



# The Cabletaw

Vol. 86, Special Edition, 2009-2010

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



**SQUARE AND COMPASSES  
WITH THE BURNING GLOBE IN THE CENTER**



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### THE CABLETOW



**Vol. 86**  
**Special Edition, 2009-2010**

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## WHY THIS SPECIAL EDITION CAME INTO BEING



**A** survey of nature and the observation of her beautiful proportions reveal to us our great Creator's wisdom, power and goodness, as well as His infinite love of man, whom He made in His own image and assigned as the steward of His wondrous and glorious Creation. On the great day of reckoning, man must, in turn, give a good account of his stewardship of Mother Nature in order to prove himself deserving of inheriting the kingdom which God prepared for him from the foundation of the world.

History shows, however, that man has not been judicious and prudent in his use and management of Mother Nature. In fact, in his pursuit of material progress and prosperity, he has misused and even abused Mother Earth, so that today, in spite of his advance scientific know-how and engineering capabilities, he has to reap the whirlwind of the consequences of his destruction of God's Creation.

That is why I resounded the clarion call for us to help enhance environmental awareness and protection. I urged you, dear brethren, to actively participate in "OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN," if only to remind ourselves of our duty to help preserve, maintain, and even improve our beautiful environment for the benefit of future generations of Filipinos.

Gladdened by your overwhelming response to my clarion call for active participation in the "Sagip Kalikasan Program," I decided to come out with this special edition of our Grand Lodge's bimonthly publication.

By actively participating in the said program, we demonstrate our genuine concern for, as well as keen interest in, the improvement of our environment. This is a striking evidence of our willingness and readiness to labor for the benefit of those who are to come after us – and for the advancement and amelioration of our race. This willingness and readiness,

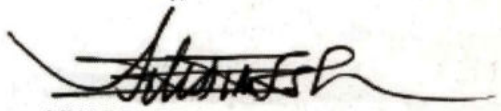
in turn, jibes with the following statements of Bro. Albert Pike on page 312 of his celebrated *Morals and Dogma*:

- All men who deserve to live desire to survive their funerals, and to live afterward in the good that they have done mankind. Most men desire to leave some work behind them that may outlast their own day and brief generation. That is an instinctive impulse given by God and often found in the rudest human heart; the surest proof of the soul's immortality, and of the fundamental difference between man and the wisest brutes.
- To plant trees that, after we are dead, shall shelter our children is as natural as to love the shade of those our fathers planted.

This special edition of our Grand Lodge's bimonthly publication is, therefore, dedicated to you, dear brethren, in recognition of your full support and unstinted cooperation in the successful launching of our "OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN." We are confident that you will engage yourselves in follow-through activities, in coordination and collaboration with DENR officials and employees in your areas of responsibility. We should not lose sight of the fact that this joint venture with the DENR is to cover the fiscal years 2009-2012.

God love and bless you and your families always!

Fraternally,



MW PETER U. LIM LO SUY  
Grand Master

... in his pursuit of material progress and prosperity, man has misused and even abused Mother Nature, so that today... he has to reap the whirlwind of the consequences of his destruction of God's Creation.

## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR METAPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

**F**reemasonry, whose long-term mission is, in the words of Ill. Joseph Fort Newton, 33rd degree, "to form mankind into a great redemptive brotherhood, a league of noble and free men enlisted in the radiant enterprise of working out in time the love and will of the Eternal," has urged us, its initiates, to capture (or recapture), exemplify and spread its spirit of friendship, which is rooted on its philosophy, which in turn sees that the world which God created is friendly, and that we whom He made in His image must learn to be friends with one another if we would live as benefits the world in which we live and work, as well as our common origin and destiny.

Freemasonry is, in other words, friendship with God; with the universe; with ourselves; and with our fellow-mortals, particularly our fellow Craftsmen. Our relationship with God and with the universe, particularly Mother Earth, is referred to as metapersonal; with ourselves, intrapersonal; and with our fellow men, particularly fellow Freemasons, interpersonal.

In this issue, we take into account our metapersonal relationships; in the next, our intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships.

### Friendship with God

We must be friends with God; for He is our all-loving Father and great Companion, of whom our hearts tell us, who is always nearer to us than we are to ourselves, and whose inspiration and help is the

greatest fact of human experience. Since He lovingly created us in His image, we must always be in harmony with His purpose, open to His suggestions, and conscious of fellowship with Him.

We learn in the Book of Holy Writings that Adam and Eve used to be one with God, but disunited from Him by disobeying His command. We must avoid the mistake they committed. Instead, we should imitate the inspiring example set by the Grand Master Hiram Abiff (GMHA), who possessed unfeigned piety to God and who, at high twelve, when the Craft were called from labor to refreshment, went into the Temple to view the work and see if any improvement could be made either for strength or for ornament, and also to enter the Sanctum Sanctorum or Holy of Holies, there to offer his devotions to the ever-living God

and pray for wisdom necessary to enable him to draw designs upon the trestle board, whereby the Craft might pursue their labors.

Like the GMHA, we should take time out of our daily schedule to assess the progress of our self-project (i.e., our task of building ourselves into magnificent temples of God), and to commune with Him, to worship and glorify Him, to thank Him for all the comforts and blessings He has bestowed upon us, and to implore His succor and support in all our lawful undertakings as well as in times of trouble or emergency.

We must, in other words, be men of prayer; for when we entered the door of Freemasonry for the first time, on the night of our initiation as Entered Apprentices, we promised to dedicate and devote our lives to God's service and, by the influence of the pure principles of Freemasonry, to display the beauties of holiness, to the honor of His holy name. Besides, we have been taught to invoke His blessing before entering upon any great or important undertaking, as well as to look up to Him for guidance whenever we find ourselves in a difficult or critical situation. As King Solomon told King Hiram of Tyre, "When human strength and wisdom fail, we should ever remember that divine assistance is vouchsafed us through the medium of prayer."

We can find many opportunities everyday to be alone with the

great Companion and to personally converse with Him as friend to friend.

## **Friendship with the Universe**

The universe or world which God created is beautiful, wonderful, friendly. God assigned man to be the steward of Mother Earth, but man has not been faithful in discharging his duty to take good care of Mother Earth or Mother Nature. As a consequence of his negligence or irresponsibility, man is now suffering from global warming, from climate change, and from increasing incidence of natural disasters, which in turn cause the loss of countless lives and precious properties. Mother Nature appears to fight back because man has denuded her forests; contaminated her lakes, rivers and seas; polluted her air, and so forth. It is high time man puts an end to his desecration of God's magnificent creation; otherwise, retribution will catch up with him, making him suffer further the consequences of his irreverence and folly.

As individual Masons, as Masonic Lodges/Districts, and even as a Craft, we must be hyperactive in environmental concerns by initiating, or at least actively participating in, various environmental projects and activities. We must at the same time induce our fellowmen, particularly our countrymen, by precept and example, to be environment - friendly or to be friends with Mother Nature. – **eF.R.eN**

# SAGIP KALIKASAN PROGRAM :

## An Executive Report

by VW Juanito G. Espino Jr., Grand Auditor  
Chairman, Sagip Kalikasan Program



**C**limate change is one of the environmental problems endangering our planet and humanity. The natural response to cap this phenomenon is to face the reality that our mother nature is on the brink of extinction if we human beings have remained passive and perturbed without actions. The problem may have been global, yet responses to address and solve it are either minimal, unresponsive, or short-lived. Hence, our mother nature is left hanging on the edge of oblivion.

This situation, however, is never taken for granted by other organizations or societies of friends and brothers such as ours, with the objective of saving our mother earth. It is on this premise that Oplan: Sagip Kalikasan has been founded.

The Mandate of the Sagip Kalikasan Program was derived from:

- The United Nations' Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's Report released in November 2007 indicating the reality of climate change, which results from global warming. Climate change is manifesting itself by, among others, increases in land, sea and air temperatures, melting of snow and ice, rising global mean sea level;

- According to Josefino Comiso, a physicist and a Senior Researcher at NASA, "the continued melting of Arctic ice caps could cause sea levels to rise by seven meters, or about 23 feet," which is high enough to cause floods and place underwater islets of an archipelagic country such as ours;

- The need to augment government's efforts in addressing the impacts of climate change. In 2009, Pres. Gloria M. Arroyo created the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change by virtue of Administrative Order (AO) No. 171, which Task Force would be chaired by the DOE Secretary, with the DENR Secretary as Vice-Chair.

Thus, the **mandate** of the Sagip Kalikasan Program, as envisioned by our Grand Master, MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, is to support the government's reforestation program.

The mode of implementation was to unite, collaborate and coordinate with the DENR and to mobilize the whole Masonic fraternity and its appendant bodies along a 3-year reforestation program.

**Doable targets** were the following:

- Make a difference in the preservation of the Earth's diminishing natural resources;
- Creating awareness about climate change and Freemasonry's concern for the environment;
- Helping the government in planting trees and in forest management;
- Through the Masonic districts, blue lodges and appendant bodies, plant a minimum of one tree each for every Mason and member of appendant bodies, and raise the ante to some 25,000 trees planted.

**Implementation :** The Sagip Kalikasan Program has made possible the forging of a partnership agreement between the DENR and the MW Grand Lodge of the Philippines – a three-year Tree Planting Program, that is, from 2009 to 2012. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed last 4 June 2009 between the DENR and the GLP, represented, respectively, by Secretary Jose L. Atienza and Grand Master Peter U. Lim Lo Suy.

The MOA sealed the DENR's commitment to identify the designated planting areas, provide suitable seedlings for the type of land, monitor the progress through conduct of ocular inspection and regular evaluation and provide technical support. On its part, the GLP has agreed to coordinate with the Regional DENR officials, provide resources for labor and resources and submit periodic reports to the DENR. Coordination with the national and local offices was done in so far as planting areas, seedlings and monitoring schemes were concerned.

The MW Grand Master then issued Circular No. 7, dated 08 July 2009, directing all 49 Masonic Districts and Lodges to plant trees simultaneously on 25 July 2009.

Attached with this Executive Report is the Matrix of Implementation indicating the Masonic Districts/Lodges and the actual results of their planting activities.

The MW Grand Master then issued Circular No. 13, dated 12 August 2009, directing all the Masonic Districts and Lodges to submit articles and pictures of their planting activities. All these will see print in the Special Edition on the Sagip Kalikasan of *The Cabletow*. This should give us more than enough boost for the next phase of tree-planting activities.

Also, Sagip Kalikasan tapped the Green Force headed by MW Jaime Y. Gonzales and jointly conducted forums on climate change in Davao City, Bacolod City, Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija, and Cagayan de Oro City.

Our initiatives at tree-planting activities all over the country have definitely helped our government's efforts at reforestation and at saving our mother earth. They have also added to the overall drive for a clean environment, which we should continuously take care of for the welfare of the generations to come, of our children and our children's children. The trees we plant should also foster

biodiversity.

As the great Dalai Lama has said and I quote, "As people alive today, we must consider future generations: a clean environment is a human right like any other. It is therefore part of our responsibility toward others to ensure that the world we pass on is as healthy as, if not healthier than, we found it."

Truly, I say, this noble undertaking will imprint a big difference in our country and leave an indelible mark of change in our Masonic and national chronicles. Let every Master Mason and friend encourage others and serve as a role model to make a vision, plant trees, and ensure our environment to be a better place to live in.

Together, brethren and sisters and friends, let us count our blessings and continue to make a difference!

**• During his lifetime, Prophet Mohamad (SAS) was asked, "teacher, if I'll die tomorrow, what shall I do?" The Prophet answered, "If you know that you will die tomorrow, plant a tree today."**

**• Fight global warming! Plant a tree today and see it grow.**

**• Global warming is, in simple terms, the increase in global temperature caused by man-made greenhouse gases, such as Carbon Dioxide (burning of fossil fuels – oil, coal); Methane (decomposition of garbage and agricultural waste materials) and Nitrous Oxide (vehicles, nitrogen fertilizers, and pesticides)...**

**TREE PLANTING**  
Report per Masonic District

**REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

District	DDGM	Identified Area/s for planting	Date/s of Planting activities	No. of Trees planted	No. of hectares	Remarks
1 NCR A	Amel M. Ofendo Reyes	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	43	4	Other tree planting skeds.
2 NCR B	Arthur G. Lin	PAWB Ground/Caltiraya Watershed	29-Aug 09/7/25/2009	293	3	mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
3 NCR C	Victorino A. Floro III	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	43		mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
4 NCR D	Lorenzo P. Reyes	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	43		mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
5 NCR E	Eldadio S. De Chavez	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	43		mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
6 NCR F	Jose Edimar P. Jaen	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	43		mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
7 NCR G	Sim M. Calinero	PAWB Ground	25-Jul-09	42		mahogany, narra, apitong, etc
8 CAR A	Eugene M. Batalao	Brig. Villacorta, Mabini, Pangasinan	29-Sep-09	300	3	narra, mahogany, g-melina
9 Region 1-A	Rex Alvin A. Bilagot	Talaca, Kalinga-Isabela Boundary				10 hectares (no sked yet)
10 Region 1-CAR B	Almeric B. Pua Phee	Km. 267-20051to Sublet, La Trinidad	12-Aug-09	300	3	mahogany
11 Region 1-CAR C	Aldolfo S. Palcon	Brig. Sulvec, Sitio Dilumot, Pusuquin, Ilocos Norte	13-Jun-09	300	3	with Climate Change Lects
12 Region II - A	Edward R. Valido	Leaureano B. Lingan Jr.				No sked yet./with article
13 Region II - B	Eladio B. De Los Santos	Leaureano B. Lingan Jr.	25-Jul-09	750	8	mahogany, g-melina
14 Region II - C	Perfecto B. Garcia	c/o Bro. Benjie				
15 Region II - D	Dennis M. Siclot	Leaureano B. Lingan Jr.	2,8,14 Aug-09	300	3	mahogany, narra, acacia
16 Region II - E	Narciso S. Salunat	Leaureano B. Lingan Jr.	26-Jul-09	200	2	mahogany, acacia, G-melina, coconut
17 Region III - A	Alfredo D. Mah	San Fernando landfill	25-Jul-09	200	2	bamboo
18 Region III - B	Rolando B. Silloriquenz	Zambales	25-Jul-09	300	3	mahogany
19 Region III - C	Tomazito H. Angeles	Bocolan, Zambales	25-Jul-09	600	6	mahogany
20 Region III - D	Emmanuel M. Umali	Brig. Siclong, Laur, Nueva Ecija	25-Jul-09	1,500	15	mahogany, paper tree seedlings
21 Region III - E	Dick C. Guzman	Sta. Maria Poblacion Hwy, Bulacan	25-Jul-09	500	5	mahogany, ipil-igil
22 Region III - F	Felix R. Ronquillo	San Jose, Nueva Ecija	25-Jul-09	400	4	G-melina, mahogany
23 Region III - G	Andy T. Po	Brig. Sula, San Jose, Tarlac	25-Jul-09	300	3	mahogany, narra
24 Region IV - A	Dominaador R. Eugenio	Mt. Bala'y-Balay, Tamarate, Cavite	25-Jul-09	250	3	(2 hectares) mahogany, narra
25 Region IV - B	"Antonio Justo Zuniga	405 PNP Camp, Sinitoan, Laguna	25-Jul-09	400	3	narra
26 Region IV - C	Apollinario G. Pañebe	Old Zigzag Road, Pagbilao, Quezon	25-Jul-09	300	3	mahogany, narra
27 Region IV - D	Jovenicio P. Velascoquez					
28 Region IV - E	Ramon R. Espada III	Along NAT1 Hwy, Central, San Jose, Occ	25-Jul-09	2,000	20	mahogany
29 Region V - A	Bernardo M. Asere	Paicol Farm, Camarines Sur	20-Sep-09	200	2	mahogany / with Fajardo Lodge
30 Region V - B	Cesar M. Peñere	Josefin Marcus E. Fraguada	1-Aug-09	4	1	mahogany (4 hectares)
31 Region VI - A	Arthur U. Young	RTC Hall Ground, Masbate City		100	1	

District	DOGIM	REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Identified Area/s for planting	Date/s of Planting activities	No. of Tree/s planted	No. of hectares	Remarks
32 Region VI - B	Leo Raphael M. Cueva	Ricardo L. Calderon	Brgy. Damsula, Bais City		150	2	mahogany
33 Region VII - A	Six Rey M. Ortig	Leonardo B. Silbaluica					
34 Region VIII - A	Constante A. Sabate	Regidor M. De Leon	Samar	25-Jul-09	300	3	mahogany
35 Region VIII - B	Rogelio T. Uy	Regidor M. De Leon					to follow
36 Region IX - A	Jeremias T. Gaventa	Maximo O. Dichoso	Gufros, Zambo del Sur	12-Jul-09	600	6	hardwood seedlings
37 Region IX - B	Arnulfo H. Roldan	Maximo O. Dichoso					c/o Bro. Billy Batocael
38 Region IX - C	Nixon H. Go	Maximo O. Dichoso	Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City	5-Sep-09	3,611	37	10 hectares (mangroves, propagules)
39 Region X - A	Robert S. Dy	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	El Salvador, Misamis Oriental	25-Jul-09	300	3	
40 Region X - B	Richard Nixon Baban	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	El Salvador, Misamis Oriental	25-Jul-09	300	3	
41 Region X - C	Leroto T. Ibhigwan	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	Brgy. Barra, Tuddela, Ozamis City	25-Jul-09	1,000	10	mangrove
42 Region X - D/ARMM	Lyndon M. Abucay	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	Purok Muang, Iligan City	1-Aug-09	150	2	bamboo
43 Region X - E	Laureano M. Ledres Jr.	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	PHQ, Piganangan, Tubod, Lanao	31-Oct-09	150	2	variety
44 Region X - F	Ulirto T. Kindom	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	c/o Yangie-Cabletow	25-Jul-09	400	4	molave, mango, mahogany
45 Region XI - A	Jose A. Lim III	Ernesto D. Adobo Jr.	Mt. Kalaya, CMU, Mussau, Busidnon,	25-Jul-09	70	1	molave
46 Region XI - B	Senen P. Abing Jr.	Jim O. Sampulna	New Loon, Mintal, Daveo	25-Jul and 8-Nov-09	2,300	23	lauan, narra, kamagong, almond, mayapis
47 Region XII - A	Alexander U. Ampatuan	Jim O. Sampulna	Tuburan, Mawab, Compostela Valley	25-Jul-09	2,600	26	mahogany, narra, felcata, propagules
48 Region XII - B	Risel S. Palaca	Raquil Ali M. Lucman	Guang-Guang, Mati, Davao del Sur				
49 Region XIII - A	Arthur M. Ong Oh	Raquil Ali M. Lucman	Tamontaka Mother Brgy, Cotabato	25-Jul-09	300	3	talisay, mahogany
		Edilbereto S. Bruliser	Lodges 192/170, Kabacan, North Cotaba	25-Jul-09	200	2	to follow
			Mt. Mayapay Watershed, Butuan	25-Jul-09	300	3	African tulip, mahogany, mangium
			Mt. Magdhwata, Ormaca	25-Jul-09	600	6	(10 hectares)mahogany, acacia, talisay
TOTAL					23,085	236	

23,085 236

SUMMARY

No. of Trees Planted 23,085  
 Estimated number of hectares 236

Types of trees plantengrove, hardwood seedlings, G-melina, felcata, apitong, lauan, almond, mayapis, ipil-tpil



# Reversing Climate Change Requires Supreme Morality Worldwide

by VW Mawi B. Lazaro, Jr.,  
PDDGM (MD NCR-E)\*

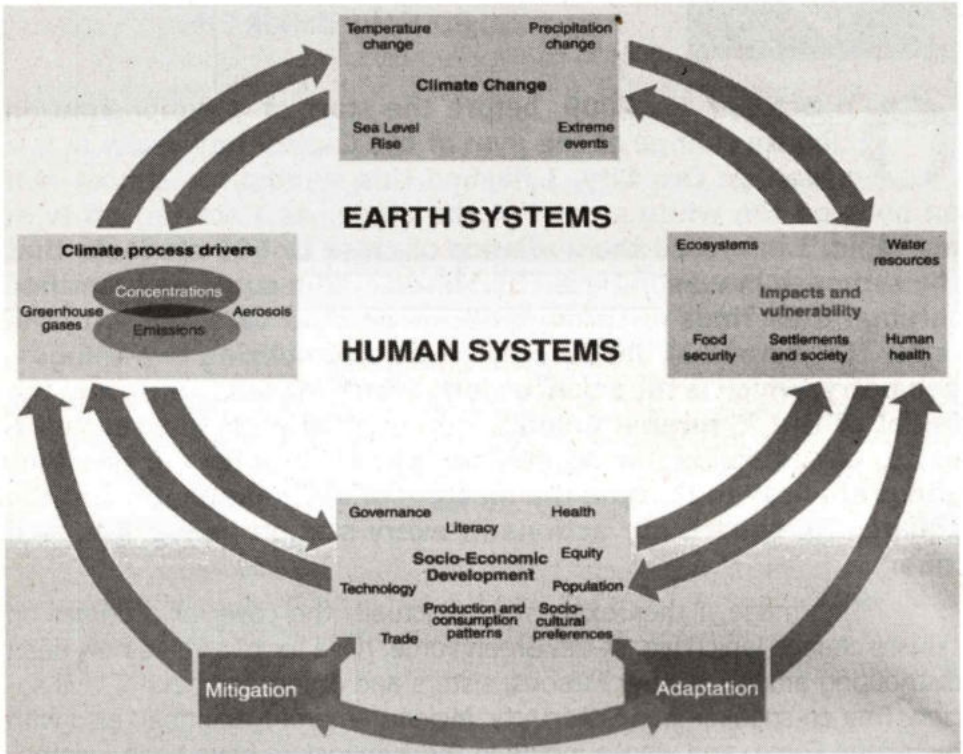
**O**n October 13, 2009, before the start of a symposium on climate change at the gym of the Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, I flashed this symbol for almost half an hour on the white screen at the stage. As I started off with my topic, I informed the audience of close to 600 students that the symposium was initiated by Masons, who could be identified through their rings or through decals on their cars, but with the letter "G" instead of the burning globe, symbolizing two things – geometry, which is the science along which Masons work, and the initial of the "Supreme Being." Moreover, the compasses teach us "to circumscribe our desires and never to suffer our passions and prejudices to become the masters of our judgment"; and the square, "to square our actions in every station before God and man."

The image, I then explained, is actually the cover of a primer on climate change which we, at the Green Force, have for two years now been distributing among brother Masons, sisters and other members of civil society (my co-speaker was Sister/Atty. Mylene Amerol-Macumbal, also with the Green Force, and whose inputs in the symposium have been incorporated into this article).

For the primer's cover, the burning globe was substituted for the letter "G" to demonstrate global warming and its consequence, climate change, whose havoc we have partly seen, of late in the Philippines, in the devastation instigated by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. The compass is meant to symbolize the need for a comprehensive global effort to similarly circumscribe or bring down carbon dioxide emissions to 350 parts per million (ppm), asap. While the square should call upon the whole world that the impacts of climate change should be fairly and squarely shared; that there be climate justice throughout all of mankind. In sum, what is needed is no less than supreme morality at the global level.

## Just what is the state of the global system?

The following diagram, more or less, illustrates the system of climate change. It also locates the premium of mitigation and adaptation measures to guide us on how to value human intervention to reverse climate change.



Since the Industrial Revolution, unregulated carbon emissions have caused increased global temperatures. Last November 2008, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its fourth report: "There is medium confidence that approximately 20-30% of species assessed so far are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average warming exceed 1.5-2.5oC (relative to 1980-1999). As global average temperature increase exceeds about 3.5oC, model projections suggest significant extinctions (40-70% of species assessed) around the globe."

Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global mean sea level. In our part of the globe, there shall be more Ondoy and Pepengs.

Let me bring you to a microcosm – Maldives. Maldives is an island

republic in the southern Indian Ocean. The Maldivians, and generations before them have been living there around an ecologically-sustainable fisheries. The island is like "the whole planet in miniature-global warming threatens their very existence, and almost certainly before the century is out. The highest point in the islands is a couple of meters above sea level- and since scientists say sea level may rise a couple of meters this century, that's a dangerous neighborhood to live in."

Maldives may not be there for long. A study commissioned by National Geographic forewarns that with a 3-degree centigrade increase in global surface temperature, enough glaciers and polar caps will have melted to submerge Dhaka in Bangladesh, Cairo in Egypt and Lima in Peru. Before then, Maldives will have long gone under water.

We need not look too far. Last January 13, 2009, two days after we, the brethren, sisters and Demolays, conducted a seminar on climate change in Jolo, Sulu, a wave surge washed out some 85 houses along the coast of Pangutaran, Sulu and another 29 houses in the northern coast of the Sulu mainland.

A recent study shows that with a one meter-rise in sea level, mainland Sulu stands to be the most vulnerable among our islands. So is the island municipality of Pata. Close to half of the Philippine population reside in coastal cities and towns.

What should be our shared vision? For our vision to be grounded on reality, let us take the worst-case scenario and pessimism. Prof. Paul Krugman of the Princeton University and the 2008 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics, has this to say:

"What's driving this new pessimism? Partly it's the fact that some predicted changes, like a decline in Arctic Sea ice, are happening much faster than expected. Partly it's growing evidence that feedback loops amplifying the effects of man-made greenhouse gas emissions are stronger than previously realized. For example, it has long been understood that global warming will cause the tundra to thaw, releasing carbon dioxide, which will cause even more warming, but new research shows far more carbon dioxide locked in the permafrost than previously thought, which means a much bigger feedback effect.

"The result of all this is that climate scientists have, en masse, become Cassandras - gifted with the ability to prophesy future disasters, but cursed with the inability to get anyone to believe them. And we're not just talking about disasters in the distant future, either. The really big rise in global temperature probably won't take place until the second half of this century, but there will be plenty of damage long before then."

For the Philippines, Ondoy's and Pepeng's damage will surely cast a long, dark shadow unto our nation's development efforts. Nobody would even dare say how and when our nation will turn things around. When widespread hunger creeps, food riots may not be far behind.

Elsewhere in the globe, some areas would have extreme flooding while drought and dust storms will be the fate of others. I fully believe in the assertion of Prof. Krugman that – "in a rational world ..... the looming climate disaster would be our dominant political and policy concern." His lament, however, is that it is not manifestly so.

We share the same anxiety. Last September 17, 2009, just a week before Ondoy struck, Green Force, in applying for accreditation as a partylist organization, strongly argued with COMELEC the need to framework our nation's development thrusts along climate change, citing even the perceived inadequacy of the government's thrust, resources and systems in coping with its anticipated impacts.

Agreeing with Al Gore that the larger reason we're ignoring climate change is that the truth is just too inconvenient, Prof. Krugman points not only to vested interests why response to climate change does not have the vigor that the threat deserves. He also points to vested ideas, thus, "for three decades the dominant political ideology in America has extolled private enterprise and denigrated government, but climate change is a problem that can only be addressed through government action.

"And rather than concede the limits of their philosophy, many on the right have chosen to deny that the problem exists. So here we are, with the greatest challenge facing mankind on the back burner, at best, as a policy issue. I'm not, by the way, saying that the Obama administration was wrong to push health care first. It was necessary to show voters a tangible achievement before next November. But climate change legislation had better be next.

"And as I pointed out in my last column, we can afford to do this. Even as climate modelers have been reaching consensus on the view that the threat is worse than we realized, economic modelers have been reaching consensus on the view that the costs of emission control are lower than many feared.

"So the time for action is now. O.K., strictly speaking it's long past. But better late than never." There should be no question that we want a world which would be able to reverse climate change; a world whose progress ensures ". . . meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs."

## **What are our mental modules? And how do we master climate change?**

The main incumbent issue upon us all the world over is just how do we get the world on track to get to 350 ppm (the safe upper limit for carbon emissions)? In other words, the unmitigated profit instinct on the one hand, versus the morals of sustainable development and social justice. This is the global problematique, which requires the mitigation of carbon emissions, which, studies now show at 388 ppm. Earth and paleoclimate scientist Andrew Glikson in a recently-published study figures this out, thus – “the rise of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> above 350 ppm at the current rate of about 2 ppm/year is transcending the conditions that allowed the development of human agriculture and civilization from about 8,000 years ago.”

Here are the challenges — in 2006, China, with 6.1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions, topped the list of countries. It was followed closely by the US with 5.75 billion tonnes. Russia, Japan, India, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy and France have worrisome levels of emissions. So the need to pressure these countries to significantly lower their level of emissions. To radically reverse climate change, studies reveal that these countries need to reduce by 40% their levels of carbon emissions by the year 2020. For mitigation, the US, China and the rest of the industrialised world should be made to agree to bring down the levels of their carbon emissions. Copenhagen failed to do that.

But regulating carbon emissions simply by carbon trading is not only inadequate; it also burdens the poor countries twice over. As a leading environmental activist Vandana Shiva carefully observed — “Carbon trading uses the resources of poorer people and poorer regions as “offsets” for richer countries: it is between 50 and 200 times cheaper to plant trees in poor countries to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> than it is to reduce emissions at source. In other words, the burden of “clean-up” falls on the poor. From a market perspective, this might appear efficient, but in terms of energy justice, it is perverse to burden the poor twice - first with the impact of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution in the form of climate disasters and then with offsetting the pollution of the rich.”

Shiva thus reduces the choice, or rather the conflict, thus: “we can destroy the conditions for human life on the planet by clinging to “free-market” fundamentalism, or we can secure our future by bringing commerce within the laws of ecological sustainability and social justice.”

Scientist Andrew Glikson sums it up, thus, “in the view of leading climate scientists there is no alternative to attempts at reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels to below 350 ppm as soon as possible. What is urgently required is a combination of (A) urgent deep cuts in carbon emissions;

(B) fast-track development of clean renewable energy systems; (C) an intensive global reforestation campaign; (D) application of a range of CO2 draw-down sequestration measures, including world-wide replantation and reforestation campaigns and chemical capture methods, solar-powered desalination plants, and long-range channel and pipe water transport systems."

Otherwise, runaway climate change will wash us all away, Masonry included. I used to think, without any doubt, that Masonry would live forever. I have been accustomed to think that since Masonry is so profound a moral science, then it would be embraced by all of mankind till time shall be no more. And that the tenets of our noble institution will be transmitted through our lodges "from generation to generation." Since some three years or so ago, my concerns about the longevity of Masonry have been rising. They are all connected with scenarios on just how long mankind, amidst the anticipated devastation climate change will bring, can remain afloat. Thus, Masonry on the one hand, and carbon emissions on the other, have already become mutually-exclusive.

"Louise Sime, lead of the British Antarctic Survey study, looked at ice cores to see how temperatures changed during periods of high carbon dioxide. She found that during the last period of high CO2, 125,000 years ago, temperatures were up to 6C higher than present day levels. Such a hike in temperature could lead to a rise in sea levels of between 4 to 6 meters over hundreds of years as the ice sheets melt.

"We didn't expect to see such warm temperatures, and we don't yet know in detail what caused them. But they indicate that Antarctica's climate may have undergone rapid shifts during past periods of high CO2."

Vicente Lava III, spokesperson of Green Force, after reading Louise Sime's study had this to say: "I opened Google Earth and focused on our place in Quezon City. At about 57 meters right now, we'll still be above the sea with even with a 6 meter rise in sea level. Malacañang Palace won't be so lucky. Right now it's at 3 meters above sea level. Diosdado Macapagal Avenue will be under 3 meters of water, the Mall of Asia will have water two meters high. If this comes to pass, the places along the Manila Bay Coastal areas are going to be like Venice. Just trying to comprehend the impacts of such a scenario unfolding is giving me a great big headache."

## **Copenhagen : An Abject Failure**

As Copenhagen's Climate Change Summit drew to a close, it now is safe to say that climate change would be the overwhelming phenomenon for the present generation and those to come, until global society is able

to reverse it and make a turnaround for a collective survival and all-round progress, or it perishes altogether.

Representatives of the Northern Elite ignored the scientific warnings on climate change and systematically disregarded and vetoed intelligent, science-based proposals that would significantly cut emissions of warming gases.

Representatives of the world's worst polluters vetoed the proposal for the establishment of The International Environmental Court, envisioned to enforce mandatory cuts in emissions of gasses that would cause disastrous warming and climate change and to punish the violating polluters. "Canada signed up to cut its emissions at Kyoto, and then increased them by 26 per cent - and there were no consequences. Copenhagen could unleash a hundred Canadas."

The same representatives ignored the widespread call for an immediate moratorium on exploration of fossil fuels, a call seen essential for a meaningful climate deal. Studies show that we can use only - at an absolute maximum - 60 per cent of all the oil, coal and gas we have already discovered if we are going to stay the right side of catastrophic runaway warming. The US, EU and China and India refused to cut down their warming gasses, despite all the persuasion and hard science.

The same representatives discarded the issue of climate debt and climate justice. "The rich world has been responsible for 70 per cent of the warming gases in the atmosphere - yet 70 per cent of the effects are being felt in the developing world. Holland can build vast dykes to prevent its land flooding; Bangladesh can only drown. There is a cruel inverse relationship between cause and effect: the polluter doesn't pay." They have clearly taken the side of the fossil fuel corporations and the petro-dictatorships, at the expense of millions of the poor in low-lying areas amidst the swelling seas.

The alternatives offered by the Northern Elite — carbon offsetting, carbon trading, carbon capture — are no more than a global placebo. These would not dramatically mitigate the level of warming gasses and the continuing breakdown of the earth's life-sustaining natural processes.

It is therefore imperative upon us all to continue advocating for the aforementioned real and genuine alternatives that the Northern Elite ignored, discarded or vetoed down at Copenhagen. And we shall continue to do so to compel our government to align along them and to unite our people in solidarity with the Global South to a way out of this life-threatening predicament.

## **Philippines : Adaptations More than Mitigation**

In the Philippines, carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion run to less than 0.3% of total global emissions. However small our country's contribution to the global aggregate emissions, we should also do likewise, especially through government – to enact environment-friendly laws and to seriously and comprehensively implement them.

Our task in the Philippines is two-fold. While we should participate in the global movement for the substantial reduction of carbon emissions, including here in our country, we should be more concerned about the impacts of climate change on our shores. While we contribute least to the global emissions, we belong to the most vulnerable and least able to protect ourselves.

Thus, in terms of trust/mandate, resources and systems, we need to address, among others, the following:

- Increased precipitation/rainfall and the consequent flooding;
- Inundation of coastal areas with rise of sea level; wave surges;
- Water shortages in inland areas – higher temperatures and intense hydrological cycles heighten effects of drought or dry spells;
- Health risks – new breed of disease-bearing organisms; heat waves;
- Changing patterns of production, incidence of pests on agriculture and fisheries;
- Threatened food security;
- Limited resources for relief and rehabilitation.

It may be worth our while to have the Legislative Agenda of Green Force in mind:

- To rationalize the government's comprehensive and long-term framework and approaches to the impacts of Climate Change. There is a fundamental and immediate need to conduct scenario-making studies so as to see specifically what the impacts of Climate Change would be on the various Filipino social sectors, especially the marginalized farmers, fisherfolk, urban poor, women, and the development sectors.
- To rationalize our government agencies's responses to the impacts of Climate Change. There is an immediate need to integrate and streamline the functions of the DSWD and the NDCC, and other relief-oriented agencies.

- Government has to comprehensively address concerns related to forest areas, coastal and low-lying areas, river systems, flood-prone inland areas, food security, health, housing, climate refugees, among others.
- With the great challenges before us, we have to streamline and coordinate our responses, and the current Commission on Climate Change may need to be upgraded into a bigger, better funded, full-blown Department.
- To raise awareness about Climate Change, there is a need to incorporate the subject in our educational curricula – in all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, and post-graduate).
- A well-funded multi-disciplinary Climate Change Research and Education Institute, staffed by dedicated and competent scientists and educators from the fields of Health, Agriculture, Forestry, Climatology, Ecological Economics, Geology, Biology, Botany, Zoology, Social Work and Community Development, Architecture, Engineering, Mass Communications, Transportation, and Business Management (among others) needs to be established.
- A comprehensive nationwide and localized disaster-preparedness plan on Climate Change and its impacts needs to be prepared.
- Governance should be attuned to the imperatives of Climate Change. A significant shift in government's allocations of scarce funds and resources should be harmonized accordingly.

It is along these strategies that we locate our efforts with the Grand Lodge's Sagip Kalikasan Program and with that of our individual lodges. Dr. Ted Mendoza, a UPLB Crop Science Professor, has proposed that we embark on a national effort to plant 17 million hectares of trees. If we can do it, he projects that these trees will sequester approximately 8.5 to 17 million tons of carbon per year.

Through our greening programs, we will not only generate more carbon sinks, but we also hope to reduce the flooding. But more importantly perhaps, we are working up a new morality to save our respective places of abode.

It is truly painful even just to imagine when the impacts of climate change will have reduced mankind to its basic instincts of struggling for scarce food and water and the accompanying chaos and confusion will simply waylay the morals and tenets which Masons have thus far held dear. How can Masons continue to persevere travelling East when all the

rest, to keep their heads above water, are rushing, by force of adverse circumstances, to the Northwest? There cannot be lasting harmony at our temples when there is disharmony all around us.

Masonic wisdom dictates that we address issues that can confront our people decades ahead. And we have the gift of serendipity. This year, the turning over of the guards at the Grand Lodge falls on Earth Day, April 24, 2010. There can be no more fitting day for brethren and sisters to pay tribute to Mother Earth. Let us conduct various activities as feasible as they are in the different districts – all as tribute to Mother Earth. In areas where precipitation is abundant, there can be another round of tree-planting activities. In other areas, we can hold symposia, forums or trainings on climate change. We should logically give more love in return to Mother Earth which nurtures life and love. Let us turn our hearts green to project the imperative for supreme love for and commitment to the environment.

The intention in conduction advocacy, education and trainings about the environment is not only to harness love within families, but also to foster more empathy and care towards others. But most importantly, the idea is to raise awareness and commitment to the issues confronting our environment, especially climate change. Primers on climate change can be requested from Green Force, even while brethren, sisters, and those in the Appendent Bodies can explore more on these issues at the website of Green Force.

We are confident that these starting activities and their continuing directions in times ahead would be a very effective way by which we can advocate our morals and tenets beyond our immediate families. We need the broad dimension to address climate change.

**So come one and all. Brethren and sisters,  
sons and daughters of Mother Earth,  
together we can make a difference!**

\*Mawi B. Lazaro Jr. is the Secretary-General of Green Force for the Environment : Sons and Daughters of Mother Earth. Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147 is his mother lodge and he holds plural memberships in Bud Daho Lodge No. 102 (Sulu) and Sagrada Familia Lodge No. 375 (Northern Zambles).

**Humanity cannot expect to have  
unlimited growth on a finite planet**

# What Will Be the Impacts of Climate Change in Our Daily Lives?

by Arcel Dela Cruz,  
Grand Associate Conductress  
Order of the Amaranth

- 1) **Crop Production** – There will be decline in crop production because of limited rainfall available during the dry months and excessive rainfall during wet months. With increasing population, hunger is not a remote possibility.
- 2) **Unproductive Lands** – Most of the agricultural lands will be unproductive, thus will become limited. This will result in intensified agriculture movement of upland farming to steeper slopes to meet food demand.
- 3) **Pests and Diseases** – There will be increased infestation of pests and diseases, thus increase in the use of pesticides. This will result in increase in production cost.
- 4) **Soil Erosion** – Severe soil erosion is likely to happen during very wet months. This will result in soil infertility. To produce good crops, farmers will apply more fertilizers.
- 5) **Livestock Production** – With limited water intake, livestock will have decreased milk yields. Food will be scarce because of limited grasses to feed on. Health of animals will be affected due to heat stress and other diseases.
- 6) **Water Supply** – Very dry months will result in possibility of water shortage. Increasing population will result in increasing demand for water. This will result in more people experiencing water stress.
- 7) **Water Quality** - Very wet months will result in increased flooding, especially in areas below or at sea level. Water quality will decrease because of salt water intrusion.
- 8) **Forests** – There will be loss of biodiversity as species will move northwards because of warming. There will be increased risk of fire occurrence with increase in very dry periods.
- 9) **Sea Level** – Sea level will rise up to 0.8 m. This will result in flooding

of low-lying areas, submerging of coastal marshes and wetlands, erosion of beaches, increased salinity of rivers, bays and aquifers and destruction of mangroves.

10) **Human Health** – Climate change poses significant threat to human health such as: heat stress; rising incidence of malaria and dengue; propagation and invasiveness of infectious insect vector such as the H1N1 virus; spread of bacterial diseases due to water contamination; increased risk of food and water shortage; increased risk of malnutrition; and increased risk of death and injury in the event of disaster.

- **"The mandate of the Sagip Kalikasan Program... is to support the government's reforestation program."**

- **"In union, collaboration and coordination with the DENR, the GLP shall mobilize the whole Masonic fraternity and its appendant bodies along a 3-year reforestation program."**

- **Dalai Lama: "As people alive today, we must consider future generations: a clean environment is a human right like any other. It is therefore part of our responsibility toward others to ensure that the world we pass on is as healthy as, if not healthier than, we found it."**

# OF SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

by VW Max Suner, PDGL (MD RIII-D)

**T**he world's greatest concern today is how to arrest the global warming brought about by industrialization. Since the latter part of the 18th century, human activities associated with the Industrial Revolution have changed the composition of the atmosphere; this change in turn has influenced adversely the Earth's climate. For more than 200 years now, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and deforestation have caused the concentrations of heat-trapping "greenhouses gases" to increase in our atmosphere. These gases prevent heat from escaping to space, somewhat like the glass panels of a green house.

In the past century, while nations of the world were busy in their pursuit of economic growth and advancement in commerce and industry, the issue of global warming was not yet known nor was it given a special attention by scientists. It was discovered only in the past decades that the "greenhouse effect" was severely affecting the ozone layer which caused the climatic patterns to change around our planet. These changes in climate brought about long droughts, great floods, and superstorms with wind velocity reaching Signal No. 4, which were unheard of previously in the history of our planet. These natural calamities brought about heavy casualties in terms of human lives and cost of properties.

Our own country is well aware of the recurrence of natural disasters. Ormoc, Leyte experienced sudden huge floods; Ginsaugon, Leyte, heavy mountain slides; Barangay Villa, Ma. Aurora, Aurora Province, big floods and mountain slides. Other areas have suffered from similar natural phenomenon. It seems that we Filipinos have not really learned from these experiences, which were caused by the irresponsible denudation of forests and greed because of improper and even illegal logging.

Predictably, after every calamity, government officials would be engaged in grandstanding in the mass media, ordering the investigation of the cause of the calamities and promising to look into why the country's forests continue to be denuded by illegal loggers despite the logging ban. After the general public had lost their interest in the issue, however, the people who should be held liable for the damage would no longer be prosecuted. Then, after some time, the same calamities would recur. And if the people themselves would not act to prevent the same calamities from happening again, there would be calamities coming.

We now know that we will need the cooperation of every human inhabitant of this planet in the common effort to minimize and eventually stop global warming. We should start now to do what we can contribute to the stoppage of global warming and climate change.

## **Here are some of the things we can do:**

- 1) Change a light, and you help change the world. Replace the conventional bulbs in your most frequently used light fixtures with bulbs that have the high-

est efficiency ratings, and you will help the environment while saving money on energy bills.

2) Clean air filters regularly, and have your heating and cooling equipment tuned annually by a licensed contractor. Thus, you will save energy, as well as increase savings at home; at the same time you will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When it is time to replace your old equipment, choose a high efficiency model, and make sure that it is properly sized and installed.

3) If there is a recycling program in your community, recycle your paper and other goods. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. Reducing, reusing and recycling in your home helps conserve energy reduces pollution and greenhouse gases from resource extraction, manufacturing, and disposal.

4) Use a push mower, which, unlike a gas or electric mower, consumes no fossil fuels and emits no greenhouse gases.

5) Save water around the house. Municipal water systems require a lot of energy to purify and distribute water to households, and saving water, especially hot water, can lower greenhouse gas emissions. Be smart when you are irrigating your lawn or landscape; only water when needed, and do it during the coolest part of the day (early morning is the best.) Turn the water off while you are shaving or brushing teeth. Do not use your toilet as a waste basket; water is wasted with each flush. And did you know a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day? Repair all toilet and faucet leaks right away.

6) Tell family and friends that energy efficiency is good for their homes and good for the environment because it lowers greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

There are many other things that we can do in our daily lives which can contribute to the lessening of the effects of global warming. We suggest that you be constantly aware and conscious of other actions recommended by concerned groups.

### Miscellaneous

#### **OF CONCERN TO ALL!!! A tree is worth \$193,250**

According to Professor T.M. Das of the University of Calcutta, a tree living for 50 years will generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, control soil erosion and increase soil fertility to the tune of \$31,250, recycle \$37,500 worth of water and provide a home for animals worth \$31,250. This figure does not include the value of fruits, lumber or beauty derived from trees. Just another sensible reason to take care of our forests.

**There are many things we can do in our daily lives which can contribute to the lessening of the effects of global warming.**

# **M.W. GRAND LODGE OF F. & A.M. OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES INK AGREEMENT**

**O**n 04 June 2009, MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, Grand Master, and Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that the GLP and the DENR would collaboratively carry out a three-year (2009-2012) Tree-Planting Program called "OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN." The signing, which took place at the DENR Conference Room in Quezon City, was witnessed by other Grand Lodge officers and DENR officials.

VW Juanito G. Espino Jr., Grand Auditor, has been appointed as Chairman of the Sagip Kalikasan Program Committee; he is to be assisted by VW Roseller M. Malabanan, a District Grand Lecturer for Masonic District NCR-E. He should coordinate with Dr. Jose Andres Diaz, Regional Executive Director (RED) of the DENR for the National Capital Region (NCR), relative to available planting sites in the NCR, seedlings to be planted, and preparation of planting sites for scheduled tree-planting activities.

The Grand Master's Deputies for the various non-NCR Masonic Districts and/or their duly designated representatives should closely coordinate with the REDs of the DENR for their respective regions relative to the same things.

To kick-off the Sagip Kalikasan Program, the brethren, in collaboration with DENR officials and employees, would conduct simultaneous ceremonial tree-planting activities nationwide. In the NCR, the venue of this activity would be the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) Grounds in Quezon City; in the non-NCR Masonic Districts, the venues would be the sites agreed upon by the DDGMs (and/or their duly designated representatives) and the REDs of the various regions.

## **Grand Master Lim Lo Suy, VW Espino, Other Grand Lodge Officers Lead NCR Freemasons in Launching Sagip Kalikasan Program**

**T**he Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, led by Grand Master Peter U. Lim Lo Suy and Committee on Sagip Kalikasan Program Chairman Juanito G. Espino, Jr., in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), successfully launched "Oplan Sagip Kalikasan," a three-year tree-planting program that aims to save the environment for future generations, at the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau Grounds in Quezon City early in the morning of July 25, 2009.

The continuous tree-planting program which anchored on the theme "Together, Brethren, We Will Make the Difference," also aims to increase the much-needed awareness on the importance of environmental protection and natural resources preservation.

During the media interview regarding the three-year project VW Espino said, "By this nationwide, coordinated tree-planting project, we are preserving our environment not only for us but most especially for the generations to come. It also focuses on making a difference by helping our society in the preservation of Earth's diminishing natural resources."

On his part, MW Peter U. Lim LO Suy stated:

"The Sagip Kalikasan Program, which is supported by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is designed to increase the people's consciousness of the importance of protecting our environment and preserving our natural resources. It will continue for three years to ensure the survival of what we planted during my term as Grand Master. Deputy Grand Master Avelino I. Razon, Jr., Senior Grand Warden Juanito P. Abergas, and Junior Grand Warden Santiago T. Gabionza, Jr., have all committed to sustain this program. In this program, we will need not only to plant trees but also and more importantly to nurture them to maturity."

Added the Grand Master: "In like manner, as we plant our respective trees, let us also ever remember that we Masons are also like trees who should continue to be nurtured by Masonic knowledge and fortified by the application of such knowledge in our daily lives. So, I most humbly implore the Great Architect of the Universe to bless our labors today that not only will we have a healthier and greener environment around us but that we will also have a more harmonious environment within our families, workplaces and communities."

Aside from MW Lim Lo Suy, RW Razon, RW Abergas, RW Gabionza, and VW Espino, Past Grand Masters Oscar V. Bunyi and Rosendo C. Herrera were also conspicuously present during the tree-planting activity at the PAWB Grounds in

Quezon City.

Led by their DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs and the Lights of their respective Lodges, more than 800 brethren of the National Capital Region (NCR) Masonic Districts participated in the launching of the Sagip Kalikasan Program.

Also present during the launching activity were DENR Undersecretary Tess Castillo, Regional Director Jose Diaz, Miss Earth 2009 Sandra Seifert, Miss Philippines Ecotourism Patricia Maria, Miss Fire Michelle Tumulak, Miss Air Martha Braun, Miss Water Catherine Loyola, and Miss Philippines Adie Adelantar. Actor-environmentalist Onemig Bondoc was also there.

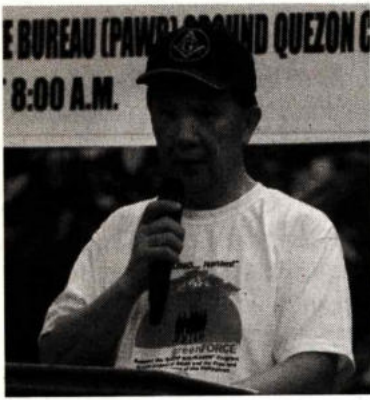


MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy and VW Jun Espino, together with Usec. Tess Castillo and Dr. Jose Diaz, during the launching of the Sagip Kalikasan Project.

RW Sonny Razon, RW Juanito Abergas, RW Santiago Gabionza Jr., and VW Jun Espino during media interview on tree-planting activity.



2009 Miss Earth beauties and actor-environmentalist Onemig Bondoc pose with RW Avelino I. Razon, Jr., VW Sixto S. Esquivias IV, and VW Jun Espino for posterity's sake.



MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy delivers his speech on the import of environment protection and natural resources preservation.



RW Santiago Gabionza, Jr., RW Avelino Razon, Jr., MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, VW Jun Espino and RW Juanito Abergas pose with Miss Earth beauties.



Grand Lodge officers, NCR Masons, and friends of Masons pose after tree-planting activity.

## Masonic District NCR-C Reports on "Sagip Kalikasan" Tree Planting Program

**I**n response to the call of MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, Grand Master, for NCR Brethren to participate in the launching of the Sagip Kalikasan Program, the brethren of Masonic District NCR-C, led by VW Victorino A. Floro III, DDGM, and VWBs Ramil M. Alvarez, Jose Maria P. Carabaña, and Porfirio L. Magtanong Jr., DGLs, joined the Grand Lodge officers and other NCR brethren in the launching of the said program at the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) in Quezon City last July 25, 2009.

The officers and brethren of the following Lodges joined the aforementioned District officers in the tree-planting activity: Dalisay Lodge No. 14, Sinukuan Lodge No. 16, Araw Lodge No. 18, Dapitan Lodge No. 21, Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22, Zapote Lodge No. 29, Luzon Lodge No. 57, Kasilawan Lodge No. 77, Keystone Lodge No. 100, and La Guardia Lodge No. 378.

The activity was enriched by the presence of MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, and other Grand Lodge officers. The added participation of the Miss Earth finalists resulted in an even more interesting tree-planting activity.

The camaraderie of the brethren who participated in the activity resulted in a scene of harmony normally found when Masons work together.

The brethren of NCR-C look forward to the next phase of the Sagip Kalikasan Program. NCR-C has been assigned the following areas for the next activity: the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) and the La Mesa Dam area.

It should be mentioned, at this juncture, that some brethren of NCR-C have already participated in tree-planting activities at the La Mesa Dam Watershed.

(The photos on the subsequent pages were contributed by VW Nonoy Carabaña, DGL.)



VW Floro and NCR-C brethren in action

## LABONG LODGE NO. 59 IMPLEMENTS ITS REFORESTATION PROJECT

by WM Ramon Cristobal

**I**n support of the SAGIP KALIKASAN PROGRAM of our Grand Master, we, the brethren of Labong Lodge No. 59, implemented our Reforestation Project in the Caliraya Watershed on 29 August 2009. The theme of the said project is "Save Mother Earth Through Reforestation."

Together with representatives of HARIBON FOUNDATION, headed by Ms. Annabelle Plantilla, and representatives of the Pasay City (Host) Lions Club, headed by VW Rudy Ong, PDDGM, we went to the Caliraya Watershed and planted an assortment of 500 seedlings, which included mahogany, narra, and apitong.

We assembled at my residence in Quezon City at 5:00 a.m. After breakfast, we proceeded to Burger King Marcos Highway, where we joined up with other brethren of our Lodge and members of their families. We had a stopover at the Japanese Garden, where we met with Ms. Plantilla at around 9:30 a.m.; then we proceeded to the tree-planting site.

Before starting our tree-planting, Ms. Plantilla explained to us the importance of this project; that the trees would be able to displace a big amount of carbon dioxide when fully-grown; they would also protect the Caliraya Watershed, which is a vital source of water. She also promised that we would be able to monitor the progress of the trees we have planted because they would provide us with periodic reports, with photos, on the growth and progress of our trees on their website.

The heat of the sun did not dampen our spirits; we happily went about our business and by 11 a.m., we were able to plant 250 assorted trees.

After our tree-planting activity, we went to Lagos Del Sol Resort, where we had our lunch. Then we trekked back to the city.

This project is one of the most rewarding endeavors we have undertaken so far. It made us aware that each individual could make a positive contribution to the environment by participating in such a very worthy cause.



"Work is what we have to do; play is what we want to do."

– Dr. Hans Selye

## LAOAG LODGE NO. 71, OTHER GROUPS PLANT SEEDLINGS IN SITIO DILUMOT, BARANGAY SAPAT, PASUQUIN, ILOCOS NORTE

**L**ed by WM Ronald F. Mandac, the brethren of Laoag Lodge No. 71, together with members of the Order of the Amaranth, young boy scouts, and representatives of the Beta Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO), took off from Laoag City early in the morning of 13 June 2009 to Sitio Dilumot, Barangay Sapat, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, where they planted a few hundred seedlings donated by the Provincial Office of the DENR.

Before the actual seedling planting, a representative from the Ilocos Norte Water District (INWD) delivered a lecture to the "planters," stating in part that while there are still many trees in the area, some of them are aging and need to be replaced. She also explained what a watershed is and its importance in the ecological system.

Indeed, the planting site is a hilly area and a watershed which the INWD maintains and uses for preventing soil erosion. In case of soil erosion, the area would lose its water-holding capacity and would have disastrous effects to the households that depend on the INWD for their water supply.

Apart from Sitio Dilumot's importance as a watershed, Barangay Sapat is host to an Air Station of the Philippine Air Force. The base is maintained as a monitoring station for incoming flights from the north. Because of its steep roads, the area is also a favorite among the province's mountain bikers.

Commented WM Mandac: "The partnership of our Lodge with the Amaranth is not unexpected. We invited the APO and the BSP to join us in the activity to show them Masonry's openness and respect for other associations. Working with these groups would provide them with the opportunity to develop a healthy regard and appreciation for the wonders of nature."



Laoag Lodge Masons, Order of the Amaranth, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, and Alpha Phi Omega, Beta Lambda working hand in hand with INWD in a tree-planting project at Sitio Dinulot, Barangay Sapat, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

# SAGIP KALIKASAN NG ALSM 158

ulat ni Kuyang Darius Garcia

**S**a aking pagbabalik tanaw nung aking kabataan, naalala ko pa ang kagandahan ng kapaligiran, mga berdeng dahon na kumakapit sa kanyang punong kahoy, mgapunong kahoy na hitik ng bungga, na kay sarap akyatin at lambitinan upang kunan ng matatamis na bunggang kahoy. At sa paglipas ng panahon itoy unti unting naglalaho, pinuputol ng mga taong walang hangad kundi ang pansariling kapalanan at pinsalain ang kalikasan, mga yamang gubat na sanay nagbibigay sa atin ng malaking kaginhawahan, nagsisilbing kanlunggan, naghahatid ng sariwang hangin. At sa tuwing may darating na malakas na ulan ay nagssisilbi itong tagapangalaga ng tubig na nanggagaling sa kabundukan.

Nasaan din ang mga ibon na malayang nakalilipat, at sa pagsaput ng dapit hapon ang mga itoy kumakanlong sa mga dahon ng punong kahoy para magpalipas ng magdamag, upang kinabukasan ay malayang humuni na tila musika sa ating pandinig naglalaro sa kalawakan, paano kung wala ng mga punong kahoy na nagsisilbing tahanan ng mga ibon, nakapanlulumong isipin na darating ang panahon ay wala ng makagisnang punong kahoy an gating susunod na generasyon. Tanging alaala na lamang ng kahapon ang maari nating isalaysay sa ating mga anak at apo. Ito ang tamang panahon na tayo ay kumilos, ating iligtas ang ating kalikasan.

Salamat sa ALSML #158 sa paglulunsad ng proyektong "Sagip Kalikasan", kasama ang mga anak nating Demolay ng Pangasinan Chapter, at ang pamunuan ng Dagupan Beach ang Golf Club, na sama samang naglaan ng kanilang panahon at oras upang ito ay isakatuparan. Ako ay lubos na nagpupugay sa mga taong naging bahagi ng makasaysayang araw ng agosto 15, 2009. Dakong alas 7:30 ng umaga sa baranggay binloc. Ito ay sina WM Gary Velasco, SW RJ Jimenez, JW Dennis Uy, kuyang Joseph Hufano, kuyang Pepe Benin, kuyang Leon Palaganas, Jr., kuyang Juancho Benin, kuyang Benjie Benin, at kuyang Bing Garcia, Jr., at sa mga namumuno ng Order of Demolay, na sina MC Gerald Padilla, SC Darwin Alfred Q. Garcia, Scribe Adrian Sison, at sa lahat ng mga miyembro na andun nung araw na iyon, kahit silay mga bata, ay namulat ang kanilang murang kaisipan sa kahalagahan ng kalikasan, at sila man ay may pananagutan din bilang isang mamamayan. Maraming salamat din kay kuyang Mario David, at kuyang Marlowe Garantoza na kanilang Advisors, at naglaan ng kanilang mga oras at panahon para imulat sa mga batang ito ang pagmamahal kay inang kalikasan. At sa pagdating ng panahon, ay maari nilang ipagmalaki sa kanilang mga anak na naging bahagi sila ng pagtanim ng mga punong kahoy sa ating kapaligiran. Naging napakabait sa amin ng panahon at kami ay hinayaang makapagtanim ng mahigit 100 punong kahoy, bakas sa aming mukha ang pagod ng mga oras na yaon, dala siguro ng init ng araw subalit hindi ito naging hadlang, manapay mababakas mo sa aming lahat ang kasiyahan na tanging si Inang Kalikasan ay ganap din ang kasiyahan. Aming pinagsaluhan ang munting piging.

Salamat po sa lahat, sanay maulit sa mga darating na taon, at kami ay di magsasawang maglaan ng panahon sa mga ganitong proyekto.

## Postscript

WM Engracio Velasco expressed his sincerest thanks to all who took part in the tree-planting project, particularly to Project Chair Dennis Uy, who was ably assisted by Bro. Fred Co, as well as to Bros. Marlowe Garantoza and Darius Garcia, who coordinated the participation of the DeMolays of Pangasinan Chapter, which "really added color and played an important role in the successful conduct of this project aimed at preserving our environment and saving Mother Earth."



VW Juanito G. Espino, Jr: *"By planting trees, we are preserving our environment not only for us but most especially for the generations to come."*

Ill. Albert Pike: *"To plant trees that, after we are dead, shall shelter our children is as natural as to love the shade of those our fathers planted."*

# LA TRINIDAD NO. 344, BAGUIO 67 CONTINUE TO PLANT TREES

by mcpjr

**T**he brethren of Lodges La Trinidad No. 344 and Baguio No. 67, together with the DeMolays and Job's Daughters of Baguio, continue to take care of their adopted park at Km. 267 + 200, Sitio Subkel, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Last August 12, the brethren of La Trinidad Lodge No. 344 celebrated the 6th founding anniversary of their Lodge by holding a tree-planting activity at the vicinity of the said park.



Bro. Doods Dugayen with daughter Cairyn Faith. He is teaching her to be environment-friendly.



Brethren of La Trinidad Lodge No. 344 and Baguio Lodge No. 67, together with members of the Order of DeMolay, Baguio Chapter and Order of Job's Daughter, Bethel No. 25, pose before Adopt a Park program billboard.

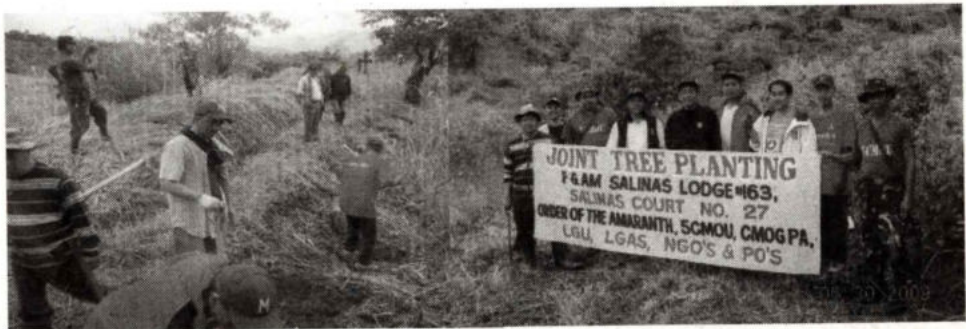
## ARI-TAU LODGE BRETHERN JOIN TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY IN MASOC, BAYOMBONG

**A**lthough the brethren of Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279 in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya have yet to set the schedule of their tree-planting activity, which is likely to be conducted on the site near their Lodge grounds, some of them have already joined the brethren of Magat Lodge No. 68 and Guillermo E. Bongolan Memorial Lodge No. 330 in the tree-planting activity held in Masoc, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Commented VW Edward R. Valido, DDGM of Masonic District RII-A: "The efforts of the brethren in our district may be inadequate and miniscule at this point vis-à-vis the giant task of solving global environmental problems, but our awareness of these global environmental problems and our involvement in programs and projects designed to help save the environment will spell out the difference and impact that we make in helping address such a global issue. Our modest contribution in terms of our efforts and doing our share in terms of advocacy will continue to make us real Masons and true stewards of Mother Earth. We will help improve the Environment toward making the world a better place to live in."

According to VW Valido, the brethren of the district will do the following:

1. Continue to coordinate with the Regional Executive Director (RED) of the DENR in Region 2 or his duly authorized representative in relation to our tree-planting activities, so that we can get their full support of our activities, including but not limited to the provision of seedlings/planting materials, identification of planting sites (if additional sites are required), and other technical assistance that may be provided by the DENR.
2. Identify together with the DENR other sites than our existing sites, where we, the brethren of the four Lodges in the district, can jointly and simultaneously hold tree-planting activities.



Helping improve the environment toward making Nueva Vizcaya a better place to live in

# 750 Additional Seedlings Planted in Our Park

by VW Eladio B. Delos Santos  
DDGM, RII-B

**S**ince the year 2000 our Masonic District and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have worked together in close coordination for the growth and development of our Tree Park in Barangay San Manuel, Naguilian, Isabela.

Upon receipt of our Grand Master's Circular dated 8 July 2009, I persuaded Bombo Radio to air the joint tree-planting activity of Masonic District RII-B, which the DENR set on July 25, 2009.

On July 19, we cleaned the entire tree park and dug holes in preparation for the July 25 tree-planting activity.

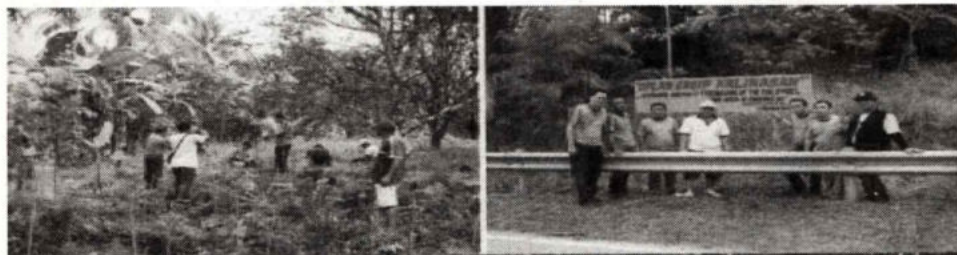
On July 24, we delivered 750 seedlings to the tree park: 300 fruit-tree seedlings and 450 forest-tree seedlings (250 mahogany and 200 gemilina).

On July 25, together with laborers, we planted the aforementioned seedlings. My humble self explained the significance of the activity, and Bombo Radio covered the conduct of the activity.

That, in brief, is the account of our district's participation in our Grand Master's Oplan: Sagip Kalikasan Program.

## **KAMAYO LODGE NO. 255 CONDUCTS "OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN"**

Kamayo Lodge No. 255 conducted "OPLAN: Sagip Kalikasan" on July 25, 2009 at Brgy. Cumawas, Basilig City with the DENR CENRO, Bro. Philip Calunsag of Timberland Lodge No. 219.



## Brethren of Masonic District RII-D Plant Trees in Early August

**I**n his letter to MW Peter U. Lim Lo. Suy dated 17 August 2009, VW Dennis M. Siclot, District Deputy Grand Master for MD RII-D (Isabela South and Quirino), stated that the brethren in his district did not conduct their tree-planting activity on 25 July 2009 but rather later – viz., on 02, 08 and 14 August - because, on advice of WB Mindo Aquino, the CENRO in Isabela, they had to look for accessible planting sites and the appropriate plant seedlings.

On 02 August 2009, the brethren of Pinappagan Lodge No. 353, Saranay Lodge No. 193, Diffun Lodge No. 317, and R.S. Roque Lodge No. 289, together with District Officers, planted 200 seedlings of varied species (mahogany, narra and acacia) on the grounds of Pinappagan Lodge No. 353.

On 08 August 2009, the brethren of South Isabela, together with the hermanas and District Officers, planted 100 mahogany seedlings in San Mateo, Isabela.

On 14 August 2009, the Worshipful Master of Ganano Lodge No. 313 and a representative of the Echaque District Hospital signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), that the Masons and the Echaque District Hospital personnel would collaborate in tree-planting activities. The signing was witnessed by other members of the Lodge and their spouses; hospital officers and employees; the DENR, headed by WB Mindo Aquino; and District Officers.

After the signing of the MOA, the partners planted 150 mahogany and narra saplings.



The District Deputy Grand Master of MD R-2, VW Dennis M. Siclot, intently does his part.

The Brethren of Quirino Lodges and R.S. Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289 pose for a photo after the tree planting activity.



## FREEMASONS TEAM UP WITH DENR, LGU ON CLIMATE CHANGE LECTURES

(Taken from The Northeast Beacon.)

**O**fficers and members of Rufino S. Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289 in the Municipality of Cordon, Isabela, recently joined forces with the DENR, Community Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in San Isidro, Isabela, and the Local Government Unit (LGU) for a series of lectures on global warming and climate change.

The lectures were conducted in five schools. Most of the participants in the lectures were high school students in Cordon. The organizers hoped that the participants would become really aware of the ill effects of this phenomenon in the country and worldwide.

A total of 1,430 participants from Cagasat Main and Annex, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos, Diadi Region, and Wigan High School attended the forum together with LGU representatives, Freemasons, and some personnel of the CENRO, who spearheaded the lectures.

The resource speakers gave emphasis on how to minimize air pollution, which would ultimately destroy the ozone layer; proper sorting and disposal of solid wastes; planting of trees in any available open spaces to serve as carbon sink or absorbers of carbon dioxide, etc.

A related sidelight of the gatherings held in four schedules and venues was the equally-important topic of RA 9147, the Wildlife Act of 2001; Migratory Birds as source of Bird Flu; and the Philippine Eagle as symbol of Filipinos' resiliency and toughness.

In the open forum, most of the students were inquisitive about the efforts of global warming and climate change and the ways to mitigate their ill effects. The lecturers also highlighted the adaptive measures that could be done to lessen the impact of this global phenomenon.

This activity was the brainchild of WM Rosito C. Moreno in close coordi-

nation with the DENR in the CENRO level within the 4th District of Isabela under the leadership of CENRO Mindo N. Aquino, a Past Master, and the LGU of Cordon, through SB member and Brother Ayson J. Villador, a Senior Warden of the Lodge.

Assigned lecturers were Foresters Pedro P. Ramos, Jr. and Giovanie C. Taguinod, both members of R.S. Roque Lodge.



# BRETHREN OF MASONIC DISTRICT RII-E PLANT TREES AT LOWER MAGAT, SAN LUIS, DIADI, NUEVA VIZCAYA

by VW Florencio A. Padilla, Jr., PDDGM  
District Secretary

**C**onsistent with the continuing effort of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and in support of the national government's reforestation program, we, the brethren of Masonic District RII-E, led by our DDGM, VW Narciso S. Salunat, held our tree-planting activity dubbed as Sagip Kalikasan Program at Lower Magat, San Luis, Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya on July 26, 2009.

This is one of the ways by which we Freemasons in the District demonstrate our desire to save Mother Nature from the ill effects of a denuded forest and to conserve the beauty of the Great Architect's creation.

To ensure the continuity of the project, VW Narciso S. Salunat sought the assistance of the provincial government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the province.

The provincial government, through the Office of the Governor, designated five hectares at Barangay San Luis in Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya as the exclusive area of the District. The provincial government and the District signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which stipulated, among other things, that our District could conduct tree-planting activities in the designated area at any time.

Brethren of the four Lodges in our District, namely, Nueva Vizcaya No. 144, Cordillera No. 178, Villaverde No. 206, and Ifugao No. 218, participated in our District's initial tree-planting activity. We were able to plant more than 200 seedlings of mahogany, acacia, G-melina and coconut.



VW Edilberto Carabbacan, Junior Grand Lecturer for Northern Luzon, joins VW Narciso S. Salunat, District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District RII-E, during the tree planting. Seen at the background are brethren who have just planted some trees.

## ISANG MAKABULUHANG GAWAIN

**T**wo other Lodges in the District, RII-E, namely, Magat Lodge No. 68 and Guillermo E. Bongolan Memorial Lodge No. 330, both in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, led by their respective Worshipful Masters, jointly conducted tree-planting activities at Jamboree Site, Barangay Masoc, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

These Lodges have regularly carried out their annual tree-planting activities on the said area, which is part of the Magat Watershed and has been the venue of various outdoor camping activities of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Nueva Vizcaya.

The continuous planting of trees in the area has gradually increased the vegetation, and the establishment of forest plantations has also gradually increased the biodiversity of the site, which serves as a buffer zone that controls the influx of poachers on the remaining natural forest upstream.



Naniniwala ang mga kapatid natin sa Nueva Vizcaya na ang pagtatanim ng mga kahoy ay isang makabuluhang gawain.

“Planting trees is an effective way to make a difference in our country.”

— MW PETER U. LIM LO SUY

## Brethren of Lodges in M.D. RIII-F Fully Support OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN

by VW Felix R. Ronquillo  
DDGM

**I**N COMPLIANCE with MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy's Circular 13, I met with the officers of the Lodges in Masonic District R III-F, namely, Memorial 90, Gen. Manuel Tinio 167, Narra 171, Apolinario Mabini 235, Eulogio R. Dizon Memorial 264, San Jose City 309 (lead Lodge), Eulogio R. Dizon 321, Eduardo L. Joson 326, and Golden Beehive U.D. Then we coordinated with the DENR Office of San Jose City, which promised to provide us with 400 seedlings of mahogany and gmelina trees.

We decided to plant the seedlings on July 25, 2009.

Early in the morning of the said date brethren of the different Lodges in the district traveled from their respective residences to Barangay Caanawan, San Jose City, where the first phase of our tree-planting activity took place. After planting some seedlings in the said barangay, we had a momentary break, in which we shared jokes and posed for documentation.

At about 9:00 a.m. we planted other seedlings on the slopes of the mountains in San Jose City, specifically at the sanitary landfill of BLISS, Malasin. Desirous of bringing back the old beauty of nature, preventing further damage thereon, and re-foliaging our balding environment, we untiringly carried seedlings hundred of meters up the slopes of the mountains. Under the searing heat of the sun, we painstakingly planted the rest of the seedlings provided by the DENR.

After our labors, we felt happy that we had modestly contributed to the noble cause of making the mountains of San Jose City green with trees again.



R III-F brethren at ease after their work. They want to see the mountains of San Jose City verdant once more.

## **N.E. COURT NO. 31 PARTICIPATES IN OPLAN SAGIP KALIKASAN**

The N.E. Court No. 31 participated in the OPLAN SAGIP KALIKASAN of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines through a tree planting project of the Masonic District RIII-D in cooperation with the DENR and the Upland Farmers Cooperative.

The HLs and SKs of NE Court 31, along with all participating Lodges and other appendant bodies, planted seedlings in their respective plots.

### **MASONIC DISTRICT RIII-D PLANTS TREES**

by Bro. Olegario Dela Cruz, DGL

**M**asonic District RIII-D, upon receipt of Grand Lodge Circular No. 7 dated July 8, 2009, coordinated with Bro. Rafael Otic of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) regarding the area and planting materials needed for the activity. The site identified for the district was at Barangay Siclong, Laur, Nueva Ecija, some 45 kilometers away from Cabanatuan City.

As early as 5 o'clock in the morning of July 25, 2009, from the assembly area at Kapatiran Lodge No. 228, Cabanatuan City, the bikers of Masonic District RIII-D started to pedal their bikes towards Barangay Siclong, where the brethren of Masonic District RIII-D would plant trees in compliance with Grand Lodge OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN. Other members of the district and appendant bodies, such as Nueva Ecija Court No. 31 of the Order of the Amaranth; Kapatiran Chapter No. 34 of the Order of DeMolay; and Bethel No. 31 of Job's Daughters International, using their personal vehicles and a school bus provided by VW Anthony M. Umali, District Deputy Grand Master, departed from the assembly area at around 6 o'clock in the morning.

At around 7:30 in the morning, at the vicinity of the planting site, a simple program was conducted before the tree planting proper, the highlight of which was the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Masonic RIII-D; CENRO, Cabanatuan City; and Upland Farmers Cooperative of Brgy. Siclong, Laur, Nueva Ecija. After the program, participants started to negotiate their way towards the exact planting location, which is the mountain slopes at Barangay Siclong.

With the assistance of local barangay leaders, members of Upland Farmers Cooperative and high school students from the area, Masonic District RIII-D planted more or less 1,500 mahogany and paper tree seedlings.

In coordination with the concerned agencies, Masonic District RIII-D will continue to monitor within three years the development of this activity to ensure the success of OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines under MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy.



Some photos of MD RIII-D's go-for-green project

## RIII-G BRETHREN PLANT MAHOGANY, NARRA SEEDLINGS

**T**he brethren of Lodges in Masonic District R III-G, led by VW Andy T. Po, DDGM, in coordination with the DENR, headed by Regional Executive Director Antonio G. Principe, planted some 300 mahogany and narra seedlings at Barangay Sula in San Jose, Tarlac on July 25, 2009.

The district was allotted by the DENR three hectares on which to plant trees.



# Brethren of Masonic District RIII-E Implement MW Lim Lo Suy's Oplan Sagip Kalikasan Program

by VW Dick C. Guzman, DDGM

**J**ULY 25, 2009 was, to us brethren of Masonic District RIII-E, a great day; for we came together to give meaning and substance to the theme "Together, Brethren, We Will Make the Difference."

The brethren of the nine Lodges in the District assembled at 7:00 a.m. in Sta. Maria, Bulacan for the tree-planting activity.

WM Pete Rueda of Kakarong Lodge No. 327, an official of the DENR in Bulacan, hosted and directed the tree-planting activity; he was assisted by other officers and members of his Lodge.

Mr. Pete Buluran of DZRH announced over the radio that the tree-planting activity at hand was part of the joint project of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

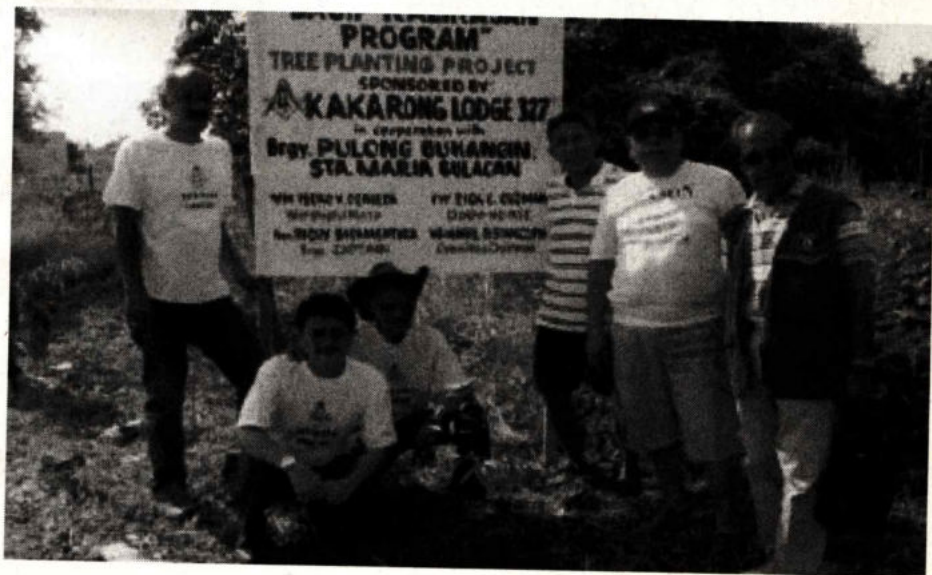
A big billboard with the message "Operation Sagip Kalikasan" was put up at the site of the tree-planting activity, which was a few meters away from the town proper of Sta. Maria along the National Highway going to Norzagaray.

We planted about 500 seedlings, which we hoped would grow.

After the tree-planting activity, we proceeded to Kakarong Lodge No. 327 and continued to plant seedlings therein. Then we proceeded to a nearby restaurant, where we lunched together. My humble self and the Worshipful Master of Kakarong Lodge hosted the luncheon.

A merry fellowship social ensued.

It was clear that we brethren of Bulacan enjoyed working together in order to make a difference not only in our own lives but also in the lives of the residents of the community.



## MASONIC DISTRICT RIV-A PLANTS 1,000 MAHOGANY, NARRA SEEDLINGS

**B**rethren of Masonic District RIV-A, led by VW Dominador R. Eugenio, DDGM, planted 1,000 seedlings of mahogany and narra trees on two hectares of the allotted 10 hectares in Mt. Balay-Balay, Ternate, Cavite, on July 25, 2009.

The activity was capped by a discussion by the brethren of the significance of the Oplan Sagip Kalikasan.

Below is a photo of the tree-planting activity.



RIV-A Brethren pose at the Sagip Kalikasan Tree Planting Site:  
Mt. Palaypalay, Ternate, Cavite

**There should be no question that we want a world which would be able to reverse climate change; a world whose progress ensures "... meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs."**

## MD RIV-B Brethren Plant 400 Narra Seedlings in Sinloan, Laguna

**O**n July 25, 2009, the brethren of Masonic District RIV-B, led by their DDGM. VW Antonio Justo Zuñiga, in collaboration with the DENR, led by Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamera, planted 400 narra seedlings at 405 PNP Camp in Sinloan, Laguna in compliance with MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy's directive that Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines should participate in his Sagip Kalikasan Program to be launched on that date.

Given below are photos of the tree-planting activity.



Policemen with Chairman of Tree Planting  
Bro Jun Simbajon, Jr. of Sierra Madre Lodge 161

## Brethren of Mindoro Lodge 157, Generoso D. Madrigal Memorial Lodge 368 Lead Tree-Planting Activity of Masonic District RIV-E

by Bro. Henry T. Sy, District Secretary

**I**n consonance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the DENR and the GLP concerning the latter's three-year tree-planting program (2009-2012), the officers of Mindoro Lodge No. 157 and Generoso D. Madrigal Memorial Lodge No. 368 led the brethren of Masonic District RIV-E (Province of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro), headed by VW Ramon R. Espada III, DDGM, in conducting a tree-planting project on July 25, 2009.

Together with the employees of DENR-CENTRO and some DeMolays and Rainbow Girls, the brethren planted 2,000 seedlings of assorted trees from the DENR along the National Highway in Central San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.



"We now know we will need the cooperation of every human inhabitant of this planet in the common effort to minimize and eventually stop global warming. We should start now to do what we can contribute to the stoppage of global warming and climate change."

- VW MAX SUNER

# The Peñafrancia Experience: Tree Planting Activity

by Vincent Marco S. Soller

**S**INCE THE BIRTH OF INDUSTRIALIZATION and its evolution, pollution has inevitably played a devastating role in our environment. Tree planting is one of the numerous interventions which can inhibit pollution from occurring and recurring. That's why during the Feast of our Lady of Peñafrancia, WM Tomas Rentoy III and his lovely wife Nancy led the brethren of MW Grand Secretary Reynold S. Fajardo Mem. Lodge No. 383 and brethren of Lodges in Camarines Sur in planting approximately 200 mahogany trees at their farm in Pacol, Camarines Sur on September 20, 2009.

Stated WM Tom Rentoy: "Mahogany trees are very useful and durable. They can be used for building ships, churches and other edifices, railways, carriages, and dock gates."

The brethren who participated in the tree-planting activity unanimously resolved they would periodically visit the farm to check the growth of the trees they had planted as well as to plant more saplings.

After the tree-planting activity, the brethren returned to the residence of the Rentoys and continued celebrating the feast of our Lady of Peñafrancia.

During the fellowship at the residence of the Rentoys the brethren of Camarines Sur revealed that they were maintaining their Masonic tree parks, on which they would continue planting varied kinds of trees.



# MA-BU-TI LODGE NO. 329 HOLDS CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

by VW Tito R. Migo, Secretary

**H**eaded by WM Ruf Serafin V. Rosero, the brethren of MA-BU-TI Lodge No. 329 conducted a successful ceremonial tree planting on 1 August 2009 at the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Hall grounds in Masbate City. The ceremonial tree planting was also witnessed by the families of Masons and members of different organizations. They planted four mahogany seedlings just to kick-off the implementation of the Sagip Kalikasan Program in the Province of Masbate.

MA-BU-TI Lodge No. 329 has already made an agreement with RUSVAR Farm in Milagros, Masbate, to maintain a mini-forest with a total land area of four hectares as Masons' contribution to maintain the area's pristine environment.

Future schedule for tree-planting is being coordinated with the DENR for seedlings and technical assistance and with the RUSVAR Farm for the preparation of the planting site.



The Worshipful Master doing his actual tree planting.

VW Ernesto T. Valencia, Jr. does his share in tree planting.



Brother Amos R. Cuevas puts stakes on the planted Mahogany seedlings.

## Masonic District RVI-A Plants Seedlings in Roxas City

As the Grand Master's clarion call for the brethren to participate in our Grand Lodge's Sagip Kalikasan Program had been widely heard in the four corners of our grand jurisdiction, VW Arthur Young, Sr. (5th from right), the District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District RVI-A, led the brethren in planting seedlings at various sites in Roxas City. The officers and members of Makawiwili Lodge No. 55 extended their full cooperation to their DDGM.

Others in the photo are (L-R): Bro. Erwin Santos; Bro. Eduardo Santos, Jr.; WB Joseph Bernales, PM; Bro. Cabie Morente; WM Cesar K. Say Jr.; WB Edgar Sia, PM; VW Elias Conlu; Mr. Dioniso Molina of PENRO and party; Bro. Steve Borbon; and Bro. Ness Vargas.



## Masonic District R VI-A Complies with Circular No. 13

by WM Hernando R. Catequista, Jr., & WB Rogelio Q. Gacutan, PM

Masonic District R VI-A, with MW Justice Ricardo P. Galvez Sr., Memorial Lodge No. 209 as lead Lodge, conducted a tree-planting activity at Barangay Leong, Cabatuan, Iloilo on October 3, 2009. Members of other Lodges in the district attended the activity; they are Iloilo-Acacia No. 11, Kalantiao No. 187, Graciano Lopez-Jaena No. 194, and Quintin Salas Memorial No. 231.



Also in attendance were officials of the barangay concerned.

We are happy to have participated in such an activity, and we hope that such an endeavor will help in the arrest of the deterioration of the environment, for future generations of Filipinos to enjoy.

## Mt. Kaladias Goes for Green

by Bro. Dante T. Angeles, PDGL

**T**he brethren of Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91, together with their children and the Sisters in the Order of the Eastern Star, recently planted 150 mahogany seedlings at Barangay Dansulan, 15 kilometers from Bais City. This is in response to the present Grand Lodge leadership's call for the Masonic Family in our grand jurisdiction to help improve the environment by pursuing the go-for-green (or tree planting & growing) program.

Bro. Hector "Tata" C. Villanueva, Bais City Mayor, provided the seedlings as well as the area on which we planted them.

Barangay Captain Evangeline M. Vallega and members of the Barangay Council were around during the planting of the seedlings.



The family that plants together definitely stays together. The "planters" pose for a souvenir photo, with hope springing eternal in their breasts that the trees they planted would shelter their children and their children's children.

## Kanlaon 64 Brethren Participate in "Sagip Kalikasan" Program

by WM Gil Joseph F. Octaviano III

Two years ago we planted trees at the PNOC compound in Mahilam, Bago City. So, when we received our Grand Master's Circular on his "Sagip Kalikasan" Program, we brethren of Kanlaon Lodge No. 64 visited the area, to check out the trees we had planted a couple of years ago and to plant new seedlings therein. We also placed a billboard on the site to announce to the world our partnership with the PNOC in protecting the environment, and we strengthened our resolve to intensify our care of the PNOC "tree park."



Souvenir photos of the go-for-green activity of Kanlaon 64 Brethren

**MW LIM LO SUY: "As we plant our respective trees, let us also ever remember that we Masons are also like trees in the sense that we should continue to be nurtured by Masonic knowledge and fortified by the application of such knowledge in daily life."**

# MASONIC DISTRICT R IX-A BRETHREN UNDERTAKE TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES

by VW Jeremias T. Gayenia, DDGM

**W**e brethren of Masonic District R IX-A have had two tree-planting activities so far this year. We first planted seedlings along the highway from the municipality of Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur to the municipality of San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur on July 12, 2009 during the anniversary celebration of Baganian Peninsula Lodge No. 275. Then, in connection with the Sagip Kalikasan Program of our Grand Master, MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, the brethren of the six Lodges in the district, led by their Worshipful Masters, participated in the tree-planting activity held on September 21, 2009 at the vicinity of Lake Dasay, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur. This activity was in coordination with the Local Government of San Miguel and "MANOY", an association organized by the Hon. Vice Mayor, VW Angelito Martinez II, PDDGM.

Through the representation of my humble self and WB Aniceto Pagsiat, Worshipful Master of Baganian Peninsula Lodge No. 275, Municipal Mayor Nestor Loquias donated one lechon and a sack of rice, and the brethren brought along with them their respective "baon." "MANOY" contributed one big palangana of kinilaw. Hence, we had an enjoyable luncheon fellowship after the tree planting, which was participated in by the three District Grand Lecturers and myself, the six Worshipful Masters, about 60 brethren from the six Lodges, four Sisters, and 20 members of "MANOY."

We planted about 600 seedlings of a hard wood variety. We also enjoyed boat riding around the lake.



## Masonic District R IX-C Brethren Conduct First of a Series of Mangrove Planting Activities

by VW Bro. Nixon T. Go  
District Deputy Grand Master

**I**N COMPLIANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), our Masonic District, R IX-C, coordinated with the Regional Executive Director (RED) of Region IX, then with the PENRO, and finally with the CENRO here in Zamboanga City. Consequently, on August 18, 2009, the CENRO identified a 10-hectare open and denuded mangrove area located in Talon Talon, which is about 4.5 kilometers from the city proper and very accessible by land, as the area which our District could use for planting propagules of mangrove. This area can accommodate 25,000 propagules of mangroves, which could be easily obtained at existing mangrove plantations in Mampang.

On September 5, 2009, brethren of the five Lodges in our Masonic District (Mt. Apo No. 45, Bud Daho No. 102, Samboangan No. 310, Bud Bongao No. 288, and Juan S. Alano No. 137) conducted the first of a series of mangrove planting activities in the said area. On that day, we were able to plant 1,000 propagules. We got technical support and assistance from the DENR and its forestry specialist.

According to plan, we will conduct monthly planting activities until the whole area is fully planted. Then the area will be regularly inspected to ensure its successful rehabilitation in the years to come.

On September 23, 2009, the brethren of Bud Bongao Lodge No. 288 conducted a similar activity in Barangay Pahut, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

They too will regularly inspect the area to follow up the growth of the saplings they planted and to plant more saplings therein.



**Note:** VW Bro. Nixon T. Go enclosed in his report to VW Bro. Juanito G. Espino, Jr., Chair of the Grand Lodge's Committee on Sagip Kalikasan Program, a copy of Al Khalifa (The Steward) – What Every Muslim Needs to Know About His Role in Environmental Governance. This book was published by the Philippine Environmental Governance Project (EcoGov) of the U.S. Agency for International Development in November 2008. Bro. Edward Iblah Lim of Mt. Apo Lodge No. 45 is the Project's consultant for the Holy Qur'an and Arabic Language.

# **MD R-X-C (MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL) BRETHREN PLANT TREES AT BARANGAY BARRA, TUDELA**

by VW Loreto T. Bhagwani, MNSA, CESO IV  
DDGM, Masonic District R-X-C

**U**pon receipt of the Grand Master's Circular setting 25 July 2009 as the nationwide Tree Planting Day, I immediately set a date and coordinated a meeting with the DENR 10 Regional Executive Director (RED), Atty. Ernesto Adobo, Jr., in his office at the Port Area in Cagayan de Oro City on the early evening of Monday, 13 July 2009.

In that meeting, it was agreed upon that RED Adobo Jr. would send the PENRO of Misamis Occidental and the CENRO of Ozamiz City to the District Meeting at the Tropical Garden and Restaurant in Brgy. Banadero, Ozamiz City on 18 July 2009 at 9 a.m. The District Meeting would be attended by the Worshipful Masters of the five Lodges in the District, the GLIs, the three DGLs, and other members of the different Lodges.

Only a functionary of the CENRO, however, was able to attend the District Meeting. He informed us of two options for possible planting sites: (1) Barangay Hoyohoy, Tangub City, which was quite far from the center of the Province of Misamis Oriental and which was the site of a recent encounter between the AFP and the NPA, and (2) the seaside barangay of Cabol-anonan in the Municipality of Tudela, which is roughly halfway between Tangub City (Lodge No. 265) and Oroquieta City (GDCML No. 154). Naturally, the brethren unanimously decided the latter as the site of tree-planting activity.

The CENRO from the DENR then gave us tips on how to plant mangrove seedlings. He informed us further that we should do the planting from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. He said the DENR would provide the planting materials, including bamboo sticks with which to mark the planted area.

Three of the five Lodges in the district pledged the participation of 10 members each, while two pledged 15 members each.

I authorized WM Diosdado Manolo (Nonol) Dybongco of Lodge No. 265 of Tangub City and WB Phil Cinco of Lodge No. 130 to make the necessary coordinative arrangements with the Mayor of Tudela and the Barangay Captain of Brgy. Cabol-anonan for the details, such as the initial briefing on the tree-planting activity or Sagip Kalikasan Program, to be given to the municipal officials of Tudela, headed by Mayor Cha Cha Obut, and the people of Brgy. Cabol-anonan, respectively.

The tree-planting site was changed from Brgy. Cabol-anonan to adjacent Brgy. Barra since the Brgy. Captain of the former had to leave because of an emergency.

The day came!

Some residents and even school children helped us in planting more than 1000 mangrove seedlings.

In the middle of the tree-planting activity, however, WB Phil Cinco, who has roots in Tudela, received an urgent call from his blood brother, the Municipal Health Officer of Tudela, urging us to abandon the area at once, as it was a confirmed A(H1N1) affected barangay, with more than 100 students of Barra Elementary School suspected of contamination and with one confirmed case.

Entrusting our fates to God, we continued and finished our tree-planting activity, had a few group pictures taken, and immediately left the area. We had to cancel our planned fellowship lunch with the people of Barangay Barra.

Having canceled the planned fellowship salo-salo, we got out of the area posthaste. Our immediate concern was to wash up, take a bath, or at least wash ourselves with disinfectant or alcohol.

The A(H1N1) scare notwithstanding, our District (R-X-C), which is composed of Mt. Malindang Lodge No. 130 (in Ozamiz City), Gregorio O. Calit Memorial lodge No. 157 (in Oroquieta City), Palilan Lodge No. 239 (in Jimenez, Misamis Occidental), Don Lorenzo Tan Memorial Lodge No. 265 (in Tangub City), and Timoteo S. Uy Memorial Lodge No. 349 (in Ozamiz City), was able to complete its tree-planting activity in support of our Grand Master's urgent call for us to take care of and save the environment – a very laudable project, indeed!

I want to express special thanks to WB Phil Cinco of Lodge No. 130 and WM Diosdado Manolo Dybongco of Lodge No. 265 for their labor in the initial collaborative arrangements; to the Worshipful Masters and brethren of the Lodges in the district and the DGLs and GLIs, for their effort to increase the awareness of the residents of the community on the necessity of saving planet earth.

Our acknowledgments also to DENR RED Ernesto A. Adobo, Jr., his CENRO employees based in Ozamiz City, and the Barangay Captain of Barra, Municipality of Toledo. Because of their help, we were able to share our Grand Master's vision of taking care of the environment.

**Note:** VW Loreto T. Bhagwani is the Regional Director, DILG 10, Cagayan de Oro City.



## SAGIP KALIKASAN 2009, FIRST PHASE

by Lyndon Lim Abucay  
DDGM, MD RX-D & ARMM

**WE BRETHREN of Masonic District RX-D & ARMM conducted the "Adopt a Street/Park/Riverbank and Grow a Tree Legacy Project" at Purok Manuang, Purok Emmanuel, and Purok Mangga 2, Barangay Tubod, Iligan City, on August 1, 2009.**

WB Alan Buenaventura led the brethren of Maranaw Lodge No. 111; WB Eduardo Ulindang, those of Iligan Lodge No. 207; VW Buenaventura Alipio, those of Manticao Lodge No. 243; WB Stephen Monterroyo, those of Judge Valerio Rovira Lodge No. 257; WB Resnol C. Torres, those of Glicerio A. Lim, Sr. Mem. Lodge No. 222; WB Candidato Mitmug, those of Lake Lanao Lodge No. 227; and VW Musa Saruang, those of Indirapatra Lodge No. 387.

We undertook the tree-planting activity in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region X, represented by Atty. Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., Regional Executive Director, and the Barangay LGU of Tubod-Iligan City, represented by Mr. Pablito E. Paraan, Punong Barangay.

We planted some 150 bamboo tree saplings along the riverbanks of the aforementioned Puroks. With us were personnel of DENR – CENRO Iligan, headed by Mamacay M. Lucman, Al Haj., CENR Officer, and some Barangay Tubod-Iligan workers, headed by Mr. Ranscel P. Dela Calzada, Purok Manuang President, Mr. Danilo Panong, Purok Emmanuel President, and Mr. Oligario Jumawan, Purok Mangga 2 President.

The parties involved in the said project agreed that (1) the DENR Office would help provide the planting materials; (2) the constituents of LGU barangay Tubod-Iligan would maintain and care for the bamboo saplings; and (3) assigned officers and members of our Masonic District would monitor/check the growth of the bamboo saplings planted.

The leaders and residents of the three Puroks concerned were thankful since they knew that the project would not only prevent soil erosion but also provide them with additional source of livelihood.



## BRETHREN OF MASONIC DISTRICT RX-E PLANT MOLAVE, MANGO AND MAHOGANY

The brethren of Masonic District Region R-E, headed by their DDGM, VV Laureano M. Ledres, Jr., in coordination with the DENR, led by Regional Executive Director Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., planted 400 seedlings of molave, mango and mahogany on the four hectares allotted to them by the DENR on July 25, 2009.



# MD RX-F BROTHERS PLANT 70 MOLAVE SEEDLINGS

The brethren of Masonic District Region X-F, led by VW Ulito T. Kindom, DDGM, who closely coordinated with the DENR, headed by Regional Executive Director Ernesto D. Adobo, Jr., planted some 70 molave seedlings at Mt. Kalayu, CMU, Musuan, Bukidnon on July 25, 2009.



## TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES OF MD RXI-A

by VW Jose A. Lim, III

**I**n my capacity as the Grand Master's Deputy for Masonic District RXI-A, I coordinated with the Regional Office of the DENR, headed by RED Jim O. Sampulna, relative to the Sagip Kalikasan Program of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. The Regional Office of the DENR allotted to us brethren of the seven Lodges in the District some 23 hectares at New LOON in Mintal, Davao on which to plant trees; it also provided us with approximately 2,300 seedlings of lauan, narra, kumagong, almond, and mayapis.

On July 25, 2009, together with some employees of the DENR Regional Office and the PNP panel, who joined us for security reasons, we planted 1,800 seedlings at the said area.

We visited the same site on November 8, 2009 and planted 500 other seedlings, with Datu Bago Lodge No. 197 playing the lead role. This time we were joined by a significant number of DeMolays and Jobies as well as by some members of the PNP Mobile Group.

A lunch "boodle fight" capped our tree-planting activity.

**Postscript:** We will devote the next three years to nurturing the seedlings we have planted and sustaining their growth. Besides, our District will enter into an agreement with the DENR in Region XI. As a District, we will fund the cost of taking care of the seedlings for three years, hoping that after the three-year period the seedlings will have grown into strong trees.

According to plan, we will construct a modest Visitors Reception Shed, to be used by the DENR panel for briefing visitors in their Nursery Reforestation Program as a whole and the Lodge's Sagip Kalikasan Program. After the lapse of three years, we will further develop the planted area into a Freemasons Forest in Davao City.

MW LIM LO SUY: "The Sagip Kalikasan Program, which is supported by the DENR, is designed to increase the people's consciousness of the importance of protecting our environment and preserving our natural resources..."

# DOING OUR SHARE IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

by Arcel Dela Cruz  
Grand Associate Conductress  
Order of the Amaranth

**I**n Masonic District RXI-A a handful of environmentally conscious brethren, Amaranths, Eastern Stars, Jobies of Bethel No. 6, and DeMolays belonging to the Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, led by VW Rodel Riezl SJ Reyes, PJGL, participated in a round-table discussion on how to address climate change.

Sometime in April this year, VW Guillermo "Mawi" Lazaro, a PDDGM of Masonic District NCR-E, facilitated round-table discussions on climate change. As a result thereof, a nucleus group was formed, who planned and started laying down the groundwork for undertaking a climate-change advocacy in Davao City.

We Amaranths joined the undertaking. Together with the Masons, we undertook a series of training and coaching sessions to equip the DeMolays and Jobies of the city with concepts on, as well as skills in, facilitating advocacy campaigns. Hence, we participated in the preparation of training modules and conducted negotiations with recipient schools, one of which is the Emilio Ramos National High School.

On October 9, 2009, officers and members of the aforementioned Masonic youth organizations waged an advocacy campaign at the said secondary school. Their audience consisted mainly of 3rd and 4th year students. The Jobies, led by Honored Queen Airah Sardinia of Bethel No. 6, handled the 3rd year students, while the DeMolays of Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, headed by Master Councilor Ronald John O. Tongcua, interacted with the 4th year students. The Jobies and the DeMolays earned the respect of the students of the school.

Besides, the school principal, Mr. Bernabe Alicaya, was appreciative of the sincere effort of the DeMolays and the Jobies to share their knowledge of the effects and impact of climate change with his school's juniors and seniors. He also expressed his gratitude to the DeMolays for turning over to the school some sports equipment.

To the DeMolays and Jobies, however, mere advocacy is not enough. They are highly resolved to translate into concrete projects what they have been espousing in their lectures on climate change, particularly tree planting, the purpose of which is to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.

On November 8, 2009, the brethren of Masonic District RXI-A, led by those of Datu Bago Lodge No. 198 and their DDGM, VW Jose A. Lim III, conducted another tree-planting activity. Their target was to plant this year at least 2,000 trees at the Forest Botanical Garden and Nature Park, a facility of the Ecosystems Research and Development Service of the DENR located at Barangay New Loon

in Mintal, Davao City. This time, the brethren were able to plant seedlings of different species and thereby to enhance the botanical garden's biodiversity. Since a tree can, in its lifetime, store around one ton of carbon, the more than 100 forest trees the Masonic Family in Davao City planted will store more than 100 tons of carbon.

On November 13, same year, led by HQ Airah Sardinia once again, the Jobies, together with the DeMolays, had a close encounter with the seniors of Cabantian National High School, who were, at the time, already aware of climate change. The two groups' interactive session was enjoyable; the Jobies and DeMolays were able to answer the seniors' questions very satisfactorily.

Again, the school authorities were appreciative of the electric fans donated by the Jobies and VW Riezl Reyes. They and the seniors of their school became more aware of the noble undertakings of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the brethren of Masonic District RXI-A, as well as those of the Masonic youth organizations; for part of the interactive session was short video presentation about the Grand Lodge's Oplan Sagip Kalikasan and what it takes to be a DeMolay and a Jobie.

Nay, more than that! The Jobies and the DeMolays themselves believed that their interaction with their fellow youth had somehow changed their own perspectives, priorities and values, and that through their hard work, they had gained the trust of their Dads and Moms. Above all, they became more altruistic or other-oriented than before.



After planting more than 100 forest trees members of the Masonic Family in Davao City pose for some souvenir photos.

They are confident the trees they planted will store more than 100 tons of carbon.



## MASONIC DISTRICT RXI-B'S TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES

by VW Senen P. Abing, Jr.

**O**n July 25, 2009, led by my humble self, the brethren of Shangrila Lodge No. 196, Tagum Lodge No. 204, and Panabo-Dalisay Lodge No. 237, together with the PENRO and CENRO personnel, led by PENR Officer Glenn Adonis M. Rico, spearheaded the planting of 1,000 seedlings of assorted species – narra, mahogany and falcate – within a one-hectare area of Tuburan, Mawab, Compostela Valley Province. The spacing between the seedlings was 4m x 4m.

Approximately 131 volunteer planters from various organizations and students of Tuburan National High School joined us in the tree-planting activity.

The Provincial Officer of the DENR is, by the way, also the incumbent Worshipful Master of Shangrila Lodge No. 196.

On the same day, the brethren of Davao Oriental (i.e., Mati Aurora Lodge No. 190 and Don Salvador P. Lopez Memorial Lodge No. 276), together with DENR personnel, headed by PENR Officer Gregorio V. Lagura, planted, 1,600 bakauan propagules at a 600-square-meters mangrove area in Guang-guang, Dahican, Davao Oriental.

Prior to the actual planting, some DENR officials gave brief lectures on the importance of mangrove forests in relation to the ecological balance of the ecosystem; they also distributed flyers containing information on the proposed mangrove plantation. After each lecture, an open forum ensued.

Then the participants conducted a beach clean-up.

We will continue our collaboration with the DENR toward the successful implementation of our tree-planting projects.



The Masonic Family in the District exhibit their pride in accomplishing a worthwhile mission together.

# MD RXII-A Brethren Participate in Grand Master's OPLAN: Sagip Kalikasan

by VW Alexander U. Ampatuan, DDGM

**I**n view of the Grand Master's Sagip Kalikasan Program, which is designed to help save Mother Nature from the claws of forest denudation, we brethren of Masonic District Region XII-A, except those of Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267, converged at the designated area for the conduct of our tree-planting activity.

Some 20 brethren, a sojourner, two sisters, and four members of some brethren's families assembled at 8:00 a.m., 25 July 2009, at the Timaco Hiway (Crossing Bubong), Tamontaka Mother Barangay, Cotabato City. We planted 300 Talisay and Mahogany seedlings and provided makeshift tree guards for the planted seedlings.

The activity was previously coordinated with CENRO-Cotabato City, DENR Region 12, Barangay Chairman of Tamontaka Mother Barangay, RCDG-ARESCOM Philippine Army, and the Cotabato City Police Office.

All the foregoing offices sent contingents in support of the activity. Conspicuously present were Mr. Mohammad Mama, Jr., Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, DENR, Cotabato City; Bai Kabai Canaya, Barangay Chairman, Tamontaka Mother Barangay; and Bro./Col. Cristino Murillo, Commanding Officer, RCDG, ARESCOM, Phil. Army.

For their tireless effort in support of the said activity, I would like to extend sincerest thanks to the brethren of Bantugan Lodge No. 223, Shariff Kabunsuan Lodge No. 266, and Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, led by WBs Samuel C. Fontanilla, Delos A. Martinez, Jr., and Chowaskee B. Uy, respectively.



MD RXII-A brethren feel happy they have contributed their modest share in helping save Mother Nature from the claws of forest denudation.

## Tree Planting at Lake Agco

**T**he brethren of Rio Grande Lodge No. 192 in Kabacan, North Cotabato assembled at the residence of WM Antonio Ulangkaya as early as 6:00 a.m., July 25. At 6:30 a.m., they departed for Lake Agco, arriving there at 7:30 a.m. Later the brethren of Kidapawan Lodge No. 170, together with members of the Order of Job's Daughters and representatives of the Order of the Eastern Star, reached the place. The CENR officers and some staff members were with them.

The CENR and the representative from the PNOC briefed the participants in the tree-planting activity on the hilly planting site towards Mt. Apo. It took the participants some 30 minutes to climb to the site.

The 38 who participated in the activity were able to plant 200 varied seedlings.

Everybody enjoyed the fellowship lunch at the Lake Agco Resort, plus the



CENRO Sis Sophie Manuel with the group....



Worshipful Inspector Rolly Domantay  
OF RGL #192....



VW Bong dela Cruz with Jobs daughters.



Jobs daughters assisted by Dads.



VW Bong dela Cruz in action.



WB Rolly Domantay in action.

## Butuan Lodge No. 299 Conducts Tree-Planting Activity

by Bro. Arnulfo A. Idanan  
Secretary

**L**ed by WM Luis S. Montilla, Jr., SW Leonard G. Dubouzet, and JW Salvador V. Calo, the brethren of Butuan Lodge No. 299, Masonic District RXIII-A, headed by VW Arthur L. Ong Oh, DDGM, and in coordination with the CENR Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Butuan City, headed by Bro. Jaime C. Acebo, a member of our Lodge, conducted a tree-planting activity at Mt. Mayapay Watershed, Sitio Ugabang, Barangay Bonbon, Butuan City, last 25 July 2009.

The tree-planting activity is in line with the banner objective of the MW Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of the Philippines to make a difference by helping the society in the preservation of the earth's diminishing natural resources and creating awareness of Freemasonry's concern for the environment by way of a simultaneous and coordinated tree-planting activity nationwide.

Mt. Mayapay Watershed is a prominent natural landmark in Butuan City. It is considered as the highest peak in the Butuan City-Buenavista mountain ranges with an elevation of 675 meters above sea level. It has a total land area of 18,523 hectares, with 4,179 classified as alienable and disposable, and 14,344 hectares within the timberland area.

The reforestation/rehabilitation project is expected to showcase Mt. Mayapay as a model park and a strictly no logging zone. It envisions to increase water retention, thereby eliminating vulnerability landslides and occasional flooding along low land areas particularly Butuan City, helps ensure a year-round water flow, and sequesters carbon dioxide emitted by the anthropologic activities in the busy city of Butuan.

The project is a result of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by and between the DENR and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, with their responsibilities specified. Also, this is in line with the GLP's three-year tree planting program, from 2009 to 2012, dubbed OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN. The project also hopes to involve other government agencies, Academic, Religious and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

The major activities to be conducted are tree planting, maintenance and protection, monitoring, assessment and reporting, and feedbacking with skills training, if necessary.

Three hundred (300) seedlings were initially planted on the first day. The different species suitable for the area are African Tulip, Mahogany, Mangium and other fruit-bearing trees. Attached is a picture taken during the tree-planting activity.

Quarterly and annual reports, including photo documentation, on the performance and progress of the project will be submitted to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

## CENRO Bunawan, CENRO San Francisco, San Francisco Water District, Timberland Lodge No. 219 Jointly Conduct Kick-off Tree-Planting Activities

**I**n his memorandum, dated 28 July 2009, for the Regional Executive Director (RED) of CARAGA Region 13 based in Butuan City, which he coursed through the PENR Officer of the DENR in Pating-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, CENR Officer Ulpiano D. Dasilao, whose office is located at Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, stated that CENRO Bunawan and CENRO San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, in coordination with WM Charlie Cinco of Timberland Lodge No. 219 and the San Francisco Water District, jointly conducted kick-off planting activities at the Mt. Magdiwata Watershed in Ormaca, SFADS on 25 July 2009.

This activity is in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into and between the DENR Secretary, Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., and MW Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines, relative to the three-year (2009-2012) Tree-Planting Program dubbed "OPLAN: SAGIP KALIKASAN."

The participants in the activity planted 600 mahogany, acacia and talisay seedlings, spaced 3m x 3m, on a half-hectare area. The target area for planting is 10 hectares.

Stated CENRO Ulpiano D. Dasilao: "Aside from the co-operating partners, the following joined the said activity: friends, wives, sons and daughters of the brethren of Timberland Lodge No. 219; DeMolays; some members of the Sangguniang Bayan of San Francisco; and a few guests."



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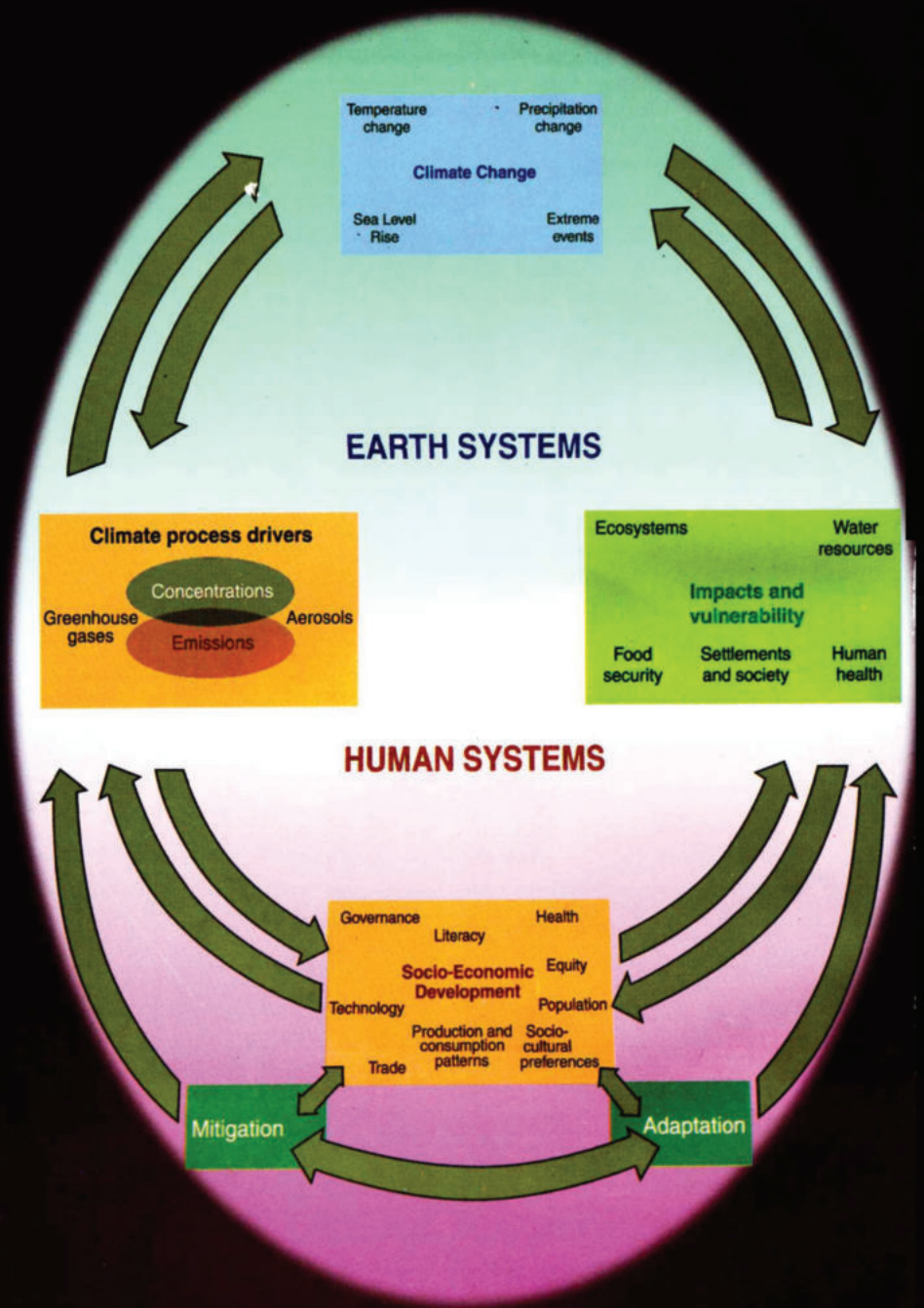


Diagram illustrating the system of climate change and locating the premium of mitigation and adaptation measures to guide us on how to value human intervention to reverse climate change