

DALUHAY ~ QUARTERLY

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ETHNOECOLOGY FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Daloy ng Buhay

EDITORIAL: BUILDING THROUGH THE MYSTERY - CELEBRATION

As we bid farewell to 2017, I take the opportunity to reflect back on Daluhay's year of accomplishments. In this past year, we created four new thematic Board of Trustee positions and established the position of Executive Director. Dr. Alex Stuart joined us from the International Rice Research Institute to help develop focus on the role of agricultural in Philippine biodiversity conservation. Mr. Ronie Caanawan strengthened our efforts on Indigenous Peoples and Development through his vast experience with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Joanna Imsum-Lim brought to Daluhay what is truly, a lifetime of broad experience on ecosystems, communities and development along with a passion for Mother and Child wellness. Attorney Sharon Teh added professional expertise in the area of Law and Development and a desire to contribute to waterway conservation. True facts are critical to the advancement of societies and the relationship we have with mother earth. However, facts do little to define the mystery of life and the human potential for equitable sustainability on planet earth. There is a critical need to listen carefully to all of the voices, internal and external as we continue to define and redefine ourselves as individuals and organizations. In 2017, Daluhay set an organizational standard for the sharing of perspectives between Board Trustees and staff. Each of the thematic Board Trustees became intricately involved in the day-to-day activities of the organization that are under the direct supervision of Dr. Marivic Pajaro in her Executive Director role. Proposal writing on Mother and Child Wellness increased exponentially, while projects supporting Indigenous People, development, governance and law have expanded several times over. Creating San Luis' Biodiversity Friendly Agricultural Protected Area was a provincial milestone. Today, we are focused on our next major grant – looking forward to having a proposal accepted. However, we are light years ahead of where we were a year ago. This is due to the organizational synergies generated from creating the new positions and more specifically, how that affected the organization's activities. January is a great time to celebrate accomplishments and to project into time; the mystery of life on earth and our relation to the creator. Our Annual Meeting scheduled for **April 6 & 7** in Aurora and I will certainly be exciting! Please join us celebrating a great 2017!

STRENGTHENING THE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION OF AURORA

Amongst DALUHAY's many partnerships and collaborations within Aurora Province and the Philippines, there is one line of development that is working specifically to mitigate climate change and as well help to conserve the globally unique biodiversity of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Daluhay along with seven project partners across Aurora province are working on reforestation. Partnerships with 5 Indigenous Organizations and 2 Fisherfolk Organizations (POs) are focused on large-scale reforestation for the rainforest and mangroves of the province. These efforts are addressing the concern of biodiversity loss and reversing the trend of forest degradation



within Ancestral Domains and other coastal areas. Each organization was co-sponsored with P200,000.00 from UNDP-SGP 5 through Daluhay, based upon their willingness to counterpart, in-kind and collaborate on sustainability. Each of the 7 POs established a nursery and planted 10,000 native and beach forest seedlings. The project specifically aimed at reforestation of the degraded sites in the mountains and coastal areas caused by indiscriminate harvest activities. Each PO targeted 20 hectares to be planted. To implement the project, each of these organizations for change, sent their representatives to undergo training on Nursery and Reforestation. The project monitoring was led by the Daluhay Staff, with long term care of the sites planned through collaboration with local organizations. There are two very exciting aspects of this project. Firstly, the initiative serves to develop expertise of Indigenous and Artisanal people to participate in projects focused on sustainability. This has included building capacity for further and larger funding by the establishment of standard accounting processes and procedures. Secondly, even while this project is still in the final stages of activity, additional related activities are being supported through new funding. Together, these partnerships are initiating climate change mitigation action – MADE IN AURORA!

PARTNERSHIPS TO CHANGE DISASTER RISK INTO MANAGEMENT

A municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation (DRRM) Planning Workshop was held on December 20-21, 2018 at Moreno Lodge, Kabiran St., Baler, Aurora. The workshop was facilitated by the local DRRM Office with the active participation of Daluhay together with different local government stakeholders from Barangay and Municipal levels to conduct initial assessment and gather inputs to formulate the 2018-2022 Baler Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Plan. Next steps for the formulation will be the determination of a Technical Working Group, completion of Projects and Program Activities and Monitoring and Evaluation schemes by January 2018 through



COASTAL MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN BALER (RIGHT) AND ELSEWHERE

the leadership of the municipal DRRM Office. Daluhay sees this strong partnership and critical topic comparisons with other locations around the world. For example, there is a great deal of information regarding the concerning what is called; end of groyne effect for what occurs past the end of a sea wall. Clearly, considering climate change annual approaches to disaster risk management will become increasingly important to Baler, Aurora Province and the Philippines. Perhaps now is the time to get ahead of the challenges with a strong management plan. While planning is critical in terms of preparation, particularly for seasonal and climatic challenges, there is also a need to be proactive about identification of potential risks, including food shortage from environmental damage. Coastal Aurora, particularly Baler continue to be a significant area for assessing shoreline management strategies that sculpt a progressive future.

THE SAN LUIS NETWORK OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



A committee hearing with the members of the Sangguniang Bayan and Daluhay was conducted as the next step to institutionalize the San Luis Marine Protected Area Network Management Plan. This Municipal network has been a true labor of love for Agricultural Officer, Maam Paz Leander. Over the course of several years, Daluhay has worked with *Ate Paz* on this network, also involving key players from provincial offices, Ted Torio, Jagger Enaje and Reymar Tecero. This framework of local commitment will help to lead the way into a strong San Luis role in the development of the Benham Rise Territory. Daluhay is looking ahead to making San Luis an Aurora model for linked MPAs and for them to contribute leadership provincial and regional MPA network development.

In 2017, Daluhay was asked to take a leadership role on the socio-economic components regarding the development of the new Benham Rise Territory. Broad consensus exists that Daluhay's Bioregional approach to management in the Northern Philippine Sea is what is needed regarding this new territory. This long-term initiative considered also fits with the concept of Marine Spatial Planning, the main tool for large scale ocean management around the world; usually based upon marine bioregions. Challenges moving forward are consistently the same; finding funding partners that can support the goals, Action Research and development strategies that are supported by many.

DALUHAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul D. Watts – President & Newsletter Editor
 Raymond B.D.Pajaro – Founding Board Member and Chairman
 Purisima P. Juico - Founding Member and Secretary/Treasurer
 Joanna Imsum-Lim – Community-Based Maternal and Child Health
 Alex Stuart – Biodiversity Conservation Inclusive of Agricultural Areas
 Ronie Caanawan – Development and Indigenous Peoples
 Sharon Teh – Community-Based Development and Law

FORMER BOARD MEMBERS

Charlito R. Juico – Founding Board Member
 Marivic G. Pajaro – Founding Board Member

THE TEAM AT THE DALUHAY – SABANG, BALER, AURORA OFFICE

Marivic G. Pajaro– Executive Director
 Mark Edison Raquino – Research and Development Officer
 Angela Zerrudo – Administrative and Finance Officer & Newsletter Managing Editor
 Marilyn Dela Torre – Research Assistant
 Shan Faye A. Alejos – Research Assistant
 Paul D. Watts – President

We would like to express our heart and mind-felt gratitude to former team member; Leonardo (Tuy) Tasong Jr. for his years of dedication as Public Administration and Civic Engagement Officer. We send him off with best wishes on all of his new endeavors and look forward to his involvement through a different future role. Further, we would also like to thank Kate Heather F. Buenaventura for her 2017 volunteer efforts and stamina that helped us to see water quality and solid waste management from a broader provincial perspective. *Team work makes the dream work!*

For further information please go to our website (www.ecosystemics.info) or contact us through email: Daluhay email Address: daluhay@gmail.com
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