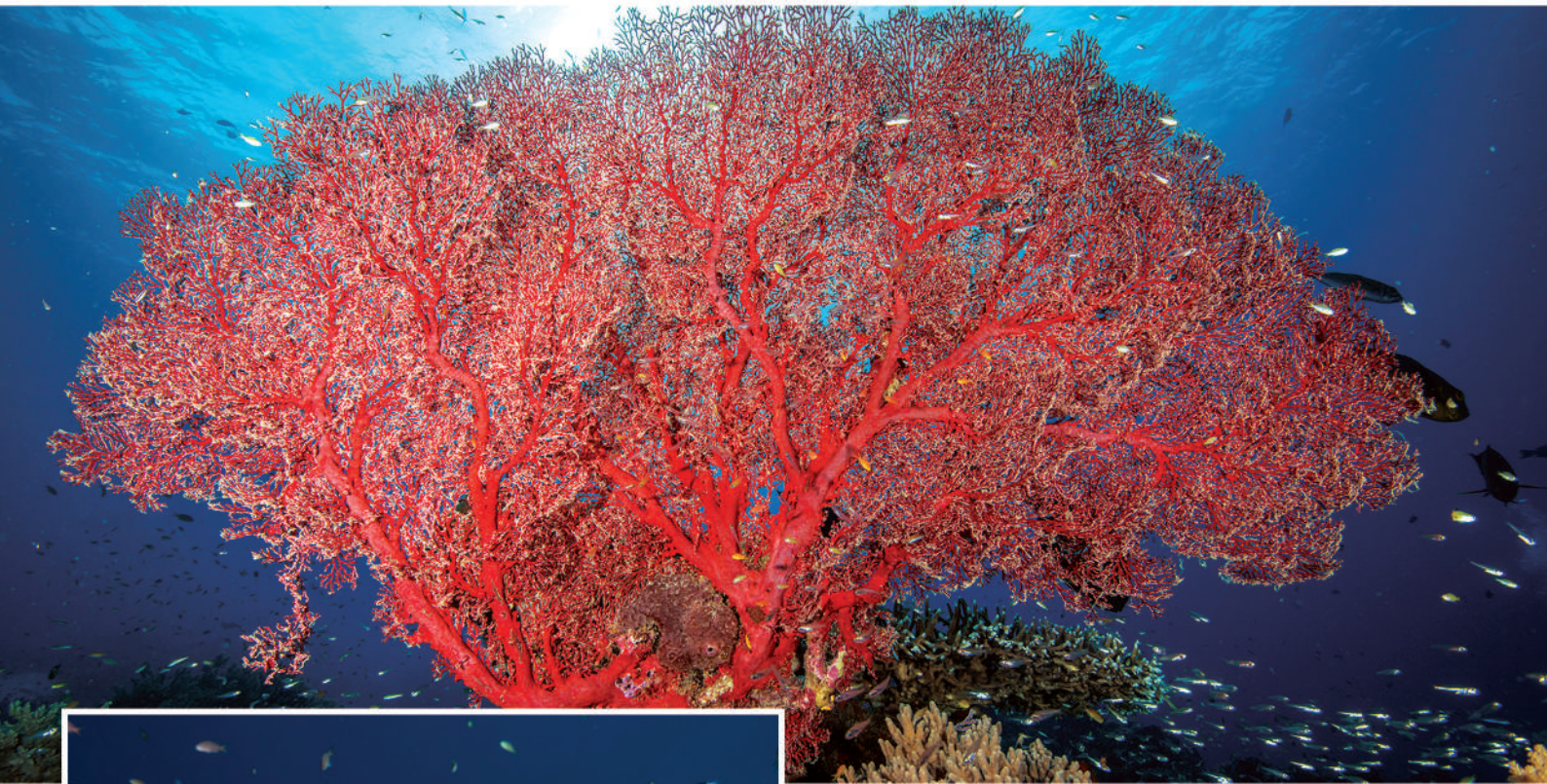
### PSFI supports Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

In 2007, Shell Global, in cooperation with UNESCO World

Heritage Centre, conducted business planning activities which showed that tourism revenues—the major source of funds for Tubbataha—will need to be doubled to sustain financial feasibility. However, seasonal access to the Park precludes dive tourism operations outside the 3-month tourism window. Consequently, TMO intensified its marketing and promotional efforts in order to increase tourist visits. Since 2007, tourism arrival has increased by 47%.

“Shell has also made a commitment not to explore for, or develop, oil and gas resources in natural World Heritage Sites. While we do not operate in areas such as Tubbataha, we still deemed it important to support in its conservation efforts, recognizing that it is a spawning ground for marine life for which many of





reach of Tubbataha, thereby increasing understanding and fostering stewardship among the public.

“Through the partnership between PSFI and the TMO, we educate coastal communities on the importance of protecting Tubbataha so that its beauty and bounty may continue to abound for present and future generations,” said Simbulan.

“Before Shell, there were many things TMO couldn’t afford. Most of Tubbataha’s financial support comes from its fees. They get minimal support from the government,” said Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Program Manager. “After the business plan was made, Shell has provided a grant mainly used for research; and information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns.”

The Tubbataha Youth Ambassador Program is one of the most valuable products of the grant. It has involved youth, who are passionate about marine conservation efforts, to disseminate information and educate the public about the socioeconomic and ecological value of Tubbataha.

“The youth feels that the work they do keep the reefs healthy. They connect with kids through relevant skits, games, and the like,” said Trudeau. “Getting the youth involved ensures

our community stakeholders, most of whom are fisherfolk, depend on,” explained Sankie Simbulan, Social Performance Manager for Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX), operator of the Malampaya gas project located northwest of Palawan.

“Tubbataha is a beautiful place and it deserves a lot of support, but the beauty of it is only secondary. Tubbataha has significant ecological value supporting food security in the country,” said Angelique Songco, Protected Area Superintendent of TMO.

Over the last five years, PSFI has provided financial resources to enable the effective management of the Park by supporting capability development among its managers. It has also supported information and education initiatives in communities and in the areas where illegal fishers in Tubbataha originate, widening the





consciousness of sustainable development into the next generations."

The area is managed under a "no-take" policy with tourism and research being the only activities allowed within it. Enforcement is difficult in a park as vast as Tubbataha. Wide support for voluntary compliance is needed.

"When we began, we had lots of investment in rule enforcement in Tubbataha. Now, our focus is on information campaigns. It's more fun," said Songco. "We're seeing education is more effective than strict enforcement since people are more understanding of the importance of conservation."

"The Shell grant has helped TMO sustain their gains. I'm really happy with the partnership, because there's a lot of trust. They're able to leverage the funds we give them to get more people and organizations involved, expanding their network," Trudeau added.

"There are many things we couldn't do if we didn't have partnerships," thanked Songco. "The ultimate dream is a consistent source of funding to protect the Park. In the last two years, Shell has supported our research activities."

In the overall analysis, the PSFI-TMO partnership has resulted in the protection of the values of TMO by capacitating managers, enabling research and monitoring activities, and empowering the public to make informed decisions about the Park.

### Impact of climate change on Tubbataha

According to TMO, "Human-induced climate change is perhaps the single biggest threat to the future of Tubbataha." Increasing water temperatures and ocean acidification may cause the corals to go through a bleaching event that puts them under a lot of stress and at risk of dying.

The PSFI-TMO partnership also aims to monitor climate change impacts in Tubbataha through regular research activities. Furthermore, results will be used to develop a public constituency that supports adaptation mechanisms through information, communication, and public outreach activities.

### Managing Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

The Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB) is the policy-making body for the Tubbataha Reefs. Created in 1999, it has 20 stakeholder members from the national and local government, academe, and private sectors.

TMO is based in Puerto Princesa and serves as the executive arm to TPAMB, carrying out day-to-day park administration. Part of this team are the Tubbataha rangers who reside in the ranger station at the southernmost tip of Tubbataha's North Atoll. The team consists of 10-12 men from the Philippine Navy, Philippine Coast Guard, Municipality of Cagayancillo, and TMO. They are stationed for two months at a time, with their job to protect the Park from illegal activities such as fishing and collection of other marine life. Some of their work includes regular patrols around the Park, conducting scientific research and monitoring, briefing visitors during the dive season, surface and underwater clean-ups, and reporting and responding to Park incidents.

### Vision & Mission

The TPAMB envisions the TRNP as a World Heritage Site that is effectively conserved to:

- Maintain ecological integrity
- Contribute to the equitable distribution of benefits
- Sustain socioeconomic development for present and future generations

The mission of the TPAMB is to conserve the Park's natural endowments through responsible stewardship and genuine partnerships.

# GMBK-FUEL updates

by Genevieve Generoso

In November 2014, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) launched the Gas Mo, Bukas Ko – Fund for University Education and Leadership Development (GMBK-FUEL) scholarship program in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) – Manila. Under the program, 100 students from different fields (Accountancy, Engineering, and Transportation) are provided with full tuition fee subsidy and stipend as well. Aside from that, the scholars get to participate in a range of trainings conducted by Shell.

For two years now, the program has been instrumental in addressing the educational needs of the scholars. Not taking the opportunity for granted, the scholars have consistently worked hard to excel in both academic and extracurricular activities.



## Outstanding Scholar of the Year

The top of his class, Jomari Gingo (Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering), was awarded one of the Outstanding Scholars of the Year (A.Y. 2015-2016). Receiving the award with him was his mother, who has been his inspiration. "She's very proud of me. She's also happy because it was her first time to visit the campus," he uttered with enthusiasm.

At 19, Gingo already has a vision for his future – to serve the country. While some of his cousins have already established their lives abroad, he has no plans to follow suit. "I would prefer to stay in this country. I have dreamed of establishing a business to provide jobs to Filipinos and at the same time, teach," he added.

## Shell Eco-Marathon Asia

With the goal of surpassing past records, Team PUP worked hard on their prototype car for Shell Eco-marathon Asia (SEMA) held last March at Luneta Park. "We just made history," said Louie Bombales, a BS Electrical Engineering student and the leader of Team PUP.

For the first time, the team's car under the Gasoline Prototype category established a valid record of 79km/L (compared to last year's "no valid run" record), placing them 11th out of 36 competing teams in Asia.





"We have sacrificed a lot and it's all worth it," Bombales expressed with utmost joy. Meanwhile, PUP's entry to the Diesel category, the PUP Hygear, placed 4th - the highest rank since PUP joined SEMA in 2014.

### Community Action Leadership Exchange in Singapore

Two scholars, currently in their senior year, were chosen to be part of PUP's pool of representatives in the Community Action Leadership Exchange program in Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore last year (October 19-November 6, 2015). Because of their outstanding academic and extracurricular performance, Shinny Dantes – Bachelor of Transport Management (BTM) and Jayson Talusan – Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) were able to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The participants engaged in programs in line with technical-vocational education and training. Furthermore, they participated in a series of workshops where they worked in teams to apply technical skills and knowledge in developing social innovation projects with their Singaporean counterparts.

"Upon seeing the university in Singapore, you would wish for the same amenities and facilities at your own university," Talusan said. Meanwhile, Dantes noted how Singapore operates their transportation system: "In the future, I hope we could have a transport system, maybe not the same as theirs, but as efficient as what they have. Who knows, I could be part of the team that could make this possible."



### Best Delegates in Internal Audit Youth Summit

Wherever they go, the GMBK-FUEL scholars continuously leave marks that make everyone proud. Last May 7, two GMBK-FUEL scholars were among the five students who were awarded as the Best Delegates in the Internal Audit Youth Summit 2016 held at Asian Development Bank (ADB), Pasig City. Jasper Rodavis and Rachael Garcia, both on their last year of the BS Accountancy course in PUP, were awarded with a medal, certificate, and scholarship for internal audit review.

Of the around 200 delegates who participated in the event, the PUP team composed of six delegates bagged the top prize award in the case analysis competition. Five members of the team were GMBK-FUEL scholars (Rodavis, Garcia, Mark Anecito Perlas, Tricia Andres, and Rhenz Nicole Parada).





### **OJT at Shell**

Committed in helping the scholars unleash their full potential, Shell granted the GMBK-FUEL scholars to have their On-the-Job Training (OJT) in the company. Three Industrial Engineering students, Christian Paul Llait, Tricia Ann Carlos, and Joylyn Abraham, had their training at Shell Pandacan Terminal in 2015. They were assigned in Facilities Management; Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) Department; and Stocks Central Team Department, respectively.

"It was a great experience. You are treated professionally, but it feels like you are working with a family," said Abraham referring to her work experience at Shell. She added that the Golden

Rules of Shell – Comply, Intervene, and Respect, made her more disciplined in her actions and words.

For Llait, his training with Shell has significantly improved his confidence. "The work culture of Shell, the 'flat management' made us feel like we're equal to the regular employees; that boosted my confidence in communicating and dealing with different kinds of people," he said.

Meanwhile, Carlos noted how Shell values safety: "I'm glad to have had my OJT at Shell. The company's regard for safety is exceptional. I'm amazed of the work ethics and dedication of Shell staff in order to achieve goal zero and ensure the safety of employees, people in the community, and the environment."

### **Educational trip to Shell Business Operations (SBO)**

Part of the GMBK-FUEL scholarship program is the opportunity to partake in educational tours organized and conducted by Shell. Last May 20, 68 scholars visited the Shell Business Service Centre (SBSC) in Makati. They were introduced to different support services relevant to SBO around the globe. According to Jomari Gingo, he found the tour very informative and inspirational.

### **Classroom renovation**

Some scholars are also involved in promoting better learning environment for the school. The Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers – PUP Chapter, headed by Jayson Talusan, initiated the renovation of eight classrooms at the College of Engineering last year. With sponsorship from Shell and other organizations, they were able to repaint rooms and fix electrical installations. According to Talusan, this year, they are trying to improve the ventilation of classrooms by installing new electric fans. To sustain the project, they reached out to the alumni for sponsorship.

Although the abovementioned projects would mean additional work for him, Talusan is elated to hear compliments from many of the students: "One time, a student told me I'm his 'idol.' I did not believe it at first, but as more and more students express their appreciation to what I'm doing, I suddenly feel this sense of joy and fulfillment growing in me."

### **One more year**

With two more semesters left before graduation, we are optimistic that the GMBK-FUEL scholars will not only strive to reach the end of their tertiary education, but also strive to fulfill their dreams.





## 58 SKIL scholars graduated, MOA signed intensifying partnership

by Charelaiane Credito

Approaching the end of 2015, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) held its annual Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal (SKIL) graduation and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing at Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas last October 7.

Representatives from Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) – Cesar Abaricia, External Relations (ER) Adviser and Conrad Parizal, Country Community Liaison Officer (CLO) graced the said event. Also present were Edgardo Veron Cruz, PSFI Executive Director; Arlene Dizon, Administration Manager, Keppel HR Department; Wennie Albania, Keppel Training Officer; Tita Ababao, Owner, Lucky Tann Foods Corporation; Evelyn De Chavez, Operations Consultant, Lucky Tann Foods Corporation; Dr. Cecilia Pring, Assistant Vice President for Academic Research, Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas; and barangay council members.

Fifty-eight scholars received their certificates during the graduation rites. Outstanding Scholar Awardees were Ramon Iturralde for Structural Welding, Limuel Magtibay for Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW), Andy Tubianosa for Scaffolding, Lemuel Pabito for Pipefitting, and Henry Alvarez for Housekeeping, Food and Beverage Servicing. Meanwhile, scholars who received Silver Medal for Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), GTAW, Scaffolding, Pipefitting; and Housekeeping, Food and Beverage Servicing were Alger Arnoza, Tjay Ramos, Jimuel Gacusan, Joey Estoesta, and Cherine Mercano, respectively. Last but not the least, the recipient of the Leadership Award was Glaiza Catral.

In a speech delivered by Cesar Abaricia, PSPC ER Adviser, he encouraged the scholars to never stop dreaming and always try their best in every opportunity that may come. No one holds the future and no one knows what will happen next. Moreover, he shared his journey from being a student by day and a taxi driver by night to being the professional he is today, hoping it would serve as an inspiration to everyone aspiring to have a better life. He also advised the graduates to keep pushing forward no matter how hard it will be for everything eventually pays off.

“We tend to give up sometimes, but looking back on why we chose to continue, our family, our dreams, and our very own purpose, are sure enough reasons why we are always fueled and geared up,” said Lemuel Pabito as he recalled how he got the scholarship and was able to accomplish everything through his motivation. He emboldened his co-scholars, saying that their dream must not stop with simply receiving the certificates and medals. The real training is beyond the yard fence, beyond the company rules, and beyond the hardships and uneasiness they used to experience during their training. Pabito reminded his co-scholars that whatever additional achievements they may have or wherever their opportunities may lead them to, they should always be grateful to the trainers and experiences that molded them to become better and well-equipped individuals.

Following the graduation rites was a MOA signing ceremony among Keppel Marines Philippines, Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas, McDonald’s Batangas, and PSFI to intensify the partnership in continuously bridging technical-vocational courses and training for the out-of-school youths.

# Celebrating the victory of UST benefactors and scholars

by Rachael Nathanielsz

A few days after graduation, the students are still on cloud nine. The years spent mostly burning the midnight oil came to a pivotal event that is both an end and a beginning. It was a special moment, especially to the 59 alumni scholar graduates of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). With the support from their respective benefactors, they achieved what they once thought as uncertain.





As one of the benefactors, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), in partnership with the Philippine S&T Development Foundation – Manila, Inc. (PhilDev), has been supporting scholars from UST and other schools since 2013. With the PhilDev Science and Engineering Scholarship Fund, Filipino youth are given the opportunity to pursue studies in science and engineering, providing them with the capacity to innovate and create technologies that can compete in the global markets and stimulate further economic growth for the Philippines.

Currently, there are 108 students under the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship program. Of the 59 UST scholars who graduated this year, four were from the said scholarship, two of whom graduated Cum Laude.

#### **Testimonial Luncheon for Benefactors and Scholars**

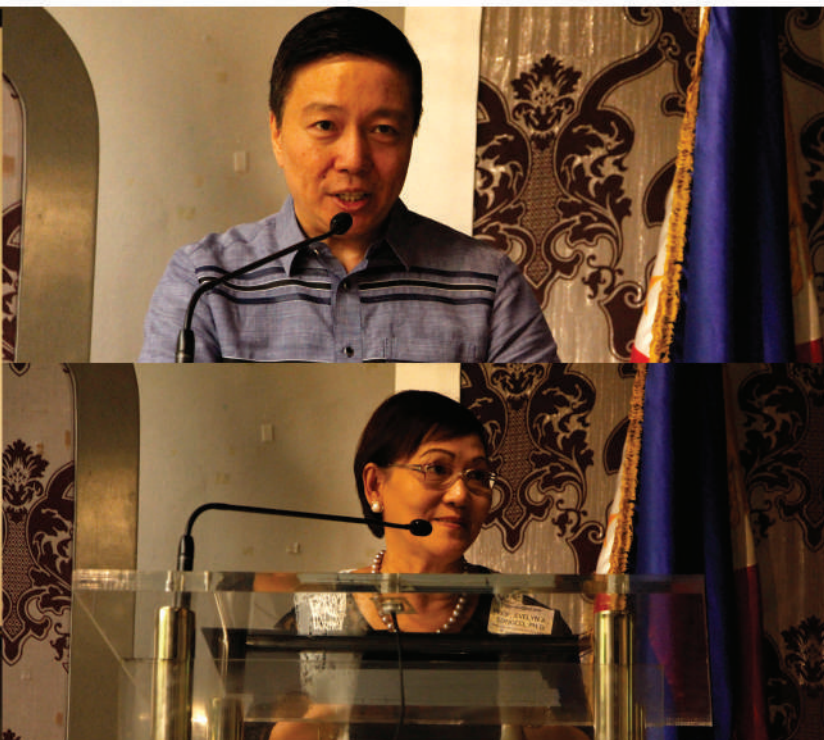
On June 16, 2016, faculty members and officials, benefactors, scholars, and guests gathered at the Beato Angelico Gallery of UST for a day of celebration and thanksgiving. In the words of Prof. Evelyn Songco, Ph.D., UST Office for Student Affairs Director, "Today, we gather once more to celebrate another milestone in our commitment to greater access to quality tertiary education. We have produced 59 graduates this year; 12 of whom

graduated with Latin honors and recognition. To my mind, they are now symbols of faith, hope, and love." Indeed, their victory serves as an inspiration not only to scholars aiming to finish their studies, but also to every person striving to achieve their goals.

Through sharing his life experiences and learnings, Edgardo Veron Cruz, PSFI Executive Director, filled the room with laughter. Saying that the recently graduated scholars need not be inspired because they are still on a high, he gave them an advice: "Try to control your emotions because by doing so, you will be able to come up with better decisions." True enough, we have to be wise when making decisions – no matter how big or small. Moreover, believing that whatever we have learned in school is only a foundation, Veron Cruz said, "If we have the right foundation, right values, and if we can control our emotions, there is nothing we cannot learn or do."

Looking back going through college life and its highs and lows, and marching towards victory, Lyanne Mae Quismundo, a Cum Laude graduate from the College of Commerce and Business Administration, likened the experience to a battle: "It really felt like we fought a battle, and now comes the victory, but we all know that our fight doesn't end there. It is only the beginning. We are now one step closer to a bigger world where there are more challenges to face." As she thanked everyone, especially their respective benefactors, she could not miss the fact that college life would have been a struggle without their support.

Closing the celebration, Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., UST Vice Rector, said, "God is always pleased with a cheerful giver, and it is in giving that one becomes richer," as he acknowledged the contributions of partner institutions. He thanked them "in shaping the future of alumni scholars" and "for investing in the education of the youth and providing opportunities to make their dreams come true." Addressing the scholars, he urged them to make fear and pressure work to their advantage, to not settle for what they already know, but aim for what they can still learn; to serve their community, and live the faith.



# A camp to remember

by Rachael Nathanielsz



Scholars from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao gathered on the night of July 21 at the Shell Training Center – Pililla for the annual Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp. A lot of them were very excited, but some were still thinking, “Why am I here? What will I get from this camp?” Little did they know they would embark on a priceless journey of self-discovery, character development, and skill enhancement. Little did they know they would find something valuable that some people could only wish to have – a family.

The scholars (batches 2014, 2015, and 2016) were welcomed with motivating words by the Executive Vice-Chairman of PhilDev, Jones Castro. After expressing his gratitude to Shell, he went on describing the programs for the 3-day camp, saying they are “expansive,” “exciting,” and “exhausting.” Addressing the scholars, he said, “You’re all going through the same road, but different stages of that road.” Furthermore, he shared four words he hoped the scholars would keep in mind: self, family, community, and country.

Edgardo Veron Cruz, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) Executive Director, on the other hand, gave an

informative presentation about PSFI, its programs (including the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship) and their respective beneficiaries. After his presentation, he advised the scholars to “Try to maintain a balance between other things you do and studying. At this stage, it’s important that you’re focused on your studies, not because of the scholarship alone, but because it’s all about your future.”

Batch 3 (2016), the newest in the bunch, had the Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development (LEAD) Workshop, which batches 1 and 2 took before. This year, the earlier batches took up modules which Shell and PhilDev thought to be relevant and fit for them.

From the three days of intensive and learning-packed sessions, here are three things that make the Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp 2016 a camp worth remembering:

## 1. The Journey of Self-Discovery

Through the LEAD Workshop, batch 3 scholars were given an avenue to reflect on their past – what made





them who they are today, present – what they are going through, and future – what they want to change and who they want to be.

Teaching them how to deal with life and its complexities, they were given a chance to strengthen their faith, embrace one's pain and the pain of others, evaluate broken lines in their families, acknowledge the good in themselves, learn the significance of teamwork, learn how to make the right decisions, and set a vision for themselves.

During their free time, they were also able to experience tree and vegetable planting, which they definitely enjoyed.

## 2. Standing out in the "Real World"

Batch 1 and 2 scholars were exposed to a different kind of experience. As they are about to enter a new phase in their lives, with some of them graduating soon, they were given the opportunity to learn from speakers with years of experience and from young professionals starting out in the

real world. As they were encouraged to exhibit executive presence early on, they actively involved themselves in the discussions and activities. They were taught the essence of leadership, introduced to the core values of Shell (Honesty, Integrity, and Respect for People), and taught the skills and values they would need to possess when they step out to the world of work.

## 3. A Second Family

What we witnessed in this year's camp was exceptional. We saw how strong bonds were formed. Without forcing the scholars to get along, they formed a natural connection. Maybe their struggles are not exactly similar, but their empathy towards each other is heartfelt.

### Fellowship Night

After the emotionally stirring and intellectually stimulating 3 days, the scholars amazed everyone with their talents during the fellowship night. Be it acting, singing, or dancing, they had the crowd smiling, laughing, and crying.



Representatives from each batch also came up with their own testimonials:

#### Kaye Rojas

University of San Carlos, BS Chemical Engineering  
Batch 3 – 2016

“When we first came here sa summer camp, we had no idea what to expect...  
The first module was self-discovery. It was very fun, very enriching, and very inspiring...”

I thought it would be just the usual leadership camp, like team building. Then it turned out, it was like a journey in itself. It helped us find ourselves...

It’s just you and your dream. And it’s up to you if you’re going to pursue it or not, because sabi nga nila, ‘pag mahal mo, ipaglalaban mo at hindi mo pababayaan...”

#### Creo Baylon

University of the Philippines – Diliman, BS Electrical Engineering  
Batch 2 – 2015

“This camp is what makes the Shell-PhilDev Scholarship experience different from other scholarships.

Itong camp kasi na ‘to, it gives us three things—privilege, opportunity, and fellowship...

Privilege, number 1, privilege to learn from the most esteemed minds from Shell.

Yung mga natututunan niyo dito, I can testify na napaka-importante once you step out of your universities. And also, the privilege of being one step ahead in learning values that are not only essential to the corporate world, but to everyday life as well... the privilege of gaining skills that cannot be learned through academe, skills that cannot be learned from universities...

Opportunity. Itong opportunity to practice what we learn here, outside...

Finally, fellowship. Shell-PhilDev gave us a chance to be a person, and to be seen and interact in a non-academic environment, a chance to interact with peers of the same wavelength, make friends, have fun, and basically, just enjoy being among the young...

It’s really nice to feel that you belong somewhere, and you belong to a particular family...

Pare-pareho kasi tayo ng pinagdadaan dito, mahirap yung test, mahirap yung school na pinuntahan, pero we have an opportunity like this to talk amongst ourselves, share our experiences, understand what we’re all going through, and feel like we’re part of something bigger than what we are...

As a final message to everyone who made this camp possible, this scholarship possible, thank you. Thank you for going the extra mile for us.



Shell-PhilDev could've been just like the other scholarships na okay they pay for your tuition, 'yun lang, and then they're just there in the shadows. Hindi sila involved sa inyo. They (people behind Shell-PhilDev), involve themselves with us, and give us a chance to involve ourselves with each other... Thank you for equipping us with skills for the future. Thank you for striving to keep us here... And thank you for showing us ang sagot sa bakit ganito ang Shell-PhilDev. Thank you for showing us na ganito talaga ang Shell-PhilDev... for embracing us, and keeping us in this family."

#### Vicente Delos Santos II

Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, BS Civil Engineering  
Batch 1 – 2014

"My life was full of struggles because I'm the eldest in the family, and aside from being the eldest, I grew up without having a father. So 'yun nga, I have to be the role model for my siblings, and wala akong role model.

My life has been full of trials and errors; it has been full of experiments, but who would've thought na nandoon yung family ko, nandoon

yung sarili ko, and I saw a glaring gem which is Shell-PhilDev...

It became my guide. It is still my guide. It gave me a concrete goal in my life na ano dapat yung gawin ko... Pagpupuri in different languages is not enough...

Siguro as a kuya, ito lang i-impart ko sa inyo (batches 2 and 3)... Life is full of struggles. They are interludes in your life that make the whole piece beautiful..."

The scholars, especially those from batch 1, could not help but break down in tears because of their gratitude to Shell-PhilDev. It was definitely a night full of emotions, a night that marked the scholarship program's three fruitful years of nurturing the Filipino talent.

Capping off the night with nothing but positive vibrations, PSFI Program Development Manager/ Shell-PhilDev Camp Master Jay Javier thanked everyone for making the 2016 camp a success. Having seen the development of the scholars since day one, he challenged them to use their skills and achievements to make a positive impact in the country.



"You are all our future leaders. You are the leaders who will lead us into a brighter future. Don't ever forget, you are our future. And we hope, we expect, and we are confident that you will lead the way not just for yourselves, but for all the other scholars who will follow you." – Jones Castro



# A fly-on-the-wall report

by Meg Quimpo

Outsider.

Never in my life did I think I wouldn't feel completely bad about being an outsider. Who liked being out of the loop? Who would willingly put herself in a situation wherein she would be sure to be the only one always a step behind?

However, when the idea of taking part in the Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp 2016 as photographer/documenter popped up, I went for it. Although I have a reputation for making impulsive and "risky" decisions, I could not see what could go wrong with this one. It wasn't just about getting a glimpse of the workaday world; it was about helping a large group of people have the best learning experience possible.

I knew beforehand that this group was close, but seeing it through my own eyes was surreal. It was mind-blowing how they all interacted as if they were siblings—not people who saw each other practically just once a year. Different universities, different batches, yet everyone seemed to get along with each other easily. Even the mentors, chaperones, and other staff

members seemed to communicate with each other smoothly. When Sir Jones Castro spoke to them during the Welcoming Night as if they were all PhilDev's and Shell's children, I knew that their bond was strong. Possibly unbreakable.

That was why it was so easy to feel like an outsider, an intruder gatecrashing into a family reunion. I had a job to do, but I still felt guilty from time to time for being there. It seemed so... personal. This was an extraordinary group; this was a family connected not by blood but by genuine love, trust, and friendship.

However, as the days passed, I realized "outsider" wasn't the right word. Perhaps "observer" was more appropriate. I spent most of my time either watching events unfold or photographing them. I also listened to the speakers, watched the scholars enjoy their free time, and peered at their written and drawn works. I did this mostly in silence, but I thought that it was a blessing for me to witness it all. It was enough for me.

I witnessed Leo Nogas take charge in numerous activities, including

the Paint Me a Picture game wherein he and his teammates lost. I watched his reaction carefully. I was pleasantly surprised when he took defeat graciously. He was even one of the cheeriest to applaud the winning team.

I witnessed Jana Quismundo smile whenever she saw my camera pointed at her. Truthfully, it was quite comforting to see her beaming in my direction. It wasn't exactly a smile for me, but it was an encouraging face nonetheless.

I witnessed JC Melgar struggle as he tried to explain what went wrong (and right) during their case study. Everyone laughed and nodded as he attempted to put into words how frustrating it was for their group to take into account all the information and objectives. I realized that although they were all obviously brilliant, they could still make mistakes, like the rest of us. Each win (and loss) was backed up not just by their incredible intellectual capacities but also by their dedication.







I witnessed Enrico Escaño work on the illustration of his life dream. I saw a brightly colored Shell logo in the middle of the paper, and I came to the realization that perhaps for some (or many) of these scholars, Shell wasn't just a stop in the journey; maybe it was even the destination for at least a significant point in their lives.

I witnessed John Levi Mecca discussing his drawing with his groupmates. He had told himself before that if ever he would be accepted by the Foundation, he would share his blessings. When he was granted the scholarship, then, he began donating a part of his allowance monthly to a feeding program. With what little he had, he could still afford to give. Compassion.

I witnessed Twinkle Gudito capture all of her batchmates' attention as she discussed her plans on

self-improvement. She tackled her lack of empathy, explaining herself through fierce facial expressions and animated gestures. It was hard to keep a straight face as she went on with her presentation. She was very comfortable and open, and it was very easy to be captivated by her easygoing smile and confident tone.

I witnessed Creo Baylon deliver such a raw speech on the last night. I was told that it was his first time to speak in front of the Shell-PhilDev community, so I was anticipating at least a handful of awkward pauses and stutters—but there were none. He spoke confidently and moved the entire room with his personal viewpoint of his Shell-PhilDev experience. He spoke of how it had been a breath of fresh air from home where he is an only child. In this community, he had found brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles—a family for life.

I witnessed Jeff Sale put up a poll in the Facebook group. They were building an alumni association and creating its name was one of the first steps. I felt a burst of pride within me. I had been present when Sir Jay broached the possibility of its formation, so long as batch 1 would take charge. Here they were, making it happen.

THE SCHOLARS weren't the only ones I observed. The community was also composed of many others who made the event possible, either in front of the room or behind the scenes.

I witnessed PSFI Executive Director Sir Edgar Veron Cruz mingling with the scholars during the first night.

I expected him to simply watch from afar, but he did the exact opposite. He went from table to table, and the scholars gathered around him, eager to interact. Honestly, the sight of him being surrounded by a table of excited college students was one of the most welcoming sights when we arrived at the Camp.

I witnessed Sir Gerboy Ortega, Shell VP for HR, emphasize the importance of ethics and values. In a fast-paced generation such as ours, it is hard to focus on anything other than profit. However, Sir Gerboy was able to remind everyone in the room that without its core values, Shell wouldn't be where it is today. Honesty, Integrity, and Respect for People—they guided how the business operated and how all of the employees could contribute to the betterment of society.

I witnessed Sir Jules Ignacio, also of Shell HR, rush as his originally hour-and-a-half time slot was cut to thirty minutes. He had to revise on the spot but was able to keep his composure. Truth be told, he could have extended it to an hour, but he didn't want to steal his students' break time as he understood that they were exhausted from the case study. Never mind that he had to let go of his prepared lesson plan; their wellbeing mattered more to him. I admired his empathy.

I witnessed Camp Master Sir Jay Javier running back and forth, always speaking in front, to his pager, and with various people. He was always busy, frequently unable to sit down and eat a proper meal, for he was making sure everything was running smoothly. That was solid commitment—unselfish diligence as he ensured that everybody was having a good time at the price of his dinner. Thank you, Sir, for putting us first.





I even witnessed Sir Jaybee Lacea, chaperone of the University of San Carlos scholars, extending his concern to me by asking if I had someone to pick me up from the Mactan airport. I wasn't his responsibility, yet he still took me into consideration. I was stunned. Who was I to deserve such kindness? It was touching to be a part of a family that looked out for one another's safety.

THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE and moments I couldn't help but embed into my memory. The last night was especially memorable, what with Ronald Reveche and Raniella Coronado being terrific hosts (obviously not newbies) and the showcase of different talents such as acting, singing, and dancing. Halfway through, I was asking myself if I really was amongst engineers and scientists. I mean, masters of innovation and skilled performers? Phenomenal.

As expected, tears were shed as the program closed. Hugs were given, thank you's were

exchanged, and photographs were taken. I even had a couple of photographs with them, which made me feel like I was no longer an outsider or an observer; I was a participant.

Thank you, Shell-PhilDev Leadership Camp 2016, for giving me a new definition of the word *family*. Although I could not mention everyone's names, truth be told, you all were astounding people. Even the waiters and waitresses left a mark on me, as they always were quick to respond and eager to attend to anyone's needs.

I hope that this isn't goodbye but just farewell. I will forever be cheering for each one of you—hopefully not as silently—as you continue to engineer your life goals. You have gained another committed fan... and family member. Thank you.

P.S. I, too, managed to pose for "selfies" with some of the scholars.



# Triple P steps **FORWARD**

by Rachael Nathanielsz

A project that started small eight years ago has taken a big step towards becoming a viable enterprise.

Through Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation's (PSPC) partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Panahiang Pangkabuhayan sa Pandacan (Triple P) has helped positively impact the lives of individuals who wanted to earn additional income. The project provided the beneficiaries opportunities to hone their skills in sewing and small enterprise management.

Last April 11 at Barangay 830's renovated multipurpose hall in Pandacan, Manila, the Triple P Turnover Ceremony was held. With the conclusion of this event, PSFI will no longer be involved in the management of activities and resources of Triple P, confident that the project can thrive with the workers solely in charge of the enterprise. It was a momentous event that marked the end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one. As Kagawad Inday said in her message, "We don't like to accept it as closing; this will be a beginning."



Present in the Ceremony were the key people behind the success of Triple P. Welcoming everyone with his words of positivity and encouragement, Jay Javier, the

Program Development Manager of PSFI, pointed out the significance of having a vision for success. In addition, the Downstream Social Performance Adviser of PSPC, Jeanette Barretto, focused on the importance of attitude, commitment, teamwork, and sustainability. She also encouraged the Triple P workers to give their best and make sure to produce quality work every time.

Representing DOLE was Leonides Castillon, Director II – Manila Field Office. He mentioned that when PSFI proposed a partnership with DOLE in 2007 for Triple P, he did not think twice about accepting the proposal. In his message, he stressed out the role of fellowship in success; and that the workers should always prioritize group over individual interest. Moreover, he said it is a challenge to the workers on how the business will take its course. Hence, they should be determined to keep it going and growing.



An entertaining song and dance performance prepared by the Triple P community served to dampen what would have been a tearful ceremony and turned the occasion to one of hopeful and merry work ahead. One of the songs they sang was *If We Hold on Together*. Indeed, if they hold on together, their dreams will never die. Despite having a bigger responsibility, their drive to foster what they have should always reign supreme.



# DAR taps PSFI to support farmer-entrepreneurs in Camarines Sur

by Maria Pamela Castro

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own. – Samuel Johnson

The Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) is Camarines Sur 3rd District's model to respond to the challenge of addressing hunger and alleviating the plight of poor households. This partnership formed by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to uplift the economic welfare of the farmers through the establishment of farms, which shall become revenue and learning centers for food production.

Part of DAR's contribution to the partnership is to enhance and manage the efficiencies in agricultural production. In doing so, DAR tapped Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) to upgrade the capacities of existing farmer groups to respond to the challenges of not only sustainable farming but profitable farming as well.

In October 2015, 33 members of four identified farmer organizations from Naga City, Ocampo, Calabanga, and Pili, Camarines Sur underwent the Integrated Farming Bio-Systems (IFBS) training at the Shell Training Farm (STF) in Bombon, Camarines Sur. The IFBS is seen as vital in introducing the groups to new technologies to adapt to the changing economy and market needs.

To stimulate group entrepreneurship, the farm plans by the Cararayan Agrarian Beneficiaries Empowered

Community Organization (CARBEMCO) of Naga City; the Belen-Bonot-Manguiring Village Level Production Association (BBMVLP) of Calabanga, Camarines Sur; the Del Rosario Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DRMPC) of Pili, Camarines Sur; and May-Ogob Agrarian Reform Cooperative (MOARC) of Ocampo, Camarines Sur, were immediately implemented after the training.

With the grant fund provided by DAR to PSFI and to complement the implementation of the farm plans, agricultural inputs were provided to support their farm entrepreneurial activities like livestock, poultry, and crop production. Each group was provided with 5 piglets for swine production, 20 ready-to-lay native chickens and 2 roosters for poultry production; and 1 unit of dome-type, 6-line dripper greenhouse and vegetable seeds for high-value crop production. Each module (livestock and poultry) comes with feed ingredients to last until time of

marketing. African night crawlers (ANC) were also provided for vermicompost production.

During the entire project duration, PSFI exerted effort to make sure that the needs of the farmers were addressed, especially during project visits where technical and management advice were sought by each group.

With the joint monitoring by DAR and PSFI, the groups now boast of their healthy swine soon to be marketable in a few months. Their gardens and greenhouses are now planted with vegetables which are expected to mature soon. From their individual farm plans, each group hopes to earn a minimum of Php 45,000. They hope that these will continue to further broaden their management skills, widen their market reach, increase their profits, and be an example to other farmer groups. This way, not only the province will benefit from their production but their members as well.



# Farmers gain from PSFI and IRRI's partnership for climate-resilient rice varieties

by Maria Pamela Castro, Isagani Betchayda, and Bernard Camano

If there is one industry in the world today that is highly exposed to climate change, many will agree it is agriculture. The reason is that farming activities depend mostly on climatic conditions. Climate change is already affecting agriculture because of unpredictability of weather patterns.

In the country, our crop production sector, particularly rice production, suffers most from the effects of varying climatic conditions. Prolonged dry spells and extreme flooding contributed to the drop in rice production in recent years. To avert these effects, the government poured its efforts in developing rice varieties that should not only make rice production sustainable but also adaptive to environment stresses; one such effort is the NextGen project.

In July 2015, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for the NextGen project partnership. An initiative under the Food Staples Sufficiency Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the project is aimed at accelerating the development and adoption of next-generation rice varieties for major ecosystems in the Philippines. For the trying-out phase, IRRI, through PSFI, distributed more than 20 climate-smart rice varieties for planting by 10 farmers each in Bombon, Camarines Sur and Pililla, Rizal. These rice varieties developed were planted in submergence, drought, and saline-prone, rainfed and irrigated ecosystems in 8.5 hectares of land during the last quarter of 2015.







After their harvest from October to December 2015, 11 out of the 20 farmers said they will use the variety again. The others said they will not use the variety but would like to try other varieties suited to their farm. As of this writing, seeds were already requested for more than 28 new farmer cooperators from Bombon and Pililla, who expressed their desire to participate in the program.

Menandro Hayag, fondly called Mang Nanding, of Bombon, Camarines Sur, has been planting rice for 32 years and claims that the harvest he got from the submergence variety (IR 10F 364) he planted in an initial 1,000 sq. m. paddy area increased by 3 cavans compared to the usual variety he uses (i.e., from 15 to 18 cavans). He said that apart from the increase in the yield, *palay* seed cost is lowered by half and the cost of labor in transplanting

is also lowered by 15% due to the higher planting distance and lower number of hills planted on. He also cited the good eating quality of the variety he used.

The same is true for Ruelo Salandanan, also of Bombon, Camarines Sur, who planted another submergence-prone variety (PSB RC18-Sub1). He harvested 38 cavans from the 2,000 sq. m. he initially allotted, 11% higher than his usual 34 cavans. Because of the experience, he utilized the new submergence variety for his 4-hectare land and mentioned the big savings on labor cost. Instead of 20 persons for transplanting per hectare, he only utilized 16.

From Pililla, Rizal, Barangay Councilor Arthur Paje, and Oscar Ledesma planted Rc360 and Rc29, respectively, both in their half-hectare area. Kagawad Paje said he got 60 cavans from his irrigated paddy while Mang Oscar

got 47, both of which are more than 50% higher than their usual harvest. Both also distributed and sold some *binhi* from their harvest to nearby farmers including those in Siniloan, Laguna. All claimed good results from their harvest as well. Mang Oscar mentioned, "If not for the Next Gen project, farmers like me could not get the varieties that benefited farmers in the area first-hand. We are willing to participate in the future endeavors of the project."

John Arthur Carbonell, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Pililla, said he is very grateful to PSFI and IRRI for bringing the project to Pililla. Although not all of the 10 farmers who tried the recommended varieties got the same results, his office fully supports the project, and in fact, is recommending it to other barangays, knowing that not all are given the opportunity to receive newly developed quality seeds for their farm.



# Organic agriculture projects bring more visitors to STF in Bombon



by Maria Pamela Castro

Glutinous black rice, nutty red rice, lean organic pork, organic duck eggs, vermicompost, Likas-Saka fertilizer, and fresh organically grown vegetables are just some of the product attractions at the Shell Training Farm (STF) in Bombon.

Since its establishment 23 years ago, STF in Bombon, Camarines Sur has served not only as a training center but also as a resource center in appropriate farming technologies and best practices in organic agriculture. In 2013, the Department of Agriculture (DA) tapped the farm as one of its technology-demonstration partners under the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP).

For the last three years, the farm has had more than 1,700 visitors, including farmers, students, partners from the government and academe, teachers, and military personnel not just from Region 5 but from other regions as well.

One of the farm's visitors in 2014 was Mayor Lorna Mae Vero of Llanera, Nueva Ecija. The DA –

Agri-Pinoy Rice Achievers' Awardee for 2011 and 2012 spearheaded Llanera into winning the top-performing municipality in the 2013 Organic Agriculture Local Government Unit Awards. She used part of the prize money to bring her 21 barangay chairmen to Bombon for them to learn the farm's integrated operations utilizing organic technologies. "I decided to bring our leaders here because this is the only farm I know where almost all organic technologies in crops, livestock, and aquaculture are present," she remarked.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Bulacan Officer-in-Charge (OIC) – Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer I Marcy Ballesteros led her team of 24 personnel and leaders of various farmer-cooperatives from Bulacan in looking at the farm's organic way of growing vegetable, rice, swine, as well as other organic fertilizer methods. She marveled at how swine production can be odor-free. She said, "All your modules here are must-see for farmers."

In 2015, more than 600 farmers and would-be farmers were trained by STF-Bombon personnel in Integrated Farming Bio-Systems (IFBS) and other related modules. Most of them were DAR farmers from Region 5. This year, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Camarines Sur also added to its roster of partners STF-Bombon to provide agriculture training to its beneficiaries under their Sustainable Livelihood Program.

Perhaps because of word of mouth and the farm's commitment to showcasing and spreading its advocacy for organic technologies, the DA has referred the farm to more than 600 farmer-entrepreneurs. No less than the DA Regional Director, Engr. Abelardo Bragas, in his visit in early 2014, recommended it to be one of Region 5's agritourism destinations. "For those who value the importance and sustainability of agriculture and are committed to protecting and conserving the fragile environment and rich agricultural resources, the Shell Training Farm is one of the best places to be," he added.



# Motivated to LEAD



by Lucy Exconde (Sustainability Manager), Oceana Gold

To enhance its long-running scholarship program for the tertiary level, Oceana Gold Philippines (OGPI) partnered with Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) to implement a series of Leadership Enhancement and Attitude Development (LEAD) Workshops.

The Workshop primarily intends to provide an opportunity for the company's university scholars to develop life skills that would help them perform better in school, develop responsible behavior, and more importantly, prepare them in the field of work.

Since OGPI's scholarship program started in 2014, a total of 70 company scholars have participated in the Workshop; three of whom have completed their university education in 2015 and are now employed with private companies and a government agency. To determine how the company's education and leadership program impacted the lives of the scholars, we tracked them down and here are some of their stories:

Rommel Yogyog, who is from a downstream community of the Didipio Mine, participated in the first LEAD Workshop. While enrolled at



the College of Forestry of Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), he served as the president of the Association of OGPI Scholars for three years until his graduation in 2015.

Immediately after passing the board examinations for Foresters in 2015, Rommel joined the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Nueva Vizcaya, initially under the National Greening Program (NGP). He currently works in the same office as Forester 1 under the Watershed Management Program where he is able to practice his technical and leadership skills honed through the opportunities that OGPI provided.

Rommel claimed that he could not have completed his university education without the OGPI scholarship program, as resources were scarce for his big family whose main source of income was subsistence farming. He further



added that through his participation in the LEAD Workshop, he was able to set and attain his goal of working with DENR.

“The insights I picked up from the LEAD Workshop came in very handy, particularly in working with a team of diverse backgrounds, and in addressing issues in the workplace. I still occasionally refer to my LEAD Workshop outputs which I have kept to this day,” said Rommel.

Rommel’s co-workers had a very positive feedback on the work habits and leadership qualities demonstrated by this young professional. Lora Manat, a DENR employee who worked with Rommel under the NGP, said that Rommel’s advanced skills in survey and mapping, and the way he relates with his co-workers made him a valued member of the team. She further said that she hopes OGPI does not recruit him as his departure will be a big loss for them.

Another participant from the LEAD Workshop is Celyn Dulnuan, an orphan who moved to Didipio to live with a relative after her mother died in 2010. Celyn studied in the Didipio Green Valley Institute, a community high school subsidized by OGPI, and went on to study at NVSU as a scholar. She completed her Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education in

2015 and passed the Licensure Examinations for Teachers (LET) in the same year.

Celyn expressed her gratitude for the OGPI scholarship because it gave her the opportunity to focus on her studies. Although she had no parents to support her, she never had to worry about school fees and financial resources to cover her daily expenses. All she had to do was learn to budget her scholarship allowance.

She is currently working as a call center agent for an international telemarketing company in Baguio, but has plans to apply for a teaching job in Southern Luzon. She said that her current job is quite challenging, but her life experience and learnings from the LEAD Workshop have helped her maintain a positive attitude at work.

Because Celyn knows the importance of having a good education, she also spoke about helping an older sister, who unlike her was not able to attend university. She hopes to save enough money to support her tertiary education.

The stories of Rommel and Celyn prove that life is not about waiting for things to happen, but making things happen. It is about looking for opportunities and grabbing them. It is about working on achieving your dreams and leaving no room for negativity.



Hope for the Philippines:

## My experience as a Social Investment intern for PSFI

by Elvin Madamba



I recall Ms. Marvi Trudeau's first e-mail to me:

Your application for co-op student/internship has been forwarded to my office by Mr. Sebastian Quiniones. Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) is the social arm of Shell companies in the Philippines since 1982. After evaluation of the profile you have submitted, we are happy to confirm that your application has been approved starting January 4 and ending August 26, 2016. You will be assigned in our office in Puerto Princesa, Palawan where we are implementing social programs related to environment, ecotourism, health, and access to energy.

At first, I remember having a bittersweet feeling because I didn't expect to be assigned in Palawan, which is far away from my significant other, family, and friends (I'm originally from Laguna). But after some discernment, I've come to fully appreciate the opportunity that has been given to me. At the University of Waterloo in Canada, where I'm completing my undergraduate degree, internships with a company as prestigious and significant as Shell is incredibly difficult to come by. And come on, it's Palawan, number-one-island-in-the-world Palawan!

So, I started to read about the projects, programs, and work being done in Palawan vis-à-vis social and sustainable development. I eventually became progressively more excited to work for PSFI in Palawan. I reflected to myself, "This is actually perfect!" My skills, my knowledge, and my ripening expertise in sustainability and international development make me a seamless fit as a Social Investment intern. And the opportunity to travel around Palawan is just cherry on top.

I can say that this internship is one of the most fruitful and fulfilling experiences I've ever had, if not the most important experience in my young professional career. I've contributed to the many different programs here in Palawan, including Movement Against Malaria (MAM), Save, Invest, Nurture Access to Green Energy (SINAG), Integrated Support to Indigenous Peoples (ISIP), and Turismo at Negosyo Dulot ng Ingat Kalikasan (TANDIKAN), among others. Some of my responsibilities include assessment of current social and sustainable programs, profiling and documenting, contributions to report writing, SWOT analyses, stakeholder engagement, enhancement of key performance indicators, and all-around support as needed. My exposure to these programs relating to health, environment,

ecotourism, and access to energy has made me realize the immense amount of nation building work Shell has contributed to in the Philippines. There has been a lot of work done, but there is a lot more to be done. And it is evident that PSFI is one of the more influential and impactful leaders in achieving Philippine greatness.

But the work, as meaningful and substantial as it is, is only a part of what makes my experience so special. All of whom I've worked with have aided my growth as a young professional in development work – they truly care I make the most of my experience and that I learn. The passion for sustainable development from my co-workers and bosses makes me hopeful that the Philippines can ultimately achieve sustainable progress and development. I will never forget PSFI Palawan team's dedication to the job and their camaraderie in the office.

I'm glad to be a part of something big, bigger than myself. I'm excited to go back to Canada this September and share all the lessons I've learned. I want to tell my friends, family, teachers, professors, and mentors the life-changing experiences my eyes have been opened to. But also more than that, I'm inspired to complete my thesis relating to Philippine development because of the social and sustainable development work I've been immersed in this year. My hopeful heart and empowered mind look forward to a future where the Philippines has achieved sustainability, a future that I hope to contribute to and be a part of.

Note: Elvin Madamba is a 22-year-old Filipino-Canadian finishing his degree in Environment, Resources and Sustainability, minors in International Development and English at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.



## SKIL Scholar Henry Alvarez: Old, new, now

by Olivia Sorio

Henry Alvarez was just your typical youth. He had his group of friends, a complete family, and a plain everyday routine. However, when he became a SKIL scholar in 2014, everything changed. He did not imagine that his simplicity would give him a reason to make a 360-degree change in his old self, enabling him to be the new Henry, now living a better life in Bahrain.

### Old tales of young Henry

"No stable work, lazy, unmotivated, independent, had low self-esteem," shared Henry when asked how he would describe himself before.

Being the youngest did not put much pressure for Henry to take life too seriously. His father is a jeepney driver who works hard for their everyday needs while his mother takes care of the household. Though Henry was not able to finish college due to financial constraints, instead of staying at home doing nothing, he applied for a job to help his family somehow.



He enjoyed working from one company to another in almost all the food chains in Batangas. Yes, almost all. From being a service crew, kitchen crew, and dining staff to being a counter cashier just proves he has a wide field of experience. However, he lacked the motivation because he was just living one day after another. There were times when his tardiness and low self-esteem got in the way of his work. Moreover, due to company contractualization policies, he could not find a stable job.

Life was hard for Henry, but things started to change when he encountered something he did not expect nor think would make a big impact in his life. When he heard about Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.'s (PSFI) examination and recruitment for Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal (SKIL) in his barangay, he took the chance of taking the exams, believing it might be the opportunity he had long been waiting for.

### What's new, Henry?

When PSFI informed him that he was one of the scholars who

successfully passed the recruitment stage, Henry was very proud of himself. He never imagined becoming a scholar at that point, but he realized he worked so hard to earn that slot.

Henry took up Housekeeping, Food and Beverage Servicing course through Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas. He studied hard in return for the opportunity given to him. According to him, "Being a scholar helped me a lot. It changed my personality and attitude. Before, I didn't have the confidence to mingle with others. I was not pursuant to renew another contract that's why I easily resign and move to another work."

The SKIL scholarship brought out a new Henry. He learned how to give importance to himself, making him more mature enough to face challenges in life. Nonetheless, he did not deny that sometimes during the period of his schooling, he experienced many trials.

"Time management and financial constraints really tested me during my schooling. But because I really

wanted to finish the scholarship, I remembered all my priorities in life and they became my motivation to finish the course," Henry said.

All his efforts paid off when he was awarded as an Outstanding SKIL Scholar during their graduation. In his speech, he said, "The strongest factor for success is self-esteem: believing you can do it, believing you deserve it, believing you will get it. And, you are here for a purpose."

### Henry, now is the time.

"Now, I can say I have more confidence and self-esteem. I see things in life positively that I don't easily give up despite the challenges that come my way. I am mature enough to accept all the tasks and responsibilities given to me. I am more productive as a person," Henry claims.

Currently, Henry is working as Front of the House at Gold Label Burgers and Franky Joe's in Bahrain. "What I learned in school helped me a lot with my current work, from all the skills and experience I also gained during my employment in various food chains," he said.

Being an OFW brought many changes to him, not only in the field of work, but also in the area of being a responsible and mature person. Now, he knows his priorities and responsibilities more. He acknowledges the fact that he is the breadwinner of his family, and it is about time to help his father and mother.

When asked what his message is to future scholars, Henry simply said "Go lang ng go (Just keep going). Don't lose hope with all of your dreams; work hard to aim them, stay humble, give thanks to everyone who will help you and pray hard."





## TALIM SKIL scholars attend first ever Safety Leadership Training

by Charelaiane Credito

**SAFETY** - the condition of being "safe," (originated from the French word *sauf*), the condition of being protected from harm or other undesirable outcomes

As part of our mission to further stress the significance of safety, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), in cooperation with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) Department and First Safety Systems Training Services (FSSTS), conducted a 3-day Safety Leadership Training at Ambulong Training Center on November 18-20, 2015. TALIM (Tabangao, Ambulong, Libjo, San Isidro, Malitam) SKIL scholars of Pipefitting, Scaffolding, Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) courses attended the training. They were equipped with the knowledge, understanding, and full awareness about the importance of safety – how necessary it is to be part of their system, not only during work hours or inside the vicinity of the company they are working for, but also in their everyday living.

Fermin Del Rosario, head of FSSTS, was one with the aim of imparting knowledge about safety to the scholars. Hence, he made sure that every module discussed was deemed necessary and applicable to the kind of workplace the scholars will be exposed to. Engr. Ver, accredited speaker of FSSTS, facilitated

the training with Del Rosario. They both believe that an individual who highly values safety is the key to a safer, healthier, and more peaceful community.

"The real deal is not just to link our scholars to safety and merely talk its significance; the real score is to elevate the quality of our scholars, not just with their craft, but also on safety matters," Del Rosario said.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Banuelos, PSPC HSSE Department Roving Safety Officer, focused his discussion on becoming a safety leader. According to him, it is not enough to be keen on safety while in the workplace, but it is important to step up and be the leader who will guide other workers towards a safer environment and workplace. One of the most important motivations Banuelos stressed was the worth of the family and its relation to safety, saying that the major role of a good safety leader is coming home safe and healthy after a day of work and tons of tasks.

Participants received a certificate of completion after the training. They were also given an assessment to evaluate how comprehensively they have absorbed during the training. PSFI, FSSTS, and PSPC HSSE Department hope that they would apply their learnings in their day-to-day activities, and better yet, share them with others as well.



# Delivering sustainable hope in Cabiao



by Elaine Figueras (Partnerships Manager) and Claire Erica (Head of Partnerships and Marketing), Gawad Kalinga

Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and Gawad Kalinga (GK), in partnership with the Municipality of Cabiao, solidified the plan to build the Shell-GK Kalikasan Village for 20 underprivileged families. On April 20, 2016, in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, during the MOA signing and groundbreaking ceremony, commitments were made not only to build houses for the families, but also to be part of their journey out of poverty. Present in the event were 17 employees from Shell, including leaders from both the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC) and PSFI.

GK, through its Community Infrastructure Program, responds to the call for nation building by imbibing the *Bayanihan* spirit and promoting volunteerism and cooperation among partners to undertake the total development of individuals/families in communities considered the poorest of the poor and underprivileged. Recognizing the plight of the poor, PSFI extends its hand to help alleviate the present economic status of the

Filipino people by giving support and assistance to GK's Community Infrastructure Program.

As part of GK's Community Infrastructure Program, the Shell-GK Kalikasan Village is an ecotourism project initiated by the Municipality of Cabiao under the leadership of Mayor Baby Congco, a long-standing champion of GK. Bought by the local government with a 5-year development plan envisioning an ecotourism community, the 2.3-hectare land is the fourth GK Village in the municipality. Definitely unique among the rest, it is a mix of nature, residential, and commercial space. Within the area, there is the Nabao Lake where visitors can fish or ride a mini boat. Furthermore, a bed and breakfast place will be built to accommodate tourists who wish to stay overnight.

The MOA signing and groundbreaking ceremony also coincided with the Day 1 of 2016 Bayani Challenge, GK's annual

massive volunteer event. It gathers volunteers from different parts of the Philippines and the world to come together and work hand-in-hand with and for the poor. For five days, volunteers participate in house building, school refurbishing, Paraisong Pambata (playtime with kids), clean-up drives, and others.

The partnership between Shell and GK goes way back and beyond. In the past five years, Shell has largely supported GK through the GK Enchanted Farm, building villas and a training center that help set up this social enterprise platform. Recently, Shell has also helped GK respond to those affected by Typhoon Lando (international name: Koppu) through relief and rehabilitation efforts. Truly, many can be accomplished by working together. Now, everyone is excited to see the Shell-GK Kalikasan Village develop into a beautiful community with colorful homes and families rich in hope and love.

## Spotted on Quill Awards: ISIP, SINAG – A2E, SHORE

by Edong Magpayo



Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX), Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), and Malampaya Foundation Inc. (MFI) received Merit Awards from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) through the Philippine Quill Awards held at Marriott Grand Ballroom, Pasay City, Manila last May 17, 2016.

The programs recognized under PSFI and SPEX were Integrated Support to Indigenous Peoples (ISIP) and Save, Invest, Nurture Access to Green Energy (SINAG) – Access to Energy (A2E) project. Under MFI and SPEX, Shoreline Communities Onwards to Resiliency (SHORE), which aims to capacitate coastline communities to become more self-sufficient in disaster/emergency preparedness and management in the event of natural and manmade calamities, was recognized.

On March 10, 2016, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) inaugurated its new office located at Brgy. Milagrosa, Manalo Extension, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. "This move is timely for us because we are also expanding our projects to help more communities in Palawan; this means that we need a bigger space to cater for new staff and welcome our growing number of partners," said Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Program Manager.

Trudeau added that the new office signifies PSFI's commitment to sustainable and social development by being closer to its constituents and beneficiaries. The new location allows Shell's visiting executives, stakeholders, and partners significantly reduce travel time to attend meetings and other engagements. It is strategic because it is closer to the main business district of Puerto Princesa where most of its administrative functions are carried out. Additionally, it is strategically closer to the helipad operations of the Malampaya project.



## PSFI opens new office in Palawan

by Mitchell Gimena

As compared to its previous office in Brgy. Tiniguiban, where the noise of traffic is heard throughout the day, PSFI is now positioned in an area that is quiet, spacious, and closer to nature. Surrounding the office are mango, coconut, and mahogany trees, which serve as shade to the wide parking area inside the compound.

"I am sure that this will enable our staff to work with gusto and even drive their excitement to perform better in their tasks. Our new building has a higher ceiling and wider working spaces. We have a well-organized stock room

and a classy conference room," expressed Aquino Veran, PSFI Program Manager.

In attendance at the office inauguration and blessing were Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) Communications Manager, Paulo Gavino; PSFI Executive Director, Edgardo Veron Cruz; SPEX Social Performance Manager, Sankie Simbulan; Malampaya Foundation, Inc. Executive Director, Karen Agabin; Shell Global Social Performance Managers; representatives from PSFI Palawan; stakeholders, and partner organizations.





# Shell leaders join environment immersion in Palawan

by Elvin Madamba



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In the first quarter of 2016, Shell Global Social Performance and Environment (SP&E) leaders visited the Upstream Zone of Impact in Palawan. Miguel Ruiz-Larrea, Shell Global SP Manager, stayed in Palawan from January 28 and 29.

Joanna Cochrane, VP for Social Performance; Traci Alford, General Manager for ER-APAC; Yannick Joseph Colot, VP for HR Corporate & Government Relations; Cynthia Maree Alexander, ER Manager-Malaysia; Gerd Olaus Vikesa, Environment & CO2 Manager; Rita Sully, Senior SP Adviser for Indigenous Peoples & Cultural Heritage; Seemi Saad, ER Manager – Pakistan; and Bongkod Paebunpong, ER Manager – Thailand visited on March 9 and 10.

The SP&E leaders observed Shell Philippines' sustainable development (SD) and social investment (SI) projects through Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) and Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI), with Joint Venture partners Department of Energy, Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX), Chevron, and Philippine National Oil Company.

The purposes of the immersion trips were:

- to help strengthen External Relations leaders' knowledge and appreciation of SP as it is applied on the ground, especially those with SP included in their role;
- to help SP&E managers exercise their SP&E muscles by emotionally connecting with the issues and challenges in key locations, and as a result, be better equipped to show authentic leadership to their constituents across the whole scope of their responsibilities;
- to emphasize the close interdependencies between environment and social performance on the ground.

Ruiz-Larrea was joined by Ramon Del Rosario, Shell VP for Communications – Philippines; Maria

Divina De Leon, SP Senior Advisor – Dubai; Sankie Simbulan, Upstream SP Manager – Philippines; Melanie Bularan, SI & SP Manager – Philippines; Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Program Manager – Palawan; Karen Agabin, MFI Executive Director; and Aquino Veran, PSFI Program Manager for SD – Palawan in January. Shell SP&E leaders visiting in March were also joined by Del Rosario, Simbulan, Trudeau, Agabin, and Veran. Joining them this time was Paulo Gavino, Shell Upstream ER Manager – Philippines; Rowena Inion, SPEX Environmental Engineer; and Edgardo Veron Cruz, PSFI Executive Director.

The SP&E leaders paid a visit to project sites in Palawan, including PSFI's Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM)/Movement Against Malaria (MAM) program at Sta. Lourdes Microscopy Center and Malaria Collaboration Center; the award-winning Access to Energy (A2E) project with the Batak tribe at Sitio Kalakwasan; and MFI's marine biodiversity conservation program, Barangay Aquatic Habitat and Underwater Regeneration Assistance (BAHURA) at Binduyan Sea Abalone Hatchery; and Bridging Employment through Skills Training (BEST) program at Puerto Princesa School of Arts and Trades (PPSAT).

On January 29, Ruiz-Larrea presented the Chief Executive Officer's Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) & SP Award for Excellence in Environment and Social Performance to SPEX and PSFI team composed of SPEX SP Manager Sankie Simbulan, PSFI Program Manager Marvi Trudeau, PSFI Project Officer Antero Rebeuno, and PSFI Program Manager Aquino Veran. Ruiz-Larrea cited the team's "significant contribution to improving and sustaining Shell's performance in the areas of HSSE and SP."

The Shell Global SP&E leaders' visit in Palawan is an important step in internationally recognizing the sustainable development impact of Shell's social investments in the Philippines.

## Shell Safety Day 2016 in Palawan by Elvin Madamba

On April 25, 2016, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) celebrated its first Shell Safety Day in its recently inaugurated Puerto Princesa office.

Participants of the event were PSFI Palawan and Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) staff.

The day started with Shell Safety Day videos from Shell Philippines Country Chairman, Edgar Chua; Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX) Managing Director, Sebastian Quiniones; and SPEX Health, Security, Safety, and the Environment (HSSE) Manager, Donna Kulzon-Cruz. It was followed by tips on safety in and out of doing fieldwork from PSFI Palawan Program Managers, Marvi Trudeau and Aquino Veran.

"We would like to make everyone aware that safety is a priority at Shell. This is the reason why we need to align ourselves with the standards of the company so that we can attain our Goal Zero," said Trudeau.

The keynote speaker for the event was SFO3 Rico Pagmanaja from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Puerto Princesa City. He gave a

seminar on an earthquake disaster response, which was followed by a drill simulating an actual earthquake scenario.

An informational quiz and short discussions on simple safety practices being implemented in both PSFI and TMO offices were also conducted to supplement the safety education of the participants.



## Operation mangrove rehabilitation by Marah Villanueva

As part of Shell's Yolanda rehabilitation program, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) donated Php 1 million to Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) for the mangrove and beach forest protection in Roxas City, Capiz, one of the areas affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) in November 2013.

A mangrove planting activity was held last June 1 at Palina Greenbelt Ecopark, Brgy. Cagay, Roxas City. Volunteers from Shell Culasi depot, Shell Lapus terminal, Shell Roxas station, Roxas City local government unit, PSFI, PDRF, and its implementing partner, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), participated in the said activity.

"Like coral reefs, mangrove forests are extremely productive ecosystems that provide numerous goods and services, both to the marine environment and people," according to World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). Unfortunately, in Brgy. Cagay, when Super Typhoon Yolanda hit, a number of mangroves were damaged. Hence, as per Belinda Garrido, Coastal Resource Management Coordinator in Roxas City, there is really a need for mangrove rehabilitation in the area. "This project will keep this place clean and green," said Garrido. She also added that the project will contribute to the sustainability of coastal resources because the mangroves act as pollution filters. Moreover, the thick root frameworks of mangrove forests trap sediments streaming down waterways, sustaining the coastline and warding off erosion from waves and storms.

Shell's donation to PDRF not only covered the mangrove rehabilitation project, but also provided cash for work to 66 fisherfolks (from Brgy. Baybay, Brgy. Cagay, and Brgy. Culajao), who helped in planting propagules; approximately 105,000 were planted with a target survival rate of 85%. PDRF, through PBSP, will monitor the growth of the mangroves. Through proper maintenance and care, soon enough, we will reap the benefits of our act of helping save Mother Earth.







## Pilipinas Shell builds homes with Habitat for Humanity

by Rachael Nathanielsz and Jun Jay Jimenez

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), through its social development arm, Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), partnered with Habitat for Humanity (HFH) for its community project in Anibong, Tacloban, Leyte.

Last August 3, 2016, HFH Philippines and PSFI signed a Memorandum of Agreement for housing projects for the benefit of 116 Yolanda-affected families. Supporting HFH Philippines' campaign We Build, PSFI has committed to provide assistance for the relocation of the affected families to Kawayanville in Barangay 106, Sto. Niño, Tacloban, with over 100 shelter units estimated to be completed by April 2017.

PSPC Chairman and President Edgar Chua shared Shell's active role in forging partnerships to promote sustainable development in the country. "We really hope that we can build on this, and grow this partnership for the long term." Emphasizing the significance of partnerships in fueling growth in the country, Chua said, "This collaboration will go a long way in helping the communities. No single entity can take on this responsibility alone. We are honored to be part of this partnership."

While Shell actively forges partnerships to promote sustainable mobility, driver education, and saving fuel in the country, it explores opportunities to collaborate with relevant organizations to fuel growth and development in communities by employing innovative methods in implementing social development programs.

With presence in over 70 countries worldwide, HFH envisions a world where everyone has a decent place to live in by bringing together partner organizations that share the same vision of transforming lives through building responsible and sustainable communities.



During the signing, HFH Philippines Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Charlito Ayco shared his vision for a better future for every Filipino child. "Just like Shell's future energy visions, I am hoping for a nation where every Filipino child can go home and sleep in a decent house," said Ayco. "We are honored by Shell's presence in sealing this partnership. We at Habitat for Humanity are looking forward to a stronger partnership with Shell. This housing project for Yolanda-affected families in Anibong, Tacloban, is a remarkable start for our partnership." To date, over 135,000 families have already benefitted from HFH Philippines' programs such as home repair kits, school buildings, health centers, water facilities, and livelihood support for poverty-stricken communities and disaster-affected Filipinos.

After the official sealing of partnership, PSFI Executive Director Edgardo Veron Cruz presented PSFI's relief and rehabilitation initiatives for Yolanda-affected families. "It will be a rewarding accomplishment when we complete the 116 shelter units by next year. By then, we would have completed the list of activities related to Super Typhoon Yolanda. Looking forward to a productive partnership with HFH Philippines, Veron Cruz said, "There will be many other things in the future that we can do together."



## Kicking off a brighter future for children

by Rachael Nathanielsz

Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. (PSFI), an organization that has played an active role in Super Typhoon Yolanda relief and rehabilitation efforts in Tacloban, sealed a partnership with FundLife International to implement the latter's Football for Life (F4L) program for the benefit of 7-14-year-old children survivors of Barangays 69 and 70 (Anibong, Tacloban). The one-year partnership was made solid in April 2015 and has been extended for another year through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing last August 2016.

PSFI has provided funding for the implementation of the program and rehabilitation of the community's basketball court, where play sessions are being conducted by FundLife.

When Super Typhoon Yolanda, one of the strongest typhoons in the world, severely hit the city of Tacloban in November 2013, homes were destroyed and lives were lost. With the trauma that the devastating disaster caused, children were left in a vulnerable state.

To help the young survivors bounce back, FundLife started the F4L program in Tacloban in 2014. Primarily developed to provide the first line of psychosocial support to children post-disaster, F4L is designed to engage them in regular play sessions, fostering positive core values fundamental to team building, camaraderie, and cooperation in a fun captivating climate. Not only does it bring children back to play, it also develops the capacity of locally sourced coaches to cultivate an authentic community ownership model.

By engaging, supporting, and empowering children who once got deprived of their childhood, FundLife, together with its partners like PSFI, hopes to bring back the color to the lives of these children.







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