



The Volunteer

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2004 Outstanding Volunteers Honored



Outstanding volunteers in the 2004 Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) were honored and given awards last 14 December 2004. Speaker of the House Jose C. de Venecia was the guest of honor during the awarding ceremony which was held at the Andaya Hall of the House of Representatives in Quezon City.

Four individuals and one organization were given trophies for their exemplary volunteer work, three were recipients of the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award (VLAA) and three companies were given special citations for implementing volunteer programs as a way of carrying out their corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The Search for Outstanding Volunteers caps the celebration of the National Volunteer Month (NVM) which the country observes every December. The NVM is a year-long celebration that encourages and recognizes volunteering activities in their various modes and forms by individuals, groups and organizations. As the government's focal agency for the celebration, the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) spearheads an annual nationwide search for individuals and groups who excel in rendering voluntary services in their communities or the nation as a whole.

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PNVSCA and SIF Sign MOA

The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) and the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement last 22 February 2005 in NEDA, Pasig for the assistance of SIF through its volunteers who will be deployed in the Philippines.


SIF is a non-government, nonprofit organization dedicated to foster global mindsets, build goodwill and friendship, and strengthen the Singaporean identity through its international volunteerism and networking programs. ■



PNVSCA Executive Director Joselito C. de Vera and Ms. Chia Meng Tze, Director of International Volunteerism of SIF signed the agreement with Singapore Embassy Counselor Paul Koh Kok Hong and NEDA Assistant Director General Margarita R. Songco as witnesses.

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Recipients of the awards are the following:

Timothy G. Gabuna of the National Capital Region (NCR) is a volunteer in the field of organizational development for voluntary groups and institutions. His passion for volunteering also includes welfare for the youth, especially those who are marginalized. He is affiliated with the Jesuit Volunteers-Philippines, Philippine Association for Volunteer Effort (PAVE), Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange, Inc. (VOICE), Gawad Kalinga, Malipayon Development Cooperative and Unhan Foundation.

Martiniana D. Mercado of Region VII is a volunteer dedicated to addressing issues and the rights of children, women, the elderly and inmates through various intervention and awareness programs. She is affiliated with Central Visayas Association for Volunteer Effort (CVAVE) and Albert Schweitzer Familienwerk Foundation Philippines, Inc.

Fr. Pio M. Eugenio, SVD of Region XIII is a missionary priest detailed in Trenton, Agusan del Sur. He is the Executive Director of the Agusan Ecotech Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Regional Development Council. His volunteering work is devoted to helping farmers increase their yield through organic farming and the MASIPAG (Magsasaka at Siyentista Para sa Ikaunlad ng Panakahang Agham).

Yusoph I. Muhammad of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is a volunteer for the conservation and protection of the Liguasan Marsh and Dimapatoy Watershed and in the promotion of peace and sustainable development. He is affiliated with the Maguindanao Professionals and Employees Association, Inc. (MAPEA) and Minsupala Economic Development Foundation, Inc. (MEDFI).

Champagnat Community College (CCC) Notre Dame of Marbel University of Region XII, the sole awardee in the group category, extends holistic services and assistance to the poorest of the poor and indigenous peoples of Mindanao.

Recipients of Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Awards are:

Fr. Pierre T. Tritz, SJ of the Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation (ERDA) works for the upliftment of street-children by giving them education and skills training. A tireless leader, innovator, educator and ambassador of international goodwill, he has enabled the formation of countless volunteers, institutions and foundations towards the development of those who have less in life and protecting human lives and dignity.

Ligaya P. Jorge of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines works tirelessly in building the capability of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) as a national institution for the molding of future women leaders and model citizens of the country. Her lifetime volunteering service has contributed to the upliftment of GSP's management standards and established a culture of leadership and nobility of purpose and ideals.

Leonarda N. Camacho of Metro Manila Linis Ganda is dedicated to the cause of environmental conservation and protection exemplified and demonstrated by her relentless advocacy for waste segregation and recycling. Through her able leadership, the "Metro Manila Linis Ganda" project has been transformed into a viable mechanism for achieving massive public awareness and inspiration for communities to participate in the practice of zero waste management.

The NVM National Steering Committee, in cooperation with the Philippine Business



for Social Progress (PBSP) collaborated to give special citations to companies for their involvement in volunteer work as an expression of their corporate social responsibility. The following were given the special citations:

Petron Foundation, Inc. is recognized for its numerous civic programs such as Volunteerism-in-Action, Tulong-Aral ng Petron, Petron School, Sa Aklat Sisikat, Skills Training and Education Program (STEP), Junior Achievement Philippines, Petron Kids' Summer Camp, Kontra Kalat sa Dagat, Puno ng Buhay, and Smoke Emission Testing.

Meralco is recognized for its civic engagements such as the Teacher Education Project and the Libro Ko-Alay Ko project. It partners with the Department of Education in its Brigada Eskuwela and schools electrification projects. It also reaches out to children and specially-abled persons through its Munting Mukha ng Ligaya Outreach and Meralco Employees Fund for Charity programs.

Intel Involved-Philippines is cited for its variety of employee volunteering programs in support to education, environmental protection, youth development and community service. Among these are Intel-Involved in Education/Innovation in Education, Intel Teach to the Future, Intel-Involved in the Environment, Intel-Involved in Health, Intel-Involved Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Intel-Involved Community Outreach programs. ■

House Pushes Passage of Volunteerism Bill

The Committee on Rural Development of the House of Representatives conducted last 1 February 2004 a hearing on House Bill No. 2918 entitled "**An Act Strengthening Volunteerism and its Institutionalization as a Strategy for Rural Development and for Other Purposes,**" In attendance were members and staff of the Committee, representatives from PNVSCA, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), VSO-Bahaginan, Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange (VOICE), and Philippine Association for Volunteer Effort.

After inputting comments and suggestions of volunteerism stakeholders, the bill was redrafted and is now designated as House Bill No. 3847.

The bill seeks to establish a conducive fiscal, legislative and policy environment to strengthen, support and promote volunteerism in the country as a strategy for rural and national development. ■



JOCV 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. *The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) celebrated its 40th Anniversary last 22 February 2005 at the Ballroom 1 of Dusit Hotel Nikko. Mr. Shoji Shimbo, leader of the first batch of JOCV in the Philippines, said being a volunteer made a huge impact in his life because that experience taught him the fundamental values of humanity. Shown here in the picture are (from left to right) Laoag Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega, PNVSCA Executive Director Joselito C. de Vera, NEDA ADG Margarita R. Songco, JICA Resident Representative Mr. Shozo Matsuura, Mr. Shimbo and Embassy of Japan Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki. Exec. Dir. de Vera, in behalf of the Agency, presented JOCV a plaque of appreciation for the 40 years of close partnership.*

Excerpts of the SOV 2004 Awarding Rites Speeches

Welcome Remarks Honorable Romulo L. Neri Socioeconomic Planning Secretary



Honorable Speaker Jose De Venecia, Dra. Amelita Dayrit-Go, Ms. Corazon de Leon, fellow volunteers, thank you very much for coming.

I am honored to speak before great Filipino men and women who have gone out of their way to help others without thought of personal gain. Volunteers do what economists consider economically irrational since what they do don't have economic returns for their actions. Your activities are done above and beyond earning a living and you do it because you care passionately about it. You do it for higher personal and even spiritual goals. These reasons economists probably will never capture. Instead of doing things for themselves, volunteers do it for others.

Today we prove that Filipinos could be light to others, be aware of another's needs and do something about it. We can achieve anything that we set our minds to as long as we have the virtues of volunteerism in our hearts. Let us strive to make this great virtue of volunteerism shine brightly for every citizen.

Let me thank and congratulate the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency or PNVSCA for a job well done. Your role in advocating and recognizing the contributions of volunteers to nation-building and international cooperation could not be underestimated. It cannot be argued that this nationwide public awareness and appreciation of volunteerism play crucial role in the social, economic and political development of the country.

Again it is an honor to be here. I am so grateful that you came. Together let us make this affair a remarkable and fruitful experience. Welcome and good afternoon!

Introduction of the Guest of Honor Dr. Amelita Dayrit-Go PAVE President and NVM Steering Committee Member

Honorable Speaker Jose de Venecia, Honorable Romulo Neri, Chairman Cora de Leon, our PNVSCA Cora, members, dear volunteer leaders, outstanding volunteer leaders, friends, ladies and gentlemen. To inspire the volunteer leaders today is a great Filipino, an economist, a journalist, diplomat, business leader and peacemaker.



Speaker de Venecia steered through Congress reforms sponsored by the Ramos administration, updated tax reforms, oil deregulation and financial administration that prepared the government for Philippine exile from financial supervision by the International Monetary Fund. Among the landmark laws he has written is the 1992 built-operate-transfer law which has been a model for other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the Bases Conversion Law, which has transformed the US military bases into Special Economic Zones.

Our Speaker, as I have mentioned earlier, is a peacemaker. He helped carry out the Ramos Administration's national reconciliation program. Currently, he is also helping the Macapagal-Arroyo administration negotiate a settlement with the MILF.

So ladies and gentlemen, it is a privilege and honor to present to you our Guest Speaker, a volunteer-leader par excellence, Honorable Speaker Jose de Venecia!

Keynote Message
House Speaker Jose C. de Venecia, Jr.



Secretary Neri, former Secretary Alma de Leon, Madam Macaraig, Madam Camacho, my old, old friend still going strong Fr. Tritz, the awardees this afternoon, my friends, ladies and gentlemen. I am very honored, very proud that we have this privilege and this opportunity to get together on the eve of Christmas to honor the Filipino volunteers from all walks of life from various professions, from government, from civil society, those who have given so much of themselves to pioneer, to lead, to rescue, to serve, to do things that are not normal, to do things that are not ordinary. That is volunteerism.

I think that with 28 typhoons ravaging the Philippines every year, with the limited resources of government, I think we should create a team of national volunteers or task force of volunteers with specific mission and assignment. Just modestly funded because then you are no longer a volunteer if you have salary or even huge allowance like the congressmen and senators. I think modest stipend, financial assistance should be given and we should now create a national task force of volunteers because we should now anticipate major super-typhoons with speeds in excess of, what used to be 100-120 kph is already a devastating typhoon. Now we are talking of 200-300 kph so we should perhaps anticipate these more vicious, devastating typhoons that will come our way.

When I was talking to the King of Thailand about 5 or 6 years ago, he said to me that Thailand is always prepared because they have a national corps of volunteer, national corps of volunteers funded by the private sector with counterpart financed by the national budget of Thailand. This is the King's corps of volunteers that attend to Thailand in the event of large or small disaster along the ocean or hinterlands of Thailand.

So I would like to suggest to you, Mr. Secretary, that perhaps a memorandum should be presented which you and I, along with the volunteers here now present, we could propose the establishment of a national corps of volunteers modestly funded with funding from the private sector in order to preserve the spirit of pure *bona fide* volunteerism and we should have such a volunteer unit: one in Luzon, one in Visayas and one in Mindanao so we don't have to fly volunteers from Manila to go to Maguindanao or fly from Cagayan de Oro to the Bicol region, but ready to move in the service of the Filipino people and the service of God. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all of you and congratulations!

Closing Remarks
Ms. Corazon Alma G. de Leon
Honorary Chair, NVM Celebration 2004

Secretary de Venecia, Secretary Neri, my friend, Baby Go and Cora Macaraig, all the awardees, ladies and gentlemen. It is always a privilege to give the closing remarks to speak last and thus have the last say.

Yes, today's event ought to be just the beginning of many more possibilities so Speaker de Venecia, we are taking the challenge of a national volunteer corps, a taskforce if you will, to ensure that this volunteerism is not just for today but for tomorrow and certainly for the future.

As a child, I learned three phrases which resonate this afternoon. First is to say 'thank you', so thank you for House Speaker de Venecia with his time and talent and certainly his treasure (sic) in Congress to help fund the next NVM. I also learned "I'm sorry" that those who were invited were not able to come because it is literally 11 days before Christmas and the last is to say "I love you" to all who came here, to all the volunteers, to all the awardees who continue demonstrating public service at its best and the value we hold sacred as a Filipino, the *bayanihan*, the spirit of sharing and caring, the values of *pagmamalasakit* and *pakikipagkapwa tao*. As I often end our radio program under DZXL, RMN Manila, Kapitan Barrio every Sunday, 6 – 8 pm, *ang sinasabi ko po ipadama po natin ang pinakamarubdub na pagmamahal sa bayan sa pamamagitan ng paglilingkod sa ating barangay, sa ating sambayanan*. Let us volunteer and make volunteerism truly the Filipino way of life. *Maraming salamat po and mabuhay tayong lahat!*



ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR 2004

A. Program Implementation and Coordination



Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA)

There were **221** VIDA volunteers deployed mostly in rural barangays in 2004.

They assisted projects in functional literacy, health and nutrition, coastal resource management, rural enterprise development, micro-finance, agriculture, environmental conservation, livelihood and peace building.

A total of 88 VIDA volunteers were placed in the Multi-Donor Program Phase 3 (MDP3) for the rehabilitation of the former MNLF rebels. The volunteers work as peace and development advocates (PDAs) in once conflicted areas now called peace and development communities in Mindanao.

During the year, the German Development Service (DED) also continued to provide financial support to the VIDA program, particularly in the deployment of ten (10) VIDA volunteers in Mindanao.

Bayanihang Bayan

The Bayanihang Bayan Volunteers for Government Service Program which was launched in December 2001 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, engages the private sector particularly the youth, mid-career professionals, retirees and overseas Filipinos to volunteers in government programs, projects and activities. It is now on its third year of implementation at the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The major accomplishments include the inventory of volunteer opportunities in the participating agencies and the issuance of department memoranda by DENR and DOH on the guidelines for BB implementation in their respective depart-

ments. PNVSCA has also invited the participation of the Department of Labor and Employment and entered into agreements with the League of Cities of the Philippines and the Volunteer Organizations, Information, Coordination and Exchange (VOICE) to participate and support Bayanihang Bayan.

International Volunteer Program

In 2004, there were **458** foreign volunteer development workers who helped various projects in agriculture, fisheries, education, micro-enterprise development, health and nutrition, governance, environment, information and communication technology and many others.

The sponsoring foreign volunteer organizations are:

1. Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD)
2. Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
3. German Development Service (DED)
4. Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)
5. Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOV)
6. Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA)
7. United States Peace Corps (USPC)
8. Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

Aside from technical expertise, the foreign volunteers promote cultural exchange, people-to-people relations and international goodwill.

Volunteer Exchange Program

The Volunteer Exchange Program allows the Philippines to be both a receiver and sender of volunteer workers, thus enabling the Philippines to also contribute in the development efforts of other countries. PNVSCA works in part-



nership with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the VSO Bahaginan program.

In 2004, **363** Filipino volunteers served in 45 countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Central Pacific, China, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, East Timor, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Laos, Liberia, Macedonia, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia. The volunteers were involved in program/project management technology sharing and skills enhancement, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts and peace building initiatives for a period of six months to two years.

On the other hand, three (3) international UNVs were deployed in the Philippines to assist projects in program management, communication development and gender and development.

A component of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is the National United Nations Volunteers (NUNV). During the year, **28** NUNVs were assigned to the United Nations Government of the Philippines Multi-Donor Program Phase 3 (UN-GOP MDP3) and two (2) NUNVs to the Samar Island Bio-diversity project of the DENR.

B. Policy and Plan Formation

In order to improve coordination with program partners and to set an environment conducive to effective and efficient volunteer program implementation, the Agency continues to coordinate meetings of the Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB). MSAB is created to assist PNVSCA in policy formulation and is composed of the National Economic and Development Au-



thority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Department of Justice (DOJ), Presidential Management Staff (PMS), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM).

The following are the major policy outputs:

a. Formulation of Office Circular No. VI (**Guidelines for the Registration of Volunteer Service Organizations and Volunteer Service Workers**) This Circular enjoins volunteer service workers and organizations to register and be part of a network to achieve greater coordination and networking.

b. A Resolution to endorse a draft bill entitled “**An Act Strengthening Volunteerism and its Institutionalization as a Strategy for National Development and for Other Purposes**” to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Bill seeks to strengthen volunteerism in the country by providing it with conducive legislative and policy environments and to harness and harmonize the diverse volunteer efforts in the promotion of national development and international understanding.

C. Information and Advocacy

The Agency utilizes various strategies to promote and advocate volunteerism and the volunteer program with the public. Among the platforms of promotion and advocacy used are the following:

a. National Volunteer Month (NVM) is an



annual celebration every December mandated by Proclamation No. 55. PNVSCA is designated as the focal agency for the NVM. It is assisted by a National Steering Committee chaired by NEDA and regional committees headed by NEDA and by regional committees headed by NEDA Regional Offices. (please see related story on page one)

b. Publications

PNVSCA published a quarterly newsletter called The Volunteer. During the year, three (3) regular quarterly editions were published. A special 40th anniversary issue is currently being prepared.

The Agency maintains a website at www.pnvzca.neda.gov.ph, where information about volunteerism, news, features and announcements are uploaded.

This year, PNVSCA co-sponsored with the UNV the publication of "Strategic Review of the Volunteer System in the Philippines."

c. Coordination with the Media

The Agency maintains contact with the media that provide radio and TV time for discussions and interviews on volunteerism. The celebration of the 2004 NVM and SOV were launched with the cooperation of 12 radio and 4 TV stations that provided slots for interviews and discussions on volunteerism. Two major dailies also put out press releases.

d. Partnership Building

PNVSCA continued to establish and sustain linkages with different agencies and organizations from the government, non-government and community-based groups, the academe and the business community that promoted collaboration and resource sharing in volunteerism. Among the major partnerships entered into this year were with the following:

- ◆ The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) to tap volunteers particularly through the Bayanihang Bayan program in local government programs and projects.
- ◆ VOICE for the promotion including the exchange and sharing of information in volunteerism.
- ◆ Pinoy-rin, Inc. for organizing advocacy events such as essay writing contest on volunteer experiences, volunteer fair and for continued assistance in electronic matching of volunteer demand and supply for the Bayanihang Bayan program.
- ◆ PBSP in giving citations to selected corporate volunteer programs under a special award category in this year's Search for Outstanding Volunteers.



**The
Volunteer**

The **Volunteer** is published quarterly by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) to foster exchange of information on volunteer service programs and activities in the country. **The Volunteer** welcomes comments, suggestions and articles on volunteer concerns but reserves the right to edit and publish. Please address your contributions to the **Editor**.

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