

2023

Galing Pook Awards

2023

Galing Pook Awards

MESSAGE

Warmest greetings and congratulations to the men and women behind the **2023 Galing Pook Magazine** featuring the finalists for this year's **Galing Pook Awards** who serve as paragons of good governance and resourcefulness at the local level.

I likewise extend my profound appreciation to the **Galing Pook Foundation** on the 30th anniversary of your pioneer award-giving initiative that has proven to be an effective and progressive mechanism in searching for and recognizing innovative and excellent local governance programs.

As a former local chief executive who had the fortune of receiving the Galing Pook Award, I understand the amount of honor and pride that this recognition can bring to our people and communities, not to mention the collaborative effort, time, and hard work that LGU officials and employees have exerted to achieve such feat. I thus extend my sincerest and proudest commendations to all finalists and applicants who have participated in this year's Galing Pook Awards. You have clearly shown exceptional creativity, innovation, and novelty in all of your programs.

This year's theme, "**Galing Pook @ 30: Leveling Up Local Governance Innovations towards Building Resilient Communities,**" captures the commitment required of our local governments in responding to the issues of our time – in addressing challenges on food security and nutrition, and in building resilient communities empowered by sustainable development. I am confident that the finalists of the 2023 Galing Pook Awards exemplify the inventive drive that pushes our LGUs beyond their comfort zone and raises the bar of excellence for local governance.

With this, I call on our finalists to continue to build on the successes of their stellar programs. Work with other LGUs, too, so they can adopt, localize, or emulate them in their respective communities.

Nawa'y magsilbing inspirasyon ang mga kuwento ng matino, mahusay at maaasahang programa na nakapaloob sa babasahin na ito sa iba pang mga komunidad sa bansa, upang sama-sama nating maabot ang pangarap na isang Bagong Pilipinas.

Mabuhay ang Galing Pook! Mabuhay ang mga pamahalaang lokal!



ATTY. BENJAMIN C. ABALOS, JR.

Secretary
Department of the Interior and Local Government

MESSAGE

The growing urgency of building climate and disaster resilience has never been greater for local communities across the Philippines. As frontliners in times of calamities, local government units are at the forefront of strengthening resilience on the ground. We at the DILG-Local Government Academy support Galing Pook Magazine's timely focus on local resilience initiatives as one of their key areas of focus. We encourage all local leaders to leverage and replicate proven, community-driven innovations that make cities, municipalities and barangays adaptive to intensifying climate impacts and disaster risks.

Our government over the years has provided strong technical and policy support to localize and operationalize the national resilience frameworks. But true success rests on empowered local leaders mobilizing citizens, civil society, academe and the private sector to co-create solutions tailored to their unique realities. It is up to the LGUs to not just plan, but to act on their plans.

LGUs featured in this edition of Galing Pook Magazine are exemplary in this regard. They are able to translate plans and concepts to concrete processes, systems, and services that make a difference in the lives of their constituents. However, we believe there are plenty more with the potential to be recognized. To do so, we also urge LGUs to invest in capacity development to sharpen their ability to manage climate and disaster risks. With proper CapDev, LGUs can better channel their recently expanded resources (as a result of the Supreme Court Mandanas-Garcia Ruling) into resilience priorities and further expand and pursue innovation in resilience governance.

We congratulate Galing Pook's finalists which focused on taking bold action to build safer, more sustainable and resilient communities amidst challenging times. Your innovative initiatives on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation and environmental protection inspire confidence that our efforts in localizing resilience efforts are paying off.



The magazine's compelling stories demonstrate what local leaders can achieve with vision, initiative and inclusiveness. May these finalists continue serving as champions and modeling the way forward for their fellow LGUs. We, together with Galing Pook, look forward to further championing local successes and while supporting a new generation of local resilience innovations now and in the future. May these success stories not be the peak of local resilience innovations but rather form part of a continuously ascending path towards an ever-moving goal of a safer thriving Philippines, one LGU at a time.

THELMA T. VECINA, CESO IV

Executive Director
Local Government Academy

MESSAGE

On our third year as Galing Pook Foundation's institutional partner, SM is very proud to be celebrating the GP awards with you once again. We have seen the progress the awards have made – Encouraging more barangays, municipalities and LGUs to improve their residents' wellbeing and surroundings. The awards now have a wider audience, fostering better ideas, strategies and solutions all toward good governance, people empowerment and disaster resilience.

The theme for this year's awards is Galing Pook @ 30: Leveling Up Local Governance Innovations towards Building Resilient Communities. Marking a milestone, it speaks of the strength of this program as one that has lasted years of changing priorities and pressing issues in our country. Even through a pandemic, the search for the Top 10 Outstanding Local Governance Programs remains an important vehicle for nation building.

On your thirtieth anniversary, I would like to recognize the past and present Galing Pook Foundation leaders, members of the National Selection Committee and the Board of Judges. Thank you for leading the way. Each of you were chosen for your own impact to the pillars of sustainability and resilience. Being part of this program is an opportunity, a privilege and an honor, to contribute to sustainable development of the Philippines.

To the award nominees and winners, the culminating event is the validation of your innovation, your hardwork and your drive to provide a better future for the people. We laud all the projects submitted, may you continue to build on them, share it with other LGUs and scale it for even more to benefit.

SM Prime remains committed to the Galing Pook Foundation's objectives and as a private sector partner, we are cognizant of the fact that sustainability and resilience can only be achieved when all sectors move as one. Collaboration and cooperation will elevate our advocacies to the heights we dream of, to bring peace and prosperity for the people and the planet.

SM PRIME



JEFFREY C. LIM

President
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.

MESSAGE

Today, we commemorate an impressive three decades of adaptive innovations and good local governance. Our theme, "Leveling Up Local Governance Innovations Towards Building Resilient Communities," encapsulates the profound journey of progress we've undertaken, showcasing the enduring dedication of countless individuals and institutions committed to enhancing the way we serve our communities.

The term "adaptive innovations" beautifully encapsulates the essence of this transformation. It signifies not only our readiness to embrace change but also our proactive efforts to shape it, ensuring it aligns with the diverse and dynamic needs of our communities.

The concept of "Leveling Up" underscores our collective aspiration to continually raise the bar in local governance. It underscores our unwavering dedication to improvement, emphasizing that we are not merely content with our current achievements but resolute in our pursuit of excellence. This commitment serves as a testament to our unwavering dedication to the people we serve.

As we embark on the next phase of our journey, let us remain committed to the principles of adaptive innovation and the pursuit of resilient communities. Together, we can shape a future where our local governance systems are not only robust but also compassionate, inclusive, and responsive to the ever-evolving needs of our diverse populations. Through our collective efforts, we will truly "level up" local governance, creating a brighter, more resilient future for all.



MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

Chairperson
Galing Pook Foundation

BRIEF HISTORY: THE GALING POOK AWARDS AND THE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The Galing Pook Awards was launched in October 1993 in response to a pressing need following the enactment of the Local Government Code. At that time, local government units (LGUs) were in search of exemplary models to improve their operations and better serve their constituents. Galing Pook emerged as a valuable knowledge hub to address the requirements of LGUs, shedding light on the possibilities when local government leaders collaborate closely with their communities through participatory governance. This approach emphasized the pivotal roles of people's participation and empowerment in the success of LGU programs. Mayors and Governors demonstrated that involving communities in their initiatives was not just an idealistic notion but a practical and effective strategy. They became credible ambassadors of sound local governance principles.



Recognizing that government alone cannot solve the issues faced by our country, especially among the marginalized communities, Galing Pook spearheaded the Citizenship Awards in 2015. This put the spotlight on civil society organizations that made positive contributions and impact within their communities. It perfectly demonstrated that good governance can only exist when citizens are empowered to actively contribute in the development of communities. It also highlighted the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* as we celebrated the positive contributions of citizen-led groups through the *Mamamayan Mamamayani* Governance Fair.



Today, we see more local governments and empowered citizens working together towards shared development outcomes. We celebrate this year's finalists from among LGUs and civil society. The programs that each of them have initiated will serve as models for other institutions to replicate. This is not an easy task, but it is possible through strategic collaborations across all sectors: public, private and civil society. As Galing Pook celebrates the 30th Anniversary since the prestigious awards for the Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs was launched, it remains committed to the work of leveling up our collective capacity to implement innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions that will create a positive impact on people's lives.

2023 GALING POOK AWARDS FINALISTS

1

**Reviving the Majestic Diversity of Bago Watershed
(Ridge to Reef Environmental Management/ Integrated
Ecosystem Management Approach)**
Bago City, Negros Occidental

2

1Bataan Seal of Healthy Barangay
Bataan Province

3

Fish From The Mountains: Bayawan Inland Aquaculture
Bayawan City, Negros Oriental

4

**LINKod Beyond Bars: An ICT-based Social Inclusion
Program of Cavite Provincial Jail**
Cavite Province

5

**Happy Home: Integrated and Holistic Rebel
Reintegration Program**
Davao Oriental Province

6

**Seal of Health Governance: Local Health Leadership
Approach as Response from Pandemic to Super
Typhoon "Odette"**
Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte

7

**Shari'a Atas Bitiara: The Comprehensive and
Balanced Conflict Resolution Mechanism for Muslims**
General Santos City

8

**Iloilo City Sports Academy: A Grassroots Sports
Program for the Ilonggo Youth**
Iloilo City

9

Zero to Limpyo Iloilo: Movement for a Province-wide ZOD
Iloilo Province

10

Integrated Coastal Resource Management Program
Ligao City, Albay

11

**Virtual Queuing Management System: An Online Platform
for Queuing and Appointments for Health Centers**
Makati City

12

Mexico Community Hospital: Caring is Our Calling
Mexico, Pampanga

13

**Saving Kan: A Love Story in Ormoc Bay
(Marine Mammal and Reptile Rehabilitation Center)**
Ormoc City, Leyte

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**Pasig City Prehospital Care and Emergency Medical
Services Medical Control Program**
Pasig City

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**iRISE UP (Intelligent, Resilient, and Integrated Systems
for the Urban Population)**
Quezon City

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**Quezon City Birth Registration Online (QC BRO):
Online Birth Registration Portal of the
Quezon City Civil Registry Department**
Quezon City

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Barangay Taloot Community-Based Integrated Approach
Barangay Taloot, Argao, Cebu



SM PRIME



Reviving the Majestic Diversity of Bago Watershed (Ridge to Reef Environmental Management/ Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach)

Bago City, Negros Occidental

"Reviving the Majestic Diversity of Bago Watershed" is dedicated to safeguarding and restoring the Bago Watershed which serves as a lifeline for the City's agri-industrial economy, household water supply, and the health of Bago's coastal resources. The City Government of Bago adopted an Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach to revive and strengthen the interconnected upland, lowland, and coastal ecosystems.

The enriched biodiversity resulted in restoring upland agroforestry and other farm products and river fish and shell species that had disappeared. It rehabilitated the lush forests, created a healthy and sustainable farming in the lowland, while the thick and wide expanse of mangrove ecosystem in the coastal area provided enriched livelihood for the fisherfolk while protecting them from the onslaught of extreme weather events.

This has resulted in the social, economic, and cultural empowerment of citizens who take care of their ecosystem and the environmental health knowing that their livelihoods depend on their active involvement in environmental governance.



1Bataan Seal of Healthy Barangay

Bataan Province



A thriving community is deeply entwined with the well-being of its residents. Bataan province is committed to educating its people on disease prevention and reducing premature deaths caused by conditions like stroke, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and dengue fever.

The 1Bataan Seal of Healthy Barangay program offers incentives and recognition to barangays that succeed in lowering mortality rates and reducing illness. This initiative has inspired barangay leaders to develop supportive health policies and motivated community members to prioritize their health and promote active lifestyles.

Fish From The Mountains: Bayawan Inland Aquaculture

Bayawan City, Negros Oriental

In a bid to promote tilapia farming and address inaccessibility of nutritious fish in upland areas, the Bayawan City Government, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the German Development Bank, has established inland aquaculture facilities in 19 mountain barangays.

Through the program "Fish From The Mountains: Bayawan Inland Aquaculture," local farmers receive training and support for food production and income generation. These upland fish farms have also evolved into popular tourism destinations, drawing in visitors from diverse regions.



LINKod Beyond Bars: An ICT-based Social Inclusion Program of Cavite Provincial Jail

Cavite Province



LINKod Beyond Bars, initiated by the Cavite Provincial Jail, addresses operational hurdles while promoting the welfare of Persons Deprived of Liberty. This holistic social inclusion program harnesses advanced e-technologies to ensure legal access, protect human rights, aid in rehabilitation, foster family and community engagement, and champion equal opportunities.

The outcomes include an improved Cavite Provincial Jail Management System, decreased recidivism rates, enhanced well-being and social skills among PDLs, stronger family bonds, and a positive influence on society.

Happy Home: Integrated and Holistic Rebel Reintegration Program

Davao Oriental Province



"Happy Home" is a pioneering program initiated by the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental to address longstanding challenges posed by insurgency. This comprehensive program took a whole-of-community approach to reintegrate former rebels into society.

By leveraging effective governance, interdisciplinary support, and community collaboration, "Happy Home" has achieved remarkable results. Former rebels who once lived in the shadows are now thriving as productive citizens, engaging in various income-generating activities. The program's focus on good governance and empowerment has not only eradicated insurgency but also sparked a tourism boom, leading to economic growth and job opportunities.

Seal of Health Governance: Local Health Leadership Approach as Response from Pandemic to Super Typhoon "Odette"

Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte

The Seal of Health Governance is a powerful response to two major crises: the COVID-19 pandemic and Super Typhoon "Odette." Launched in 2020, it initially bolstered health leadership in barangays, with participation surging from 50% to full engagement. The program's scope expanded, with youth-driven vaccination campaigns, telemedicine, and local medicine access. Super Typhoon "Odette" posed another challenge, but Del Carmen's swift response ensured zero involuntary hunger and a crime-free environment.



Economic recovery and tourism promotion were pivotal, with Siargao Island becoming the Number 1 Island in Asia in October 2021. Even post-typhoon, eco-tourism resumed quickly. The SOGH program showcases effective governance, community participation, and innovation, demonstrating how collective action can overcome adversity and foster resilience in challenging times.



Shari'a Atas Bitiara: The Comprehensive and Balanced Conflict Resolution Mechanism for Muslims

General Santos City

Shari'a Atas Bitiara in General Santos City pioneers a novel approach to conflict resolution by harnessing Islamic jurisprudence and Moro customs. Focused on matters like marriage, divorce, and beyond, it provides an accessible, cost-free alternative to formal legal procedures.

With a diverse team of mediators, including Shari'a counselors and Islamic scholars, Shari'a Atas Bitiara ensures not only swift resolution of conflicts but also the preservation of individual rights. This stands as a powerful tool for fostering peace and upholding family values within the Muslim community.

Iloilo City Sports Academy (ICSA): A Grassroots Sports Program for the Ilonggo Youth

Iloilo City



The Iloilo City Sports Academy (ICSA) is a dynamic grassroots sports program dedicated to nurturing young Ilonggo athletes, breaking down barriers to sports participation. It provides year-round training in various sports and extends its impact beyond the field, addressing issues like substance abuse and mental health. Supported by generous donors and private facilities, ICSA creates opportunities for coaches and strengthens bonds between parents and athletes. It fosters camaraderie among diverse youth, with scholarships enabling athletes to pursue both sports and education. With a focus on individual sports, digitalization, and coach training, ICSA stays ahead in innovation. Initiatives like the "SAFE Sporting Campaign" prioritize athlete safety and growth, empowering young Ilonggos through sports for excellence, personal development, and community engagement.

Zero to Limpyo Iloilo: Movement for a Province-wide ZOD

Iloilo Province

In 2014, Iloilo Province responded to the sanitation challenges brought by Typhoon Yolanda with the launch of a Sustainable Sanitation Program. This initiative, driven by unwavering dedication and partnerships, witnessed a remarkable increase in households equipped with sanitary toilets. By 2022, Iloilo proudly earned the distinction of becoming the first Zero Open Defecation province in the Philippines.

Aligned with Iloilo's forward-thinking development vision, MoRProGRes Iloilo, the local government joined forces with government agencies, private organizations, and civil society. The program's impact extended beyond sanitation, playing a crucial role in disaster response, combating undernutrition, and contributing to vital climate change mitigation efforts, and setting a remarkable example of resilience-building in action.



Integrated Coastal Resource Management Program

Ligao City, Albay



Ligao City, Albay's Integrated Coastal Resource Management Program is a community-driven initiative aimed at safeguarding coastal resources, enhancing sustainability, and improving livelihoods. Through collaborative efforts, it addresses challenges like declining fish stocks, environmental degradation, and the need for disaster preparedness.

Key strategies include habitat conservation, law enforcement, infrastructure development, and livelihood support. The ICRM stands as a model for inclusive and resilient coastal resource management as it successfully regenerated marine biodiversity while empowering local communities.

Virtual Queuing Management System: An Online Platform for Queuing and Appointments for Health Centers

Makati City

The Virtual Queuing Management System is a game-changing solution from the Makati City Government, revolutionizing health center services. With a user-friendly mobile app, residents can schedule appointments remotely, eliminating physical queues and enhancing safety.

With real-time monitoring and SMS notifications, VQMS enhances patient compliance and operational efficiency, marking a significant step towards a smarter and more accessible healthcare system in Makati.



Mexico Community Hospital: Caring is Our Calling

Mexico, Pampanga



Mexico, Pampanga's health program serves as a benchmark for healthcare excellence. Since its inception in 2010, the Mexico Community Hospital, complemented by its hemodialysis center introduced in 2017, has been a catalyst for a healthcare revolution. This initiative has bridged long-standing healthcare gaps. The LGU enrolled indigent households in PhilHealth, boosted healthcare budgets, and provided comprehensive healthcare services.

With over 1.4 million beneficiaries, the program offers critical services, including maternity care, cardiovascular treatment, and infectious disease control. The program's progressive policies, such as the no-balance billing system and financial assistance provisions, serve as lifelines for patients, alleviating their financial burdens and affording them the opportunity to recuperate, pursue education, secure gainful employment, and actively contribute to the prosperity of their communities.

Saving Kan: A Love Story in Ormoc Bay (Marine Mammal and Reptile Rehabilitation Center) Ormoc City, Leyte



The Marine Mammal and Reptile Rehabilitation Center in Ormoc City is a heartwarming story of compassion and conservation. This program is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating injured, stranded, and endangered marine mammals and reptiles. Led by a team of experts, including veterinarians and marine biologists, the center provides essential medical care, physical rehabilitation, and behavioral conditioning to prepare these creatures for their return to their natural habitat.

Through community involvement, educational campaigns, and citizen science programs, the center engages the public in marine conservation efforts. With a focus on sustainability, resilience, and innovation, the center has become a beacon of hope for the marine ecosystem in Ormoc Bay.

Pasig City Prehospital Care and Emergency Medical Services Medical Control Program Pasig City

Pasig City's Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services serves as a lifeline during critical moments, ensuring swift and effective medical responses, particularly for urgent conditions like out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, where time is of the essence. This initiative transcends traditional ambulance services, offering early medical intervention, seamless patient transfers, and real-time medical guidance from experienced physicians.

The program employs an integrated approach that encompasses patient triage, COVID classification, on-site medical care, and online medical supervision. Continuous training and meticulous reviews guarantee that the program remains at the forefront of pre-hospital care, delivering efficient and proficient emergency medical services to the community, ultimately saving lives when it matters most.

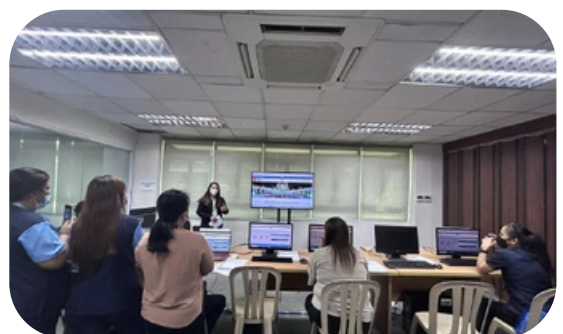


iRISE UP (Intelligent, Resilient, and Integrated Systems for the Urban Population) Quezon City

iRISE UP is not just a weather monitoring system; it is Quezon City's shield against disasters. By integrating data from sensors, weather stations, and engaged communities, iRISE UP provides real-time alerts and empowers residents to take timely action. With an impeccable record of zero casualties during severe weather events, it is a symbol of innovation in disaster resilience. Continuously funded and recognized for its excellence, it serves as a model for other urban areas seeking to enhance their disaster preparedness efforts.

Quezon City Birth Registration Online (QC BRO): Online Birth Registration Portal of the Quezon City Civil Registry Department Quezon City

The Quezon City Birth Registration Online or QC BRO is a groundbreaking digital solution introduced by the Quezon City Government to revolutionize the birth registration process. This innovative platform simplifies birth registration, enhances data accuracy, and minimizes paperwork, offering a more efficient and accessible service. It sets the standard for modern governance, prioritizing data security, and providing adaptability for other regions seeking to modernize their processes. QC BRO empowers individuals and institutions, ensuring timely and secure birth registration while streamlining administrative tasks. This initiative represents a significant step towards efficient and accessible public services in the digital age.



Barangay Taloot Community-Based Integrated Approach

Barangay Taloot, Argao, Cebu

They say "It takes a village to raise a child." The Barangay Taloot Community-Based Integrated Approach is putting this wisdom into action to tackle malnutrition and literacy issues among students. Their innovative Purok system involves parents in reducing dropout rates and academic struggles. Additionally, they encourage Backyard Gardening for healthier meals and provide a Remedial Reading Program for students facing challenges.

These efforts have led to improved academic performance and reduced non-readers, underscoring the impact of community engagement in achieving shared objectives.



FINALISTS

2023 GALING POOK Citizenship Awards

1

Espoir School of Life
Del Carmen, Siargao Island

2

Foundation for the Development of Agusanons, Inc.
Agusan del Sur Province

3

Health Futures Foundation, Inc.
Nationwide

4

Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Pinamungajan, Cebu

5

Mati Moms
Mati City, Davao Oriental

6

Negrense Volunteers for Change (NVC) Foundation
Negros Occidental

7

Project Blue PH
Ilocos Sur Province

8

Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI)
Nationwide

9

Sibog Katawhan Alang sa Paglambo (SIKAP), Inc.
CARAGA Region

10

Villa Berde Food Forest Farm
Brgy. Botocan, Quezon City

Espoir School of Life Del Carmen, Siargao Island



The Espoir School of Life believes in providing a holistic education that goes beyond traditional academic subjects. Their approach focuses on imparting developmental programs vis-a-vis life skills, fostering a love for literacy, promoting family involvement through the "Sweat Equity Program," and empowering students with financial literacy. This NGO also aims to empower the community through other various initiatives to meet their specific needs such as Community Garden, Community Shop, and Bakeshop. It works closely with the Local Government Unit and its Local School Board to share its model and make its program accessible to members of the community.

Foundation for the Development of Agusanons, Inc. Agusan del Sur Province

FDAI undertakes a variety of projects centered around a core theme known as the "Full Humanity Development and PEACE Paradigm of Development." Notably, these initiatives encompass the following programs:

1. Integrative Health Management System Institution
2. FarmASI (Agricultural Sustainability Interventions)
3. Integrative Entrepreneurship
4. Self-Help Approach – Children-Focused Community Development



Health Futures Foundation, Inc. Nationwide



With the vision that all Filipino communities and families achieve and sustain optimum health and development, Health Futures Foundation's banner program, "Alay sa Ginhawa at Kalusugan (ALAGA KA)," aims to address the inaccessibility and unavailability of quality and affordable health care services in marginalized communities using the community based approach and the universal health care framework. The three main pillars of the ALAGA KA program include:

1. Establishment of an infrastructure for access to primary care services
2. Implementation of a community-based health and wellness project
3. Provision of inclusive and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative Pinamungajan, Cebu

From a small farmers self-help group in the isolated Barangay of Lamac, Pinamungajan, Cebu, in 1973, Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative became a multi-awarded, heavily diversified cooperative that fosters empowerment to its over 150,000 members nationwide. The Cooperative provides assistance to its members through a diversified set of services and products, from financing, insurance, and mortuary aid, to financial literacy and agro-entrepreneurship trainings; from farm inputs, product consolidation, logistics, and market linkages, to food and relaxation needs; from garments and printing, to travel and learning visits. These services have improved the quality of life and created wealth among its communities and members.



Mati Moms

Mati City, Davao Oriental

Composed of motivated mothers in the City of Mati, “Mati Moms” has become the lead online group which provides a supportive social structure and right information about breastfeeding.

Now reaching to almost 1,000 mothers all over the City of Mati, including some mothers and advocates from other Municipalities, Mati Moms has created an avenue for mothers to express their concerns in breastfeeding and get reliable information about infant nutrition, creating more friendly spaces to encourage lactation, developing an enabling work setting, and transforming them into empowered mothers who can make informed choices in laying the best foundations for their children.



Negrense Volunteers for Change Foundation

Negros Occidental



Negrense Volunteers for Change (NVC) envisions a future where the Philippines is free from hunger and poverty. The Foundation's banner program is the “Mingo Meals Nutrition,” which addresses the critical issue of malnutrition and hunger among underprivileged children aged six months to five years old in various communities across the Philippines.

“Mingo” is a nutritious instant complementary food mainly made from locally sourced rice, mungo (mung beans), and malunggay (moringa). Their community-based and participative approach empowers parents to sustain the gains from NVC's program through proper training and support.

Project Blue PH

Ilocos Sur

Project Blue PH is a grassroots environmental organization that pioneers innovative solutions that transcend traditional cleanups and address the root causes of ocean pollution. By actively involving water communities in designing and producing eco-floating products using repurposed and sustainable materials, Project Blue PH aims to create a sustainable circular economy approach to the ocean pollution problem. Some of its innovative projects are SustainaBoat, AquaCage, and Ahon Life Vest.



Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI)

Nationwide



Since 1966, the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) is guided by its vision of “Touching People, Shaping the Future: Enabling Resilient, Prosperous and Vibrant Communities”. RAFI provides holistic development of an individual, while also ensuring their financial sustainability. Among its many progress across different thematic areas, RAFI highlights two of its programs:

1. RAFI's One to Tree (OTT) program aims to increase forest cover and improve forest ecosystem services while supporting communities in both upland and coastal areas.
2. Gabii sa Kabilin (GSK) or “Night of Heritage” aims to celebrate Cebu's rich heritage, cultivate a sense of identity and pride of place, and help preserve local culture and heritage by encouraging Cebuanos to visit museums.

Sibog Katawhan Alang sa Paglambo (SIKAP), Inc.
CARAGA Region



Among SIKAP's many initiatives, they have a focus on fostering Women, Children, and Family Development through their three highlighted programs: Sexual Health and Empowerment; Strengthening Health Care Provider Network with Enhanced Linkage to Community for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health; and Performance Accountability Oriented Engagement of Communities and LGUs for a Healthy Buenavista. SIKAP follows a Community-Driven Participatory Development approach in which people take greater responsibility and leadership in the development and protection of their community.

Villa Berde Food Forest Farm
Brgy. Botocan, Quezon City



Villa Berde Food Forest Farm emerged as a symbol of resilience and community spirit in the heart of Barangay Botocan, Quezon City, amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Utilizing available open spaces, they transformed neglected plots into thriving gardens, growing nourishing produce just steps away from their homes. Officially recognized by the government, Villa Berde has become a pivotal force in the implementation of Quezon City's food security program. At the heart of Villa Berde's endeavors lies a singular goal: to cultivate thriving communities, sustainable futures, and positive change. With each seed sown and harvest reaped, the organization moves closer to a reality where urban agriculture is a source of hope and purpose.

Galing Pook Citizenship Awards Selection Committee

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Reform

Ms. Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar
Former Mayor, Zamboanga City

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Mr. Miguel Rene Dominguez
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Mr. Kiko Miranda
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SUGPAT Program,
Ateneo Learning and
Teaching Excellence
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Assistant Director, Local
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and Local Government

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Former Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs

Ms. Ofelia Templo
Former Assistant
Director-General,
National Economic and
Development Authority

Ms. Veronica Villavicencio
Former Lead Convenor,
National Anti-Poverty
Commission

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the Interior and Local
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Ms. Maria Nieves Confesor
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Asian Institute of Management

Mr. Leonardo Montemayor
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Free Farmers

Ms. Tina Monzon-Palma
Officer, Center for Media
Freedom and
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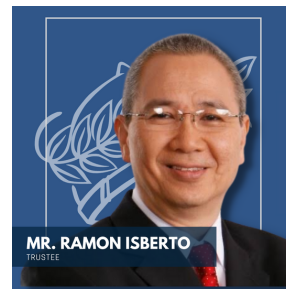
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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS



Trash to Cash

Trash-to-Cash is a nationwide effort in every SM mall allowing all visitors to bring their recyclables and exchange them for cash. It's available every first Friday & Saturday of the month, from 10am to 2pm. Paper, plastic, glass, aluminum/tin, cookware and appliances are accepted.



Plastic Waste Collection

SM Supermalls partnered for the responsible collection and recycling post-consumer plastics in selected malls nationwide. To avoid plastics in landfills and oceans, the collected plastics are recycled, upcycled and co-processed for waste to energy.



Electronic Waste Collection

The e-waste collection program is a collecting and disposal initiative for used/broken electronic and electrical equipment to avoid the effects of improper hazardous waste disposal on the environment. This is available in mall Cyberzone areas or mall info booths.



SM Eco Vendo

The SM Eco Vendo is a reverse vending machine for the return of empty PET bottles & aluminum cans for recycling. It offers discount coupons for SM Bowling & SM Skating tickets for every 1000mL. It's available in SM Megamall's Foodcourt and SM Mall of Asia's Food Hall.



Solar Energy & Recycled Water

As a proven responsible property developer, the SM Supermalls harness the power of technological innovation to achieve sustainability. Our malls have solar panels installed on roof decks and use recycled water from our sewage treatment plants to reduce electric and water consumption.



Bike Friendly Malls

To promote better air quality & active mobility, the SM Supermalls are designed to have available parking for bicycles, bike lanes, & emergency bike equipment & tools. Our bike-friendly features include a 18km bike lane in SM Mall of Asia, 1.6km in SM Seaside & a 2.1 ha bike trail in SM Pulilan.



