



**Welcome and Opening Remarks (By: Linda Wirth)**

**Project Launch: *Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc Peninsula)*, 8 April 2010, ILO Auditorium, Makati City**

**Ambassador Makoto Katsura, Government of Japan**

**Professor Nieves Confesor. Chair of the GRP Panel of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP)**

**Under Secretary Trasmonte DOLE**

**Director Cilindro, DOLE**

**DA...**

**Mr. Haruhiro Jono, Labour Attache, Embassy of Japan**

**Mr. Takehiro Sakata, First Secretary of Agriculture, Embassy of Japan**

**LGU Officials and representatives, in particular Mayor Maximo and Mayor Uy**

**Our constituents from the Trade Unions and ECOP**

**Colleagues from the UN family**

**Friends from the media**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Isang mapayapang umaga po sa inyong lahat! (a peaceful morning to all of you)**

**On behalf of the International Labor Organization, I welcome you all to this occasion – the launching of *Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc Peninsula)*.**



**I salute each and every one of you for coming over. Ambassador Makoto Katsura, representing the Government of Japan, domo arigato gozaimasu! To the representatives of our partner-agencies, the FAO and the OPAPP, thank you very much! And of course, I would like to single out our partners from the local government – the LGU representatives from the Bondoc Peninsula and Quezon Province – who traveled far and long just to be with us today. Once again thank you for coming and my warm welcome to all of you.**

**In my entire career as an advocate of human rights, peace and decent work, this is maybe the 1000th speech I'm going to deliver. But I would say that this is one of the few I'm very excited to make- as Bondoc Peninsula is challenged by overlapping human security gaps and development issues - such as economic growth and productivity; income and food security; human rights; armed conflict; vulnerability to natural disasters and governance.**

**This is precisely the reason why this so called Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc Peninsula) was conceived. For the place that is Bondoc Peninsula happens to be *not just poor* like many other poor areas in the country. It is also vulnerable to disasters and has been conflict-tormented for quite a time – which altogether makes Bondoc Peninsula a distinct place needing special concern and attention not only amongst the state actors but also amongst the civil society groups, the academe, the private sector and the international development agencies like the UN.**



**What makes this project special is that it will not only undertake poverty reduction measures but also will integrate peace-making activities by directly addressing human security problems and issues right at the grassroots level.**

**We are fortunate that ILO together with FAO, espouse these concerns. Aside from being the shepherd of “decent work”, ILO is also mandated to contribute to peace and social stability. The ILO Constitution explicitly states that “universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice.” Driven by this principle, the ILO, since its creation in 1919, has been investing time and effort to address the problems of poverty and conflict as well as the challenges posed by natural disasters and climate change.**

**ILO is at the frontline of this project because “decent work” is the heart of this project through the concept of local economic recovery and development wherein lots of consensus building, people’s participation and convergence of efforts will be made to happen.**

**Our notion about human security has taken a sharp turn. In the past one-and-a-half decades, it has shifted largely to focus more on protection and empowerment issues right at the local level. Eradication of poverty is thus central to ensuring the security of all people, as well as the security of the state. The UN report submitted to the Secretary General in May 2003, stresses the need for comprehensive and integrated actions of the international community, calling**



**for a paradigm shift on the concept of “security” from focus on narrow state security ideas to expanding the focus to include the peoples’ perspective. So, this project brings together the human elements of (1) security (2) rights and (3) development. This project is funded by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security which the Government of Japan and UN-OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) established in 1999.**

**This joint initiative is the second UNTFHS project for ILO Manila to be involved in implementing. And we are indeed very grateful and delighted that the Government of Japan, has provided a tremendous commitment and financial support to promote human security not only in the past 10 years but also to place human security as one of its top agenda items under its Official Development Assistance (ODA). So again, Ambassador Makoto Katsura, from the bottom of our hearts, thanks to your government and thank you to your people. Without your support, our enthusiastic project ideas could not be realized.**

**We also give credence to the value-added of ILO, FAO and OPAPP to the project – their expertise on economic security and peace-building will certainly make this project more responsive and successful. This is specially so because the project came at a point when people’s livelihoods are deeply compromised, when families are uncertain where the next meal will come from, when their hard-earned few pesos weakens in value, when their means of livelihoods and employment are threatened by disasters and conflict, when their crops fail and they have no savings and other means to protect their resources and assets.**



**We all know that job creation and livelihood development are essential to peace-making and peace-keeping, as livelihood productivity, whether agriculture or non-agriculture based, helps spur economic growth, cement peace, and uphold human dignity. The dream of human security and peace in Bondoc Peninsula will remain just that – an elusive dream if there is no economic justice!**

**Thus, before I end my speech, may I say that as the representative of ILO in this gathering, we are very glad for being able to work with you all.**

**What we have achieved so far in putting this project together – is just the first lap of our team run. After we close this launching program a few hours from now, let's bear in mind that this is only the beginning of a challenging and exciting journey! A bigger word awaits us all – the word is IMPLEMENTATION. And when we talk of IMPLEMENTATION, we mean stronger institutional collaboration and coordination amongst all parties (government, UN, LGUs, communities, workers, employers and NGOs) concerned. Our listening skills as implementers will also be put to test as we continue to provide space and opportunity for wider community participation and social dialogue as building blocks for peace-building and economic growth.**

**Again as ILO representative, I would like to reiterate the high level commitment of the ILO to do it can to make this Bondoc project a success!**



International Labour Organization  
Organisation internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo

**Thank you very much and we look forward to a productive and successful partnership with you all.**

**Muli, isang mapayapa at magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!**