



Galing Pook

# Galing Pook Awards 2018

Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs





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# ABOUT GALING POOK

The Galing Pook Awards is a pioneering program that recognizes innovation and excellence in local governance. It started on October 21, 1993 under the joint initiative of the Local Government Academy-Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Ford Foundation, and other individual advocates of good governance from the academe, civil society and the government. The Asian Institute of Management carried on the awards program until 2001. Earlier in 1998, the Galing Pook Foundation was formed as a juridical institution to sustain the program.



## MISSION

We promote excellence in local governance through recognition, sharing of information and support of efforts to replicate best practices at the local level. We encourage partnerships among civil society organizations, private sector, and government agencies at local, national and global levels to improve quality of life.

## VISION

We are a leading resource institution that promotes innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence in local governance.



# MESSAGE

Congratulations to the 2018 Winners!

As we celebrate 25 years of Galing Pook, we also celebrate another auspicious chapter in the life and times of local governments and their communities that have won this year's Galing Pook Awards.

Indeed, this year's awardees give us hope in these trying times—when too many of our constituents have lost confidence in government as a whole; when too many citizens are content to condemn government for its inability to meet expectations, and not enough are willing to do their share; when too many people demand respect for their rights and forget their responsibilities as citizens; when not enough public servants are elected into office for lack of popularity or resources; and when too many Filipinos choose to merely witness events as they unfold, instead of helping to shape them for the good of the nation, we find ourselves looking for inspiration in places where real work is getting done, where impacts and outcomes are measured to test genuine worth, and where government connects with the governed in truly meaningful ways.

It is indeed gratifying when we find these sources of inspiration at the level of local governments, in the ten outstanding local government programs as well as nine finalists, and all the outstanding local chief executives behind them that we honor this year.

In like manner, our Jesse Robredo Leadership Awardee is a shining example of local government leadership at its best.

If all local government units simply did their jobs the way this year's awardees perform theirs, we would have so much less to worry about, and our people would be so much better off.

The awardees have met Galing Pook's criteria for responsive, effective, empowering, innovative and sustainable governance as well as local government leadership. We are truly proud of them.

But we know there are many more out there. It is our task and pleasure to continue the search and to let our people know that they can find hope all around the country, in local governments and public servants that perform their mandates well.

Once more, we in Galing Pook ask all of you—local governments, civil society, volunteer groups and local communities—to light those candles of hope by doing what our awardees are doing for—and with—their communities and constituents.

We congratulate and thank the Governors, Mayors and Barangay officials—and their partners in national government, the private sector and local communities—who make us proud of the work they do and the results they have achieved.

We thank the members of the selection committees, who agonized over their choices and came up with a grand harvest of outstanding local governance. And we thank the sponsors, the Galing Pook officers and staff, and the volunteers who helped make all of this possible.

***Talagang may pag-asa, kung ganito lagi tayo!  
Mabuhay ang lokal na pamahalaan!  
Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang Pilipino!***



**RAFAEL L. COSCOLLUELA**  
Chairperson  
Galing Pook Foundation



# MESSAGE

In 1993, the Local Government Academy, Ford Foundation, and other good governance advocates came together to hold the first Galing Pook Awards to celebrate local governments. Now, 25 years later, the awards continue to symbolize the power of innovation and dynamism to drive progress in our communities.

For the past two decades, the LGA and the Galing Pook Foundation have been working together towards the shared goal of developing safe, prosperous, and inclusive local governments. It is this quest that drives the two organizations and their partners to constantly look for ways to improve the capacities of local governments to deliver effective services.

In line with this mission, the LGA and the Galing Pook Foundation promote best practices through forums and information materials, one example of which is this publication. It is

our belief that, by sharing best practices, we cultivate a culture of ingenuity and vibrancy among our local officials and their constituents.

We congratulate the Galing Pook Foundation and its partners for their history of success and steadfast commitment to their goal. As we look to the road ahead, we are confident that, together, the LGA and the Galing Pook Foundation can continue to build communities that are truly in the service of the people.



**THELMA T. VECINA**  
Officer-in-Charge  
Local Government Academy



The Local Chief Executives behind the Galing Pook Awards 2018 Top Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs (left to right): Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte Mayor Alfredo Coro II, Valenzuela City Mayor Rex Gatchalian, Navotas City Mayor John Reynald Tiangco, Cabinet Secretary Jun Evasco, Vice President Leni Robredo, Bindoy, Negros Oriental Mayor Valente Yap, Iloilo City Mayor Jose Espinosa III, Loboc, Bohol Mayor Helen Alaba, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte Mayor Alfredo Valdez, Jr., Tagum City, Davao del Norte Mayor Allan Rellon, Naga City Mayor John Bongat, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno, and Galing Pook Foundation Chairperson Rafael Coscolluela at the Awarding Ceremony held on 11 October 2018

## BINDOY, NEGROS ORIENTAL: Ridge to Reef Program



Out of 10,975 hectares of forest land in Bindoy, only 1,420.92 hectares of natural forest remained in 2010 caused by illegal tree cutting and the use of *kaingin* method. In 1998, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) declared that the Mantalip Reef was devastated due to dynamite fishing, *muro-ami*, and compressor fishing with the use of cyanide. These alarming trends prompted the municipality to launch the Ridge to Reef Program to implement social and technical approaches to address the degradation of upland and coastal ecosystems by adopting alternative strategies for farmers and fishermen to earn their living while preserving the environment.

Given that 70% of its population are farmers and fisherfolk, the municipality launched a campaign to educate its constituents on the need to preserve the environment which served as their main source of livelihood. The program applied two approaches, upland resource management and development, and coastal

resource management and development. For the upland, farmers and other stakeholders were consulted on what crops to plant, and farmers were given cash incentives ranging from PhP1,000-5,000 per hectare to plant timber, bamboo and coffee.

In partnership with the DENR and the National Greening Program (NGP), the municipality achieved increased forest cover from 1,420.92 hectares in 2010 to 5,420.92 hectares in 2018.



Moreover, 2,828 hectares of timber plantations, 200 hectares of agroforestry, 620 hectares of coffee plantations, 125 hectares of native trees, and 85 hectares of bamboo plantations were revitalized. Its 75 hectares dedicated for cacao and rubber had an 86% survival rate. There was also an increased appearance of bird species which initially disappeared prior to the implementation of the program.

The coastal resource management and development efforts led to the creation of a 65-hectare marine sanctuary covering five (5) coastal barangays. To revive the Mantalip Reef, the municipality collaborated with the World Bank and mobilized PhP 1.5 million funding support for the construction of the Mantalip guard house and patrol boat. This was part of the municipality's efforts in providing 24/7 protection of the 46-hectare Mantalip Reef. The guard house was also expanded to accommodate a visitors' area and was later developed as an eco-tourism destination in 2008. The presence of the Black-spotted Snapper, commonly known as *aluman* (Tagalog) or *labongan* (Visayan), which had not appeared for more than eight years, was a positive indication of the municipality's success in its conservation efforts.

Bindoy also deputized 42 sea rangers in all six coastal barangays to monitor any illegal fishing activities. Local fisherfolk were able to coordinate with and report any illegal activities to the sea rangers and the Bantay Dagat using a telephone hotline. With the strict enforcement of the law, the municipality observed an increase in fish catch from 1-2 kgs in 2010 to 4-5 kgs in 2016. There was also an improved hard coral cover from 43.6% in 2012 to 59.5% in 2017.

In 2012, the municipality of Bindoy partnered with an NGO, Rare Philippines, to implement a social marketing campaign on marine conservation. Called the Pride campaign,



various activities were undertaken to help fisherfolk change their traditional ways of fishing which were harmful to the environment. These included games, information materials, and community events which were designed to promote deeper understanding on the value of preserving coastal resources as well as modify harmful fishing practices. Social marketing was incorporated in local festivities such as the Fisherfolks' day and Libod Sayaw festival to generate broad participation. The Pride campaign culminated with the creation of their own mascot called "Lovie", representing the resurgence of the Black-spotted Snapper following Bindoy's conservation efforts. The environmental conservation efforts of Bindoy municipality received several citations such as the 2018 Gawad Tugas Award for Region VII Biodiversity Conservation and Management, 2017 Ocean Hero Award for Best Managed Marine Protected Area in the Philippines, among others.

## CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: **“No Vote, Ibot” No More: Emancipation of the Piso-Piso Beneficiaries Program**



When elections drew near in Cagayan de Oro City, landless Kagay-anons feared losing their homes since their tenure was dependent on the incumbent city mayor. The culture of “no vote, *ibot* (evict)” forced informal settlers into patronage politics for fear of losing their homes since they were only given certificates of occupancy instead of legal land titles.

In 2015, the city government launched the Emancipation of the Piso-Piso Beneficiaries Program to address this issue, with the aim of issuing legal land titles to 5,036 households in 32 resettlement areas. The beneficiaries will pay the

acquisition cost of the property either in full or on installment basis. The amount from the repayment of acquisition cost given by the beneficiaries will be used to buy other

properties to serve another set of informal settlers. As of the first quarter of 2018, fifteen of the 32 resettlement areas were transferred to the city government, and 840 households have been given their own titles. As of October 2018, three additional properties were transferred to the city, for division and distribution of titles to beneficiaries.

Acknowledging that the housing needs of the city needed the collective effort and active participation of the constituents, the city government called on all stakeholders for the Cagayan de Oro Housing Summit to address the housing problem and synergize efforts of all sectors in the city. The summit





produced a Manifesto of Support signed by different groups that identified seven major areas of concern: (1) Security of Tenure; (2) Land Acquisition, Development, and Housing Construction; (3) Livelihood and Employment; (4) Health, Education, and Environment; (5) Public Safety and Peace and Order; (6) Infrastructure and Basic Services; and (7) Creation of the City Housing Department and Strengthening the Homeowners Associations (HOAs).

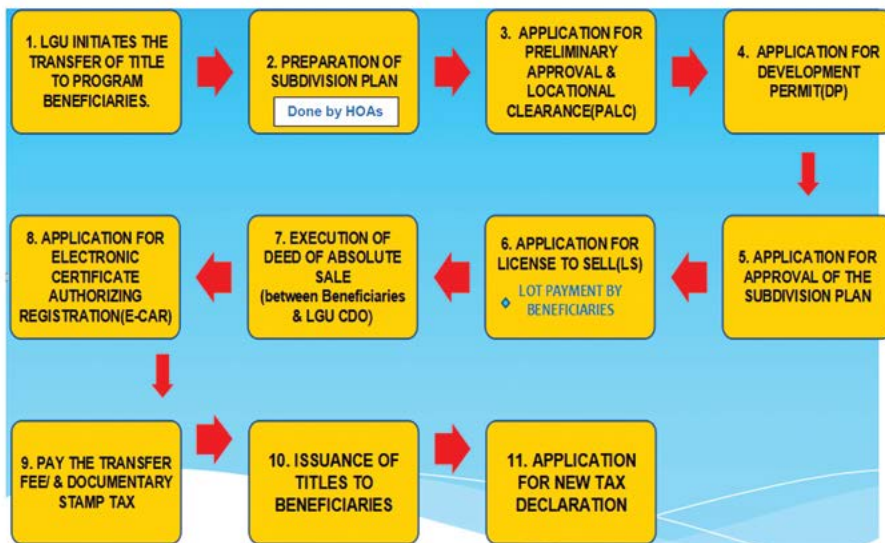
The results of the Housing Summit allowed the city government to align the objectives of the program to effectively meet the needs of the beneficiaries. Orientation workshops on the process of land titling were conducted to build support and understanding around the program. The program provided clear



procedures on the land titling process that guided program implementation. To achieve the program’s objectives, the Task Force for the Emancipation of Piso-Piso Beneficiaries (TFEPB) served as the platform for various government agencies such as the HUDCC, NHA, Registry of Deeds as well as representatives from local offices and other line agencies, to coordinate and work together in the processing of land titles. The TFEPB also mobilized experts

such as geodetic engineers, assessors, real estate experts, community development specialists, land-use planners, and researchers to provide necessary technical inputs in the land titling process. To sustain the program, the functions of the TFEPB will eventually be turned over to the City Housing and Urban Development Department.

Mentoring of homeowners association officers on the land titling process was also conducted to deter them from availing services of fixers. The involvement of the homeowners associations helped build ownership around the program and has resulted in the active participation of the informal communities in the program. With original land titles in the hands of informal settlers, the program has made informal settlers truly Kagay-anons who lead meaningful and dignified lives, and let them become productive partners of the city government.



## DEL CARMEN, SURIGAO DEL NORTE: **Siargao It Up! The Del Carmen Mangrove Management Program**



Housing the largest contiguous mangrove forest cover in the Philippines, with approximately 1,900 fishing households, the Municipality of Del Carmen depends on its mangrove for livelihood. Covering 27 kilometers in length and at least 500 meters in width, the mangrove block is the habitat of various species especially the endangered Philippine saltwater crocodile as well as the Philippine Cockatoo. However, due to the heavy reliance on these marine resources, there were rampant mangrove cutting, gleaning and dynamite fishing that threatened to endanger the mangrove ecosystem.

The Municipality of Del Carmen launched Siargao It Up! The Del Carmen Mangrove Management Program in 2013 in the hope to transform mangrove cutters into fisherfolk, and illegal fishers into boat guides in order to preserve the mangrove forest, and at the same time maximize its tourism potential. The program partnered with various organizations and the private sector in the operationalization of the program which includes capacity building activities, community organizing, educational advocacy campaigns, and funding for livelihood innovations.



A Mangrove Management Plan was formulated with the participation of various stakeholders to systematically implement activities that will address mangrove cutting and illegal fishing. The plan was also science-based as the municipality partnered with scientists to effectively preserve the mangrove forest. Another highlight of the plan was the monitoring and evaluation mechanism set in place to measure the success of the various activities.

Leading to its inception in 2013, the municipality and various organizations in 2012 conducted numerous information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign activities,

using various media including film to inform people of the hazards of mangrove cutting and illegal fishing as well as its long-term impact to the livelihood of the communities. To complement these awareness-raising activities, continuous organizing and training of people's organizations (POs) on alternative sources of livelihood were conducted in the nearby mangrove and coastal areas.

Through its partnership with people's organizations, the municipality conducted regular mangrove planting and rehabilitation in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The program also developed innovative approaches to mangrove rehabilitation such as the use of mangrove propagules with coconut husks. It was found that the mangrove had a 90% survival rate with the coconut husks instead of polyethylene plastic bag and had a better and stable root system. A nursery was established for a stable supply of mangrove propagules to support the rehabilitation program. The use of this simple innovative technology resulted in an average survival rate of 80% per area planted. Bantay Dagat activities also led to a 200% fish stock increase.

The program also paved the way for the development of the community-based mangrove tours that provided alternative livelihood to 248 beneficiaries, who are either illegal mangrove cutters and fisherfolk and those affected by commercial fishing. Mangrove

eco-guides were also trained in 2016 with the support of Shore It Up and MPIC Foundation for them to be DOT certificate holders. A Mangrove Protection Information Center (MPIC) was established to serve as the tourism receiving center or the jump off point for the mangrove forest tourism tours where educational and art installations were placed about the mangrove forest, its importance and preservation.

In addition, plastic paddle boats were provided to the illegal mangrove cutters with less production cost. These boats can easily be maneuvered in waterways because they are lightweight. They have cheaper materials that can be sourced out locally and relatively with lower cost. Its flexibility and elasticity allow boat makers to develop a more complex boat design which is more appropriate to the target fishing grounds.

The various initiatives under the program led to the drastic reduction of illegal activities, 95% threat reduction of mangrove cutting as well as 90% decrease in illegal fishing based on a report of Bantay Dagat from 2014-2018. Household family income rose from PhP4,000-5,000 in 2014 to PhP8,000-10,000 in 2018. Through the success of the program, the Municipality of Del Carmen received several key recognitions such as DILG Seal of Good Local Governance for 2016, 2017, and 2018; GGGI Climate Champion for Mangrove Management for 2015; and DOT/ATOP 2nd Best Tourism Event of Pearl Awards in 2014.



## ILOILO CITY: Iloilo-Batiano River Development Project



Due to rapid urbanization, the number of occupants along the Iloilo river bank increased and as a consequence, this has resulted to unregulated conversion of river banks into fishponds, indiscriminate cutting of mangroves, unregulated waste disposal and informal settlements. The Iloilo River Master Plan was formulated in 2003 under the auspices of the Iloilo River Development Council to engage the people to revive as well as preserve the Iloilo River. The council, which was renamed to Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council (IBRDC) and chaired by the city mayor, provided the venue for interaction and coordination of programs for the rehabilitation of Iloilo River.

In 2011, two river summits were conducted to serve as the platform for future consensus-based

action planning, decision-making as well as the formulation of the Council's objectives and strategies. Dialogue between agencies and stakeholders took place and emerging issues and integrated courses of action were discussed. Recognizing that people's participation and empowerment requires information, the Council embarked on a massive social marketing, information and education campaign.

For this purpose, the Iloilo-Batiano River Development project was developed. It is a collaboration among national agencies, non-government organizations, academe and the city government to rehabilitate the Iloilo River. It benefitted more than 50 thousand residents from 35 barangays living along the Iloilo River in terms of improved health, ecological

sustainability, and sense of security and livability. The project was also successful in the relocation of informal settlers along the river bank as well as in the removal of fish pens which resulted in increased fish population, prevention of soil erosion, and preservation of the mangrove's high biodiversity index.

The project also attracted the construction of circumferential and radial roads and the establishment of convention centers, hotels, and condominiums which spurred local economic development, created more jobs and livelihood activities, increased income, and improved quality of life. As part of development of waterway, the Esplanade provided the needed access to Iloilo River and brought a sense of pride and ownership among Ilonggos. Today, it serves not only as a major tourist destination but also as a venue for many outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyle activities as well as community assemblies.

To ensure the sustainability of the Council, a city ordinance institutionalizing the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council is currently being drafted. The proposed ordinance will highlight the roles and responsibilities of the city government, member agencies and stakeholders as well as the mechanisms, policies and procedures for the integrated management of the Iloilo-Batiano River System.



The Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council and its accomplishments have been acknowledged through various awards and recognitions such as the 2010 Gold Livcom Award for the "Iloilo River Development Projects", 2011 Special Award for the "Advancing the Iloilo River Development Initiatives Through Integrated Sustainable Management", among others. Among its international partners include the Rivers of the World Foundation, International River Foundation, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, CITYNET, Urban Environmental Accord, Brehmen Overseas Research and Development Association, and US Agency for International Development. The close collaboration with these organizations exemplified the strong public-private partnership that the project was able to achieve.



## LOBOC, BOHOL: Nurturing Cultural Heritage through Music Program

The municipality of Loboc had always been known for its musical heritage. Musicians from Loboc had been recognized and invited to perform within and outside Bohol Province. However, the municipal government observed the decreasing number of musicians in Loboc. In a bid to revive the municipality's musical heritage, the Loboc Music Program was launched to provide free education to the youth to encourage them to take up music as a profession. The program offers alternative sources of livelihood while

promoting youth development for its constituency.

In implementing the program, the municipality collaborated with the Loboc Youth Education Association (LYEA) composed of representatives from the municipality, private sector and community of Loboc musicians. The LYEA operates and manages the Loboc School of Music which was established in 2008. Barangays were also instrumental in the implementation of the program. In the program's initial years, the barangays contributed PhP 10,000.00

each to buy the initial set of musical instruments. They had continuously extended their support through the provision of annual budget allocation of PhP 5,000 from each barangay.

A multi-stakeholder management committee was created to further enhance the program. It is composed of representatives from the municipality, the private sector, the Parents' Association, Department of Education



(DepEd), the pool of musicians and teachers, as well as other sectors. The management committee meets quarterly to tackle issues and concerns involving the program, and conducts oversight in the implementation of the program.

Since its establishment in 2008, at least 1,436 enrollees to the program became trained members of the Loboc Youth Ambassador's Band in the Loboc School of Music. The cost of enrollment is covered through the pooled resources of the Loboc municipality and the LYEA. Free classes were offered to students from third grade to highschool. Mini-concerts were held to enable the students to apply and hone their skills as well as share their talent to the public.

Engaging local teachers and musicians to pass on their skills through the trainers' training and continuing education program contributed to the positive results of the program. Local musicians and music teachers were organized to serve as a pool of trainers. There are at least 30 musicians living in Loboc today who had been tapped to share their knowledge. The students also earn from their performances to augment and cover school expenses. LYEA partnered with different colleges and universities in Bohol Province to accommodate the growing



number of students of the Loboc School of Music. Of the 298 current members of the Loboc Youth Ambassador's Band, around 69 youth are currently provided with college scholarships from different educational institutions in the province. As a result, the literacy rate of the municipality increased from 98.9% in 2010 to 99.3% in 2015. It also partly led to the decrease in poverty incidence from 38.6% in 2009 to 24.7% in 2015.

The program significantly changed the lives of the program's beneficiaries by increasing their employment opportunities while promoting the municipality's musical heritage. The program provided employment to successful graduates which resulted to fixed income for their families. Having a stable source of livelihood did not only improve the people's well-being but also empowered them to become productive members of the community.

## NAGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR: Barangay eSkwela and Barangay Literacy Worker

In 2010, a household and mapping survey conducted in Naga City revealed that out of its population of 174,931, there were about 3,500 out-of-school children, youth, and adults (OSCYAs). The Department of Education (DepEd) implemented the Alternative Learning System (ALS) for the OSCYAs. The city government through its Naga City School Board (NCSB) also partnered with DepEd and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (then CICT) to introduce Barangay eSkwela Centers in 2011 which is Naga's comprehensive approach to promote education for OSCYAs that offers ICT-enhanced educational programs under the ALS in every barangay. Despite having easier access to these learning facilities, the

number of OSCYAs increased from 3,500 to 4,950 in 2013. Financial difficulties and attitudes were the main factors identified. Low priority was given to education regardless of subsidies provided by the government since feeding the family was more important than spending on education.

The city government felt that there was a need for an additional mechanism that would put literacy monitoring "nearer to the ground" and provide a more personalized approach to addressing OSCYA problems so that they can be encouraged to go back and finish school. To supplement the efforts of the Barangay eSkwela program, the Barangay Literacy Worker (BLW) program was introduced in 2012 to bring together dedicated literacy



volunteers at the barangay level to undertake literacy mapping as well as organize learning groups to encourage OSCYAs to enroll or re-enroll in the alternative learning system or to go back to formal schooling. The BLWs also serve as teacher aides in Barangay eSkwela Centers.

Before deployment, BLWs were given regular training using a "learning by doing" approach with experienced or accredited specialists and practitioners to capacitate and enhance their knowledge and skills in ALS and deliver better livelihood training for OSCYAs. With capacities on developing linkages and resource mobilization, they are able to access scholarship programs for ALS passers or provide job matching with local enterprises.





The program also incentivized the ALS delivery system by providing equipment and technical assistance on a 2-for-1 counterparting system to the barangays, medical and hospitalization benefits to ALS enrollees, and granting scholarships to the top 20 ALS passers each year. In addition to medical/health care benefits, ALS enrollees are also entitled to a 50% discount on hospital bills and medicines at the Naga City Hospital, free travel during Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) examination, and free printing of ALS modules during sessions.

As a result, the program decreased the number of OSCYAs in Naga from 7,465 in 2016 to 6,456 in 2017 which was a 14% decrease compared to the previous year. In terms of ALS passing rates, it increased from 36.9% passers in 2014 to 72% passers in 2017. Around 1,460 ALS graduates under the program are now either enrolled in various private and

state colleges and universities in the city or have secured employment in the private sector in the country or abroad.

Some of those who decided to pursue tertiary education have enrolled in the city-owned and operated City College of Naga or other TESDA-accredited technical vocational schools within the Bicol Region. The effective implementation of Naga City's comprehensive multi-stakeholder effort to provide much-needed education to OSCYAs had resulted in a significant sustained increase in passing rate of out-of-school youth and adults in the city.

In addition, the program paved the way for the creation of the Naga City Out-of-School Youth Organization (NOSYO), whose members are the out-of-school youth enrolled in the ALS program. Guided and supported by the BLWs and their respective Barangay Councils, the participation of out-of-school youth (OSY)

and the conduct of various community activities such as encampment, leadership trainings, fellowships and gatherings had greatly contributed to their individual development and empowerment. Members elect their own officials within the barangay and the city through the NOSYO Federation, the citywide organization of OSYs.

A tripartite memorandum of agreement was also forged between the Barangay Councils, DepEd Naga City Division, and the Naga City Government to further articulate various roles of involved agencies for the program. Institutionally, the Naga City eSkwela Project Management Committee designs concrete programs in order to address the educational concern of OSCYAs in the city as mandated by enabling ordinance; and monitors OSCYA participation rate and performance indicators to guide planning and budgeting by the Local School Board. The committee closely coordinates with line agencies and non-government organizations and maintains the necessary records on the effectiveness of the program.

Naga's program for OSCYAs clearly provides a comprehensive and inclusive approach in promoting education for all that enables them to pursue their dreams for a better future.



# NAVOTAS CITY: ACcessible, Holistic, and Inclusive Education (ACHIEVE) Program

Considering that children are its most important constituents, the Navotas City Government launched the ACcessible, Holistic and Inclusive Education (ACHIEVE) Program which pursued the city's thrust of inclusive growth by providing all children with good and quality education. Encouraged by the city's mantra "*Kasama Lahat ng Bata sa NavoTaas,*" the program endeavored to have children in good health and with proper education to fully become partners of the city in progress and development. Under the program, various early childhood education and health initiatives were implemented.

One of the program's innovative initiatives was the Kindergarten on Wheels (KOW) which utilized four mobile trucks to barangays in providing

children from disadvantaged families easy access to kindergarten education. KOW teachers use a six-month curriculum and an eight-week summer catch-up plan to prepare children to enter elementary school. The KOW had helped 1,546 children to complete kindergarten. From 131 in





2015, the number of pre-school graduates rose to 777 in 2017. It also received a special citation from the Department of Education (DepEd) in 2016 as one of the K-12 Special Programs (Best Practices).

The city government also expanded its Alternative Learning System (ALS) through Project GEM (*Gabay Edukasyon sa mga Mag-aaral wala sa Paaralan*) which engages community members to help out-of-school youth in completing their basic education. The Navotas City Youth and Kids Ministry (YKM) was also established to develop life skills of the youth. The number of students who were provided with financial and mentoring support under Project GEM increased from 236 in 2016 to 413 in 2017 and 621 in 2018.

In addition, the School Governing Councils (SGCs) in every school were enhanced to help the city government and the DepEd in preparing school improvement plans, raising resources to finance the plans, and formulating policies to improve children's welfare. As a result, there was an improved performance rating of the SGCs from 1.0 in 2014 to 4.0 in 2017 based on a 5-point assessment scale. This means that school councils composed of parents, barangays, and NGOs are actively supporting schools and their children with programs that help them stay in school and learn better. There was also a significant decrease in the dropout rate of secondary students from 7.28% in SY 2011-2012

to 0.41% in SY 2015-2016. The city also saw a graduation rate of 98.62% in 2016 from 94.26% in 2011.

To enhance the bond among students, parents, teachers and LGU officials, the city government introduced Pamilyang Navoteño Family Day (FUNtastic Family Day) which is held annually in all daycares to high schools in the city. Various fun-filled activities are undertaken to foster camaraderie and create meaningful relations among participants.

Recognizing that healthy children learn better, health initiatives were conducted to complement the city's inclusive education program. Among the initiatives was the First 1,000 Days which is a series of seminars for expecting parents on the importance of nutrition and early literacy. In connection with this, a Micronutrient Supplementation Program was launched to provide pregnant women with much-needed vitamins and supplements. Furthermore, a city-wide supplemental feeding program was launched in all 14 barangays in the city that targets pre-school children. It is conducted for three months, five times a week, with the support of mothers and volunteers from the barangays. This led to the significant decrease of the rate of undernutrition among 0-71-month-old children from 3.4% in 2013 to 1.6% in 2017. The ratio of severely underweight children progressively declined from 6.5% in 2014 to 4.9% in 2017.

## SAN NICOLAS, ILOCOS NORTE: Preserving Local Cultural Heritage



Convinced that understanding one's history and culture is the key to genuine development, the San Nicolas Cultural Heritage Conservation Program was developed in 2004. The program aimed to increase and deepen awareness in the municipality's rich cultural heritage and at the same time, capacitate and empower cultural workers and target beneficiaries. The program's slogan "*Cultural Heritage, Makakain Ba 'Yan? Maituturo!* (Cultural Heritage, Can It be Eaten? It's Taught!)", aims to address the negative perception that there is no means of livelihood in promoting one's culture.

To jumpstart the program, San Nicolas created its municipal anthem in 2004 entitled, *Ili Nagtaudak*,

which was sung in all important events of the municipality, barangays, schools, and business establishments. The program intensified partnerships with various organizations such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Departments of Education (DepEd) and Tourism (DOT) as well as other stakeholders in the production of instructional modules; preservation of old, historical structures; mapping of cultural heritage, and other related initiatives. The San Nicolas Cultural Heritage Mappers (SNCHM), composed of volunteer teachers, barangay health workers, and municipal officials and personnel, identified and documented the municipality's cultural heritage resources for development. It also assisted archaeologists

from the National Museum in the conduct of archaeological investigation at the *Daan nga Ili*. The SNCHM and heritage societies in schools ventured on programs to sustain the cultural heritage galleries in schools and barangays.

With the assistance from NCCA, a book was published on the municipality's folk song and dance, called *Agdamdamili*, which depicts the way of life of the earthenware workers and the steps in making clay pot. The book was lauded by the NCCA for its novelty and uniqueness, and was endorsed to form part of the Compendium of Philippine Folk Dances. In addition, the municipality supported the updating of the book on the history of San Nicolas by Atty. Manuel F. Aurelio. With the approval of DepEd, the book was integrated in the curriculum of the students to familiarize them with the rich history and culture of the municipality.

Under the program, the Museo San Nicoleño, School of Living Traditions, and the San Nicolas Damili Modular Production Center were established to conserve and promote history and the centuries old *damili* industry. Renowned 2006 San Nicolense of the Year Awardee and the oldest potter in the municipality, Paulina "Nana Paul" Rangcapan, serves as the cultural master. It is no surprise, the center has become a tourist destination for educational tours.

The program resulted in the revival of traditional industries and crafts, improved awareness on culture and history, and increased youth



participation. It had also strengthened the participation of interest clubs in schools, classrooms, and cultural shows. The San Nicolas Cultural Troupe, composed of elementary, high school, and college students, joined various festivals and competitions in the province and the region. Presidential Proclamation No. 1832 was issued on 6 July 2009 which declared 2009 as the Centennial Year for the Reconstitution of the Town of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, recognizing the role of San Nicolas in Philippine history and national development, and promoted San Nicolas' rich cultural heritage.

In December 2015, the conservation efforts of the municipality have taken a significant leap when five of the cultural properties situated in the municipality were simultaneously declared as Important Cultural Properties by the National Museum, namely, San Nicolas Roman Catholic Church including the convent and road-side Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross), Municipal Hall (Casa Tribunal), San Nicolas Elementary School (another Casa Tribunal), Valdez-Lardizabal House, and Archaeological Site at Brgy. 24 Sta. Monica (Nagrebcan). These declarations brought an increase in public awareness of the intrinsic part of the patrimony of the Filipino people and created significant tourism activities.

The municipality was further recognized by the Regional Development Council as the Regional Champion in the 2014 Search for LGU Best Practices with its cultural conservation program.



## TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE: Tagumpay Works Program

To address unemployment, the Tagum City Government through the City Public Education and Employment Services Office (PEESO) created *Tagumpay Works* which is a holistic and inclusive social empowerment program that capitalized on education, livelihood, and employment. The program aims to bridge the gap between an applicant's education, competencies, and employment by strengthening the city's employment facilitation services. Its main approach was to provide strong career guidance and employment coaching as well as skills development and capacity enhancement. The program's strategies include expanding reach beyond traditional clients, prioritizing services to disadvantaged sectors, employing multiple delivery channels, and utilizing the labor market information to improve overall service delivery and performance.

Activities of the program include the conduct of career guidance to graduating elementary students and their parents to assist them in the identification of suitable courses to take. This intervention at the early stage helped inform students of their career choices and to better prepare them to get into



their desired jobs. Moreover, the program also cascaded its employment facilitation services down to the barangay level through the establishment of a Barangay Employment Desk (BED) to reach out to more jobseekers in the city.

It also introduced the Philippine Talent Map Online Test that helps determine the applicant's competencies, strengths, and weaknesses in terms of their employability. The test enabled the PEESO to effectively refer

job applicants to potential employers, and tailor fit skills training, entrepreneurial training or livelihood assistance. Hence, more than 46,000 college graduates and undergraduates underwent career coaching under the program from 2015 to 2017. It also saw an increased number of job applicants referred to potential employers from 17,873 in 2015 to 20,576 in 2017. Out of the 20,576 referred applicants, around 18,931 were hired in 2017.

Year	Total Number of Applicants Coached	Total Number of Applicants Referred	Total Number of Applicants Hired
2015	14,429	17,873	16,584
2016	17,321	18,495	16,858
2017	14,742	20,576	18,931

TOP 10 OUTSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS

The city government was also successful in lowering its unemployment rate from 5.8% in 2015 to 4.5% in 2017. The job placement of applicants also rose from 16,584 in 2015 to 18,931 in 2017. It has also empowered 4,388 micro and small-scale entrepreneurs to develop their businesses through affordable loans. In addition, there are around 3,279 skills training graduates of the program who are either self-employed or employed locally and abroad from 2015 to 2017.

With the success of the program, the Tagum City Government was able to establish poverty alleviation mechanisms through jobs, education and livelihood as well as a platform for civic engagement and people empowerment. It was also noted that LGUs across the country and other international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank have invited Tagum City to share their best practices in implementing the Tagumpay Works program. The effort of the PEESO was recognized as a



Hall of Fame Awardee as Best PESO Office in the Philippines in 2015. The program served as a benchmark for LGUs to have independence to put together appropriate infrastructure to meet the employment needs of their constituents.

Year	Total Number of Skills Training Program Beneficiaries	Total Number of Graduates with Government Service Contract	Total Number of Graduates with Private Sector Employment	Total Number of Graduates with Foreign Employment
2015	1,615	30	573	8
2016	938	21	348	34
2017	726	59	184	27



# VALENZUELA CITY: Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan



To create a peaceful and orderly city, the Valenzuela City Government enjoins volunteer organizations through the City Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan to help ensure public order and safety. The city has 788 police personnel but with a city population of more than 640,000, one police personnel had to serve 810 people (1:810). This was way more than the national ideal ratio of one police personnel for every 500 people (1:500). To augment the efforts of the city police, the program laid out community-driven security initiatives where volunteers were the front runners in keeping peace and order in the city.

A Public Order and Safety Group coordinates and

monitors the plans and activities of the volunteer groups. It organizes schedules, standardizes processes, provides training, and identifies logistical needs of the volunteer groups. The members of the Group include national agencies such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and other local councils such as the Anti-Drug Abuse Council (VADAC) and the Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) through the Child Protection Center. They sit as members of the program to ensure coordination of plans and activities and provide technical assistance. The volunteers are also properly identified through their respective uniforms and IDs. Basic logistical requirements by the volunteers are provided

by the city government such as equipment for communications, supplies, and megaphones.

One of the security initiatives is *Bantay Bayan* composed of 2,300 volunteers. They serve as the citizen's arm in ensuring that city and barangay ordinances are followed. Organized into teams to patrol their assigned areas 24/7, *Bantay Bayan* volunteers were successful in curbing illicit activities such as theft, gambling, drinking sprees, and other disorderly conduct. Meanwhile, around 266 volunteers were part of Task Force Disiplina City Ordinance Police which are deputized and authorized to issue ordinance violation receipt to violators of anti-littering, sidewalk obstruction, curfew, and videoke ordinances. In addition, about



TOP 10 OUTSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS

4,450 volunteers under Task Force on Fraternities and Gangs Intervention and Prevention (TAFGIP) are tasked to settle disputes among fraternities and gangs.

Through these initiatives, the city's crime index decreased from 144.83 in 2016 to 110.74 in 2017 (against persons and property per 100,000 population). The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) also recognized Valenzuela City in having the Best Police Station in 2018.

The program also created a Traffic Management Office manned by traffic aides and pedestrian enforcers who are assigned in every street and major intersection to enforce traffic rules, protect the pedestrians, and manage the smooth flow of traffic. Random spot checks are conducted to prevent the incidence of bribery. CCTVs managed by the Valenzuela City Command and Coordinating Center (VCC3) were also installed in strategic locations to effectively respond to road incidents. It also enjoined 280 senior citizens under *Bantay Estudyante*

who are stationed at different elementary schools in the city to ensure that elementary students cross the streets safely and they are accompanied by their parents or guardians. These initiatives resulted in the decreasing number of traffic incidents from 1,782 to 1,677. The number of alerted incidents through CCTV declined from 100 to 9.

An Anti-Squatting Unit composed of 100 volunteers are tasked to monitor disaster-prone areas in the city for illegal settlers to prevent them from squatting there. There are also *Bantay Ilog* volunteers who regularly keep the cleanliness of the rivers and other water system and prevent people from dumping garbage. In the event of fires, *Bantay Sunog* comprised of 2,704 volunteer community fire fighters are the first line of defenders who are trained and equipped with fire extinguishers. Hence, the number of fire incidence among informal settlers decreased from 62 in 2015 to 43 in 2016.

In line with the volunteer program, innovative projects are launched to create

awareness against illegal drugs as well as threats to security and public safety. This had resulted in six barangays in the city to be declared drug-cleared by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Furthermore, 25 out of 33 barangays had been confirmed as drug-free workplace. These are the results of active participation of barangay officials and constituents in the anti-drug program of the Valenzuela city government.

The program helped build the trust of the constituents in the city government and propelled Valenzuela City as the second safest city in Southeast Asia, next to Singapore, with a safety index of 74.79 in 2018 based on Numbeo.com. As such, Valenzuela City's comprehensive safety and security plan proved that public order and safety could be achieved with the active involvement of the community as well as cultivating people's sense of ownership and accountability to go hand-in-hand with the LGU in building peace and order in their area.



## CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA: Integrating Sama-Bajaus in Cabanatuan

In response to the plight of migrant Sama-Bajaus, an indigenous group from the islands of Sulu, who had no decent, permanent residence and regular source of income, the Cabanatuan City Government launched the Comprehensive Program for Sama-Bajaus in 2012. Through the initiative of the Cabanatuan City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), the Core Shelter Assistance Project (CSAP) was established to develop a relocation site for the Sama-Bajaus in a 19,478 sqm. lot in Brgy. Bakod Bayan.

The city government partnered with the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development



(DSWD) to complement the housing project with income-generating opportunities and life skills training as well as the creation of child-friendly centers, and literacy activities for children. In February 2014, around 208 families (121 Sama-Bajau and 87 non-Bajau households) received core shelter assistance checks amounting to PhP70,000 each, intended for the construction of permanent concrete houses. They also received an additional PhP2,520.00 cash for work assistance for the labor that they rendered in helping construct their own houses.

Through increased access to basic services, Sama-Bajaus gained their sense of identity as Cabanatuëños. By uplifting their living conditions away from their nomadic lifestyle in the city streets through the provision of safe and permanent homes, the Sama-Bajaus were able to lead dignified and meaningful lives. It is also notable that while the DSWD implements a similar program for Sama-Bajaus since 2011, it is only in Cabanatuan City that they were provided with permanent shelters through the CSAP which effectively assimilates them as part of the city. As a result, the Cabanatuan City Government was conferred with the Makabagong Teknolohiya Panlipunan Award during the DSWD Region III 67th Anniversary for the implementation of the comprehensive program for Sama-Bajaus.

## CEBU PROVINCE: Special Comprehensive Insurance Program for Agri-Fishery Projects and Stakeholders

The agri-fishery sector has been identified as one of the most vulnerable sectors of the economy, greatly affected by climate change as in the case in Cebu Province, having been badly hit by El Niño, typhoons, and pest infestations from 2014 to 2016. To secure the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolk against these calamities, the provincial government, in partnership with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, developed a comprehensive insurance system that protects the agri-fishery sector from the damaging effects of climate change and other natural calamities.

To achieve the goal of food sufficiency, the program was expanded to include all projects and activities that promote agricultural development and production in the province.

The Cebu Provincial Government shoulders 100% of the insurance premium cost while the participating cities and municipalities review and validate the insurance applications of the beneficiaries. Moreover, the farmers and fishermen could also avail of the Accident Dismemberment Security Scheme (ADSS) for only PhP35 insurance premium payment that entitles them to PhP50,000 indemnity in case of death or physical disability. The program further offers PhP5,000 medical reimbursement for those who were hospitalized, PhP2,000 burial assistance, and PhP50,000 death benefits. Since 2014, at least 34,069 farmers and fisherfolk benefitted from the program.

Since its inception, the program was reviewed and amended on several

occasions based on the feedback of beneficiaries. These changes include expanding the coverage of the insurance program from restricting to one commodity per farmer during its early implementation to allowing farmers and fisherfolk to insure two or more crops per cropping season. For the program to be sustainable, the provincial government is exploring ways how it could form part of the calamity funds of municipalities and cities. According to beneficiaries, the insurance program eases their worries and encourages them to continue to plant crops despite the frequency of natural disasters in the province.



## BARANGAY HINGATUNGAN, SILAGO, SOUTHERN LEYTE: HILUTA, Performance Beyond Age

Considered as a big barangay with 2,972 constituents, Barangay Hingatungan was listed as the second among 15 barangays in Silago, Southern Leyte to have the most number of dispute cases. Both the barangay and its constituents spent a lot of resources for the judicial process under the local trial court. To address the high cost and maximize the Katarungang Pambarangay law which places responsibility to barangays in settling disputes, Barangay Hingatungan partnered with the senior citizens' association to establish the Hingatungan Lupong Tagapamayapa (HILUTA) program. The program is a collaborative effort that enjoins the elderly in the barangay to exercise their expertise in dispute resolution as members of the Katarungang Pambarangay. Through the program, the senior citizens play a significant role in achieving peace, justice, and harmony among the members of the community.



For an effective and efficient mediation process, one innovation highlighted by the program is the conduct of home visitation by the Lupong Chairman to disputing parties to collect information. This strategy is held before the mediation/ conciliation proceedings for the Chairman to study the subject case as well as the parties involved, acquire the background of the dispute, and reinforce better understanding of the case by seeking the "third side of the story". This process ensures impartiality and neutrality in the delivery of the final verdict of the dispute. Another innovation is the mandatory counseling between the parties where the counseling focuses on the importance of having a sense of solidarity among each member in the community. Advantages of settling the disputes amicably as well as the disadvantages when the case would be forwarded to the higher court were also discussed.

As a result, the barangay gained 100% case solution rate with around 188 cases settled. A manifestation of the people's strong support of the program is their increased attendance during the Lupong Tagapamayapa-initiated information, education and communication (IEC) activities to promote the Katarungang Pambarangay and other relevant laws. Moreover, the Annual Consultative Assembly on Katarungang Pambarangay Implementation held every October proves that the residents of the barangay already recognized the benefits of the program. Because of the program's outstanding accomplishments and unique character, it was conferred the Hall of Fame award during the DILG's 2017 Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards.

## KAPATAGAN, LANA O DEL SUR:

### Poonan O Kauyag-uyag (Root to Life): Changing Cultural Mindsets, Ending Home-based Deliveries

Constituents of the Municipality of Kapatagan who were predominantly Muslims practice traditional birthing methods that endanger both the lives of pregnant mothers and their newborns. Around 80% of home-based deliveries were performed by traditional birth attendants (*pandays* or *hilots*) since Muslim beliefs dictate that birthing is a private matter. To strengthen and empower the Kapatagan Local Health Board and promote facility-based deliveries, the municipality launched the *Poonan O Kauyag-uyag* (Root to Life) Total Approach to Maternal and Child Care program. It hopes to change traditional mindsets by providing accessible health services to all mothers and ensure the safe and successful delivery of newborn babies. Hence, the program implemented various strategies and

advocacy campaigns to promote women's sexual and reproductive health rights, as well as the development of maternal and child care initiatives.

In institutionalizing these initiatives, the Reproductive Health Ordinance and the Gender and Development Code were formulated and implemented. These ordinances place emphasis on shared parenthood as well as the role of fathers in reproductive health. The Buntis Hotline was also set up to ensure that needs of pregnant mothers are promptly addressed. In addition, all *hilots* and *pandays* were identified and encouraged to attend workshops, and are gradually being engaged as health partners. Incentives were also given to *hilots* and *pandays* who advise pregnant mothers to consult

at the Kapatagan medical facility.

Pregnant mothers who deliver at the medical facility also receive a cash incentive of PhP 1,500, a sack of rice, a dozen of cloth diapers, and free birth registration for their babies.

To change cultural mindsets, Muslim religious leaders were enjoined in explaining to constituents that childbirth in medical facilities is not *haram* (religiously unacceptable) and that family planning does not contradict Islamic teachings. The program resulted in the decrease in home-based deliveries and increase in facility-based deliveries. It also led to zero maternal mortality rates from 2015 to 2017 and zero infant mortality rates from 2015 to 2016.



## NAGA CITY, CAMARINES SUR: Comprehensive Persons with Disability (PWDs) Rehabilitation Program with Focus on Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Approach

Various projects of the Naga City Government were implemented for its constituents with disabilities. However, it had to address the challenge of delivering these services to the poor. Out of 3,410 recorded persons with disability (PWDs) in the city, around 1,955 PWDs need rehabilitation services but could not afford the services from private health facilities or practitioners. Hence, the city government launched in 2014 the Comprehensive PWD Rehabilitation Program with focus on community-based rehabilitation (CBR) approach. It intends to improve the quality of life of PWDs and their families by allowing them to meet their basic needs and ensuring inclusion, participation, and access to health and social services as well as education and livelihood programs.

In the development of the program, the city government obtained technical support from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Rehabilitation Sciences (CRS), and the Parents Advocate for Visually-Impaired Children (PAVIC) in providing capability development sessions in PWD rehabilitation services. It also led to the development of community-based screening and assessment tools where red-flagged PWDs, who are in critical need of medical attention, were immediately referred to partner medical practitioners or scheduled for constant visits/rehabilitation by a community-based rehabilitation specialist (CBRS).

The program also introduced home-based patient management and basic therapy services as its main innovation. One CBRS is assigned per barangay



who is tasked to provide needed services to PWDs as well as their caregivers, map and conduct individual assessment of PWDs in coordination with the City Health Office and the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO), and facilitate access to further rehabilitation services offered by the city government and its partner organizations. As a result, a total of 1,955 PWDs directly benefitted from the program with around 146 PWDs given assistive devices. A 2017 UST survey among 123 CBR beneficiaries found that 74% were satisfied with the personalized rehabilitation management they received, 44% had reported improved health conditions, and 78% of PWD families had access or know how to access available resources in the city and their immediate community.

## QUEZON PROVINCE: The First 1,000 Days of Life Program

Quezon Province has a record of high maternal and infant mortality rate of 75 and 6.76 respectively among the five provinces in the CALABARZON region. The health figures of the province also indicate high rate of malnutrition. To address these alarming health figures, the Quezon Provincial Government formulated and implemented its First 1,000 Days of Life (Q1K) program in 2015. It envisions a generation of healthy and productive citizens through the provision of consistent optimal preventive health care services and interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The Q1K program employs a comprehensive approach in addressing the health needs of the unborn child until the child reaches the age of two.

The program targeted 1,000 pregnant mothers aged 19 and above in their first trimester and living below poverty

line, and encouraged them to seek consultation in government health facilities. They were provided with pre-natal checkups, ultrasound, and laboratory packages. The first province-wide *Buntis* Congress was also held for the beneficiaries that highlighted the first 1,000 days of their infants and encouraged the strong partnership and involvement of mothers and fathers in caring for their babies. These services were complemented with postnatal packages and exclusive breastfeeding program, all monitored and recorded by Q1K coordinators. A record of improved adherence to the intake of vitamins, eating of healthy food, and clean environment was observed among the beneficiaries as a result of the interventions provided by the initiative.

The provincial government also partnered with national agencies that



can partner with the supplementary needs of the Q1K program such as the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), as well as with PhilHealth for the enrollment to maternal package of beneficiaries.

Learning from the Q1K program which is considered the first of its kind in the country and by far the most comprehensive in addressing the needs of the first 1,000 days of life, the DOH, through its National Nutrition Council (NNC), patterned the Early Childhood Care and Development Intervention Package for the First 1,000 Days (F1K) program, similar to the provisions of the Q1K program.

## SAN FELIPE, ZAMBALES: Community Health through the HATID (Health And Treatment Innovation Drive) Kalusugan

The Municipality of San Felipe developed a comprehensive community health program through the Health and Treatment Innovation Drive (HATID) Kalusugan in the hopes of delivering accessible and efficient health services to its constituents. The municipality expanded and institutionalized the local health board through a Sangguniang Bayan ordinance in 2015. Municipal health action plans were formulated and integrated into barangay health plans, local health investment plan, and the health and sanitation code. In addition, 30% of the annual municipal budget was allocated for health.



To operationalize the program, each barangay is assigned with one midwife, and every 20 households are assigned with one barangay health worker. The program further provides nutrition monitoring, blood pressure/blood sugar monitoring, good grooming, wellness, massage therapy, and other health services. Through the program, recorded was a notable increase in the percentage of facility-based deliveries from 93% in 2015 to 100% in 2017 with zero recorded maternal and infant death. Children were also fully immunized against various diseases. With its intensive information and education campaign in promoting good health, the municipality was reported to be free from dengue and malaria. The program interventions also led to increased awareness among its constituents on the importance of maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle.

Added to these, health workers were empowered with a sense of ownership under the program since the municipality allows them to review and implement solutions which could further improve the program. The municipality also partnered with various institutions such as PhilHealth and Zuellig Family Foundation to advance its health initiatives. Because of the success of the program, San Felipe was awarded with the Municipal Leadership and Governance Award by the Central Luzon Excellence in Health Awards 2016.

## SAN MATEO, ISABELA: Agrikultura, Kabataan ang Pag-Asa

Being an agricultural municipality, farmers are needed in the Municipality of San Mateo to maintain its vast farmlands. To encourage young people to take up agricultural courses, the Municipality of San Mateo forged a partnership with the Isabela State University (ISU) to develop a new course program on Diploma in Agricultural Technology. Under the program, the municipal government and the barangays came together to pool in funds to

shoulder the tuition fees of scholars taking up the course. The municipal government further created four classrooms for the new course program in the university as well as a 1.7-hectare farmland to establish a demonstration farm, the first in the region to be accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The demo farm served as a venue for students to do hands-on activities on organic farming, among others, and apply what they have learned.



The program also partnered with national government agencies, and various organizations to source funds and sustain the program as well as other agri-related courses at ISU. As a result, the program saw an increase of enrollees from 135 students in SY2015-2016 to 892 students in SY2017-2018. It had also produced 123 graduates in June 2017. Through the program, both scholars and their families were given an opportunity to improve their lives. The scholars also inspire other youth in changing their mindset, that there is a future in agriculture, and become active partners in sustaining the agricultural landscape of the municipality.

## TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE: Balik Sigla and Tagumpay Gulayan Programs for a Healthy Community

The program capitalizes on both preventive and alternative method of physical rehabilitation by providing affordable and free health-related services in the communities. The *Balik Sigla* provides needed health services to members of the community who are in dire need of physical rehabilitation services. Under the program, a city health officer and 22 massage therapists are deployed to various barangays to provide free home-care therapy services for people with physical disabilities. Since 2013, the program served 4,665 patients where around 3,615 of them regained their ability to perform activities of daily living while 776 gained full recovery. The program was also beneficial to the families of the patients in alleviating their physical therapy expenses in private health institutions which normally cost around PhP200 to PhP500.

At the same time, the city also embarked in another program called *Tagumpay sa Gulayan* to complement the *Balik Sigla* by promoting preventive health care methods and healthy lifestyle. It was successful in transforming once vacant and underdeveloped spaces in schools and barangays into productive gardens. At present, all 23 barangays have rich vegetable gardens in their puroks and backyards of households. A total area of 64,405 square meters were cultivated as gardens in the barangays, producing abundant quantities of vegetables that were either consumed or sold in the market. Serving as a new source of income for the beneficiaries as well as a source of readily available nutritious



food from their own backyards, the monthly generated income per household from their *Gulayan* increased from PhP518.79 in 2014 to PhP1,981.00 in 2017.

In addition, all 40 public schools have their version of *gulayans* where 85,200 square meters of consolidated lots were dedicated for the *Gulayan sa Paaralan*. The *gulayan* gardens in schools had contributed to the reduction of levels of malnutrition. The vegetables from these gardens were used as ingredients in the feeding programs in public schools. Because of its success, Tagum City was recognized as a Consistent Outstanding Winner in Nutrition (CROWN Awardee) during the 2017 National Nutrition Awarding Ceremony. The city government had attributed the program's success to the active involvement of its constituents in providing an enabling environment for healthy communities.

## The Galing Pook Theme Song

**Music and Lyrics by Gary Granada**

**Vocals by Gary Granada, Bayang Barrios, Noel Cabangon, Shane and Dave of Crazy as Pinoy, PETA kids, Luke Granada**

Ang aming adhikain  
Ay simple lang naman  
Sapat sa pangunahing  
Mga pangangailangan

Saan mahahagilap  
Ang mga munting pangarap  
Makaigpaw sa hirap  
Maalwang hinaharap

Sa punyagi at kusa  
Munting pamayanan  
Sa husay kinilala  
Umani ng karangalan

Kayraming nagsasabing  
Ang galing galing daw namin  
Saan ba nanggagaling  
Ano ba'ng anting-anting?

Simple lang 'yan  
Kaya mo 'yan, Bay!

Sa malikhaing paraan, sa paraang malikhain  
Kasama ang mamamayan, mamamaya'y  
pagsamahin  
Pagbabago na lantad, lantad na pagbabago  
Tuluy-tuloy na pag-unlad, tuluy-tuloy na  
pag-assenso

Sa dami ng balakid  
Sa dami ng hadlang  
Ang diwang nalulupig  
Nagtitiis na lang

Ngunit huwag kang papayag  
Huwag kang pabubuway  
Tadhanang ating palad  
Nasa ating kamay

CHORUS COUNTERPOINT:  
Galing Pook...

Ang sabi ng iba, ang galing ng Pilipino  
Magaling na mang-isa, mandaraya, manlolo  
Ang sakit sa tenga, kahit di mo matanggap  
Ganyan daw talaga, yan ang sabi ng lahat

Subalit doon sa aming mumunting komunidad  
Namayani ang maraming kabutihan ang  
hangad  
Pinaghusay ang lokal na gobyernong niluklok  
Pinagpala't natanghal na isang Galing Pook

Ang sabi ng marami, Pilipino ay tamad  
Walang respeto sa sarili, dangal at dignidad  
Palakasang palasak, boto na nilalako  
Lider na nagbubuhay ng sarili ring bangko

Di man maikakaila ay huwag nating lahatin  
Di mo rin maitatitwa, di man sukat akalain  
Magandang mga balita sa mga suluk-sulok  
Kayraming halimbawa ng mga Galing Pook



# Galing Pook Awards 2018 National Selection Committee

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President, Synergeia Foundation

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Member, PILIPINA



# GP@25: MILESTONES

## 1993

The Galing Pook Awards was launched by the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Local Government Academy, Ford Foundation, and other advocates of good local governance to recognize innovative and excellent local governance programs. The awards program was managed by the Asian Institute of Management.

## 1994

The awarding ceremony for the first Galing Pook Awards was held.

## 1998

The Galing Pook Foundation was incorporated to sustain the awards program.

## 2002

The Global Public Innovation Network, a network of similar award-giving institutions, was established. The GPIN has 10 members at present, including Galing Pook, with others as follows: Honoring Nations Program (American Indian Tribes in the United States of America); Public Management and Citizenship Program (Brazil); Citizen Participation and Public Politics Program (Chile); The Innovations and Excellence in Chinese Local Governance Program (China); The Mashariki Innovations in Local Governance Awards Program (East Africa); Government and Local Management Award (Mexico); Participation

and Local Management Program (Peru); Impumelelo Social Innovations Centre (South Africa); and Innovations in American Government Awards Program (United States of America).

## 2003

The Award for Continuing Excellence was launched. Special Citations in partnership with various UN bodies were also launched, such as the Special Citation on Good Urban Governance and Child Rights Responsive Local Governance.

## 2006

Galing Pook selected 10 winners from previous Galing Pook awardees for the Special Citation on Local Capacity Innovation for the Millennium Development Goals in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme.

## 2007

The Development Bank of the Philippines became a strategic partner of the Galing Pook Foundation. A Special Citation on Local Fiscal Management was also given to one of the 10 Galing Pook Awardees for 2007.

## 2008

The Land Bank of the Philippines became a strategic partner of the Galing Pook Foundation.

Galing Pook transferred to its present office at the corner of Mahusay and Malinis Streets, UP Village, Quezon City.

## 2009

Galing Pook began partnering with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.





## 2010

The Galing Pook Awards in ARMM was conducted in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development and The Asia Foundation to have a competition exclusively among LGUs in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

## 2011

The ARMM LGUs resumed competing with other LGUs nationwide for the Galing Pook Awards.

## 2013

The first Jesse Robredo Leadership Award was conferred upon Sarangani Governor Migs Dominguez. The award was launched in 2012 after the demise of DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo, to honor his legacy of effective, empowering, and ethical leadership.

The Galing Pook TV Series was launched with the airing of its first season, featuring innovative programs of past Galing Pook winners.

In celebration of 20 years of Galing Pook, the Cutting Edge: Global Public Innovations Conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, where local and international speakers shared their experiences in local governance. Among the international speakers were resource persons from Germany, Thailand, Canada, and representatives from the Global Public Innovation Network member organizations.

Galing Pook also began its partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund.

## 2014

The Philippine Postal Corporation became a Galing Pook partner.

## 2015

The Galing Pook Governance Fair: Mamamayan, Mamamayani was held at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, with the support of various partners. Among the highlights of the fair were the Unity Walk, as well as various exhibits from LGUs, NGAs, CSOs, and the private sector.

Galing Pook also conferred the award to the first winners of the Galing Pook Citizenship Award, to recognize the role of citizens' engagement in local development. Awarded were the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, and Tagum Cooperative.

## 2016

Galing Pook launched the Adaptive and Innovative Leaders for Good Governance Program under the Galing Pook Academy. The first batch was supported by SEAOIL Foundation. A second batch, with the support of UNICEF, also began with the program.

## 2018

Galing Pook celebrated 25 years with the Galing Pook Governance Fair: Youth in Innovative Governance attended by Sangguniang Kabataan representatives and other youth leaders. The event culminated in the awarding ceremony of the Galing Pook Awards 2018 and the 4th Jesse Robredo Leadership Award.

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