



Decent Work for All

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Building a stronger nation requires work. **Decent Work.**

ILO pays tribute to indigenous peoples, journalists

Indigenous peoples took the centre stage as eleven stories about them were recognized in an international reception organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on December 12 in Makati City.

Among the eleven stories recognized as outstanding, were five articles from two broadsheets and two community newspapers namely, *BusinessWorld's* *Discontent in a Mining Wilderness* by Romer Sarmiento, *Sun.Star Davao's* *As Precious as Life Itself* by Stella Estremera, *Philippine Daily Inquirer's* *Mt. Pinukis an Arena of Debate on Mining* by Ryan Rosauro and *Cordillera Organic Rice Finds a Strong Market at Home* by Edgardo Espiritu, and *Northern Dispatch's* *Anti Dam Activist Gets Laureate Award* by Arthur Allad-iw.

All five stories won in the online, print and photo essay categories. The winners received trophies.

The outstanding stories in all of the five categories were revealed in the ILO Year-end Reception that underscored the indigenous peoples as “partners in development”, and the journalists who presented them in unique storytelling that provided insightful glimpses of their culture, aspirations and indispensable efforts towards making a difference in their communities and showing the society their critical importance in nation-building.

The short list of outstanding stories from print, radio, television, online and photo essay was a result of a rigorous evaluation of more than 80 entries from August 2009 to August 2011 by a pool of experts on IP issues and from the media that comprised the screening

committee and the judging panel.

The first ever “Pagkilala sa mga Natatanging Kuwentong Katutubo” which served as the highlight of the reception that gave importance to members of IP communities in the Philippines, also showcased ethnic or indigenous dance, music, products and snapshots of the colorful life of the IPs in the country.

“It was a good mix of stories that show the other side of our IP brothers and sisters,” Joseph Alwyn Albuero, vice-chairman of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and member of the judging panel, said.

Both the screeners and the judges lauded the efforts of the writers who took time and effort to share to the public that indigenous peoples are “indeed partners in development” and that “more stories can be written about them in the future”.

“The stories are not about the journalists who produced them. They are about the IPs who are out there struggling to be part of a bigger community,” Ramon Tuazon, president of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) and a member of the board of judges, said.

Secretary of Labor and Employment Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, who read the message of President Benigno S. Aquino III during the opening programme, also lauded the efforts of ILO and the journalists “for hailing the part that indigenous peoples play in development”. She said that there are now IP desks in 16 regions of the country.

“Through your inspiring stories, we all

Filipino journalists recognize for their outstanding stories on indigenous peoples with Senator Legarda, Secretary Baldoz of DOLE, Chairperson Pawid of NCIP, Ms Viel Aquino-Dee, an IP advocate and sister of President Aquino and Director Johnson of the ILO (Photo by ILO/M. Fuellas)

will be made more aware not only of the valuable contributions of our indigenous peoples to our rich cultural heritage, but more importantly for the socio-economic implications of firmly instituting interests of indigenous peoples in the mainstream of policy-making,” the message of the President reads.

Stella Estremera, editor-in-chief of *Sun.Star Davao*, in her acceptance speech on behalf of the awardees, said that interacting with the IPs to listen to their stories and relaying these with their purest intentions at its most unadulterated narrative, is a journey into one’s soul.

“It is a rediscovery of our identity as Filipinos. Like any other journalist, I started looking and writing about them with pity in my eyes. That was until I listened to their stories and beliefs and saw in them the true resilience of the Filipino spirit, and a deeply ingrained dignity that has withstood the endless years of marginalization. Along with that came the realization that the pity is on us for sweeping these away to the margins and denying our children these stories. To ILO, thank you for this recognition, but the greater gratitude is for the IPs for waiting so long for their stories to be told,” Estremera said.

In the end, she urged fellow journalists not to make them (IPs) wait much longer.

SM Cinema and ILO partnership on decent work for domestic workers

The ILO Country Office for the Philippines in partnership with SM Cinema, the largest cinema exhibitor in the Philippines partnered for a public service message on “Domestic workers are workers with rights like others. Decent and productive work starts at home.” The 30-second message will be shown at the opening day of the Metro Manila Film Festival 2011 on 25 December 2011.

The Metro Manila Film Festival 2011 features top grossers and box office movies in the Philippines. It will be an opportunity to remind moviegoers that domestic workers have the same basic labour rights as those available to other workers. The message on domestic workers will be played nationwide in 38 digital theatres of SM Cinema until the first week of February 2012.

Seen through the eyes of a child, the message produced by Imagic Productions, Inc., featured two domestic workers as they provide support and care for families, but not within the same working and living conditions. The happy domestic worker has benefits such as access to social security and calamity loan. She receives skills training and upgrading. She feels happy being part of the family.

The sad domestic worker appeared too stressed due to poor working and living conditions. Without any form of social security or safety net to rely on, she has no choice but to leave and borrow money. Her employer, with a cold look in her face, cannot do anything about it. In the end, the message highlighted, “Domestic workers are

workers with rights like others. Decent and productive work starts at home.”

The message supports the Philippines in its commitment to protect the welfare of domestic workers. The Philippines was at the forefront of the campaign on decent work for domestic workers and the recent adoption of the historic set of international labour standards aimed at improving the lives and working conditions of domestic workers worldwide.

The new ILO standards, also referred to as the Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189) and Recommendation (No. 201), 2011 - set out that domestic workers around the world who care for families and households, must have the same basic labour rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.



First Philippine Climate Change Consciousness Week highlights CCAP gains

By Lurraine Villacorta, MDG-F 1656 Climate Change Adaptation Project Manager

The Climate Change Adaptation Project (CCAP) presented to the national and international stakeholders the gains of the three-year demonstration Project during the country’s first celebration of Climate Change Consciousness at the SMX Convention Center in Manila, 21-22 November 2011. CCAP, with three slots, presented and obtained positive responses and commitments to replicate the mechanisms developed and tested in Agusan del Norte.

ILO Project Manager Lurraine Baybay Villacorta of the MDG-F 1656 Climate Change Adaptation Project Manager talked during the plenary session on of the three models developed on Integrated Financial Package for crop production and alternative livelihoods of climate vulnerable farming populations. The rural bank model, coop model and local government unit Loan Facility captured the

interest and generated good discussions during the plenary session. Municipal Agriculturist and CCAP Focal Person Ms Ma. Nenita Campo of the Municipality of Remedios T. Romualdez, shared the participatory Vulnerability and Adaptation conducted and helped relay the message that it can easily be done and should be done for every term of a local chief executive. Acting Senior Vice President Norman Cajucom of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, shared the experience of developing and implementing the weather index-based insurance package (WIBI), one that is more responsive to the needs of the poor farmers now more vulnerable in the face of climate risks. The presentation promoted mechanisms to various parties helping ensure their replication and up-scaling.

Must reads	Calendar
 <p>ILO Convention 169 A primer on the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), an international legally-binding instrument that deal exclusively with the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. The primer is available in English, Filipino, Cebuano and Ilokano.</p>	<p>5-7 December 2011 Enterprise Program – Pilot Training in the Automotive Sector Sta. Rosa, Laguna</p> <p>13 December 2011 Labour market-responsive entrepreneurship skills training for disadvantaged youth in Maguindanao Maguindanao</p> <p>25 December 2011 to 7 February 2012 SM Cinema and ILO decent work for domestic workers Philippines (Nationwide)</p>

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