Executive Summary
Celebrating the 2007 International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples
UP Asian Center, Diliman, Quezon City
August 8 – 9, 2007

Theme: Strengthening Partnership in Development for Indigenous Peoples

The International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is commemorated globally every 9th of August. The celebration is part of the Second International Decade for the World’s Indigenous Peoples (2005 – 2015) which was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in its 2004 session. Its Programme of Action was adopted in November 2005.

This year’s celebration organized from 8 to 9 August was in partnership with the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, the United Nations agencies led by the ILO, UNDP, UNIC and UNFPA, New Zealand Embassy, Canadian Embassy, NCIP, UP Asian Center, Manlilikha and Haribon Foundation.

The event was well attended by various indigenous peoples groups from the different parts of the country (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), representatives from government agencies, non-government agencies, indigenous peoples’ organizations and donor communities (see Annex List of Participants for 8 August 2007).


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To kick-off the 2-days event, a book launch was organized on 8 August 2007. The publication entitled “The Road to Empowerment: Strengthening the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act” was produced from the collaborative research project implemented by ILO with UNDP, NCIP and the Embassy of New Zealand. It is a two-volume compilation of 13 researches/case studies that reviewed various aspects of the implementation of the IPRA law. It aims to support further policy formulation and programme development on indigenous peoples’ issues and concerns.

Atty. Sedfrey Candelaria presented the first volume - Old Ways, New Ways. In this book, critical issues concerning indigenous peoples’ rights and their customary governance are discussed extensively, based on field experiences documented by legal and academe experts. From labor and intellectual property rights to conflict resolution processes, these stories serve as valuable inputs for constructive and well-planned projects that may assist development planners in moving forward with the implementation of the IPRA law and substantially address the problems of the country’s indigenous communities.

Volume two: Nurturing the Earth, Nurturing Life, presented by Dr. Raoul Cola, touched on the relevance of indigenous knowledge systems and practices in formulating strategies for the total human development of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. Among the stories in this book are the efforts of the Kalanguya people to conserve their natural resources in order to improve their quality of life, and the role of the Tuwali women in managing the famous Ifugao rice terraces. It also documented the uphill battle of the Isagada, Batak and Tagbanua
communities to preserve rapidly vanishing traditions in the tourist attractions of Sagada and Palawan. The role of IKSPs in eradicating child labor and promoting health services and educational opportunities are examined as well, in the hope that these stories may inspire well-meaning groups and individuals that are working to bring about positive change for the indigenous Filipinos.

Relevant topics discussed were the following:

1. National and International Instruments to Protect the Rights of the IPs
   - UN Declaration on the Rights of IPs
   - ILO Convention 169
   - IPRA

2. Situationer of the IP of the Philippines

3. CADT and ADSDPP Frameworks and Sharing of Community Experiences

4. NCIP-UNDP Project on ADSDPP

5. Integrating Reproductive Health on ADSDPP

An open forum followed the lecture/discussion and representatives from the different tribes raised their issues and concerns.
Indigenous Knowledge and Practices that Promote Environmental Protection and Conservation and Dialogue Among Development Partners and IP Groups

Day 2 focused on the topic on environment and was facilitated by Haribon Foundation. To gather the IP’s voices, participants divided themselves into three (3) workshop groups – Northern Luzon, Island Provinces and Mindanao. Each group reported on specific concerns affecting their communities. Among the recommendations raised in included their requests for:

1. Support to the national and international policies and instruments to promote and protect the rights of the IPs, including the ratification of ILO C. 169 in the Philippines and the Philippine government’s support to the adoption of UNDRIP;

2. Facilitate technical and financial assistance in securing land tenure for the IPs considering the different models of titling such as AO 1-Midnight titles, Conversion of CADC (Certificate of AD Claim) to CADT (Certificate of AD Titles), Direct CADT application, and other land tenure instruments of the IPRA;

3. Assist in effectively engaging IPs in developing their ADSDPPs (Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan) using community-driven approaches and different funding and partnership modalities; and in integrating their ADSDPP in the local development plans, and,

4. Improve the processes and guidelines on CADT, ADSDPP and IP governance.

It commenced with a donor’s forum, a cultural presentation and cocktails.