

# **Rural Development in the Bicol Region, Philippines**

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## **Improving People's Livelihood**

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**A Program Report of the Institute of Cultural Affairs Philippines, Inc.**

**Sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation**

## **Interview with an HDTS Graduate**

**“The first time I came into contact with the ICA was in April of this year when I attended a livelihood seminar in Legaspi and I was invited to go. I am always on the look out for people who have the ability to develop me as a person, so I can more effectively develop others. Also a big thing for me here is to have inter-agency tie-ups so, at the very least, we know about each other and then can share things and approaches that work in our similar fields of work. So when I found out that was ICA’s aim also, I became even more eager to know you all.**

**“I really enjoyed the (HDTS) session and learned a lot. One thing I remember from the course is that we felt at home, were never bored, and little games were injected as ice breakers. The 4x4 (presentation) process is really a very useful concept and when I am speaking or giving a sermon, I use it as it is invaluable.**

**“Some highlights for me were the three institutions who came together for us—namely ICA, Mantech, and Plan International. But ICA hosted it and did it all.**

**“I have used the leadership techniques here for our corporate planning. They were quite amazed and it worked already. I have also taught the songs, and the story, song and symbol idea. It was the first time I heard of such innovative ideas and processes. Also the understanding of the way things work practically and also of the people is very good to see. It was also really well taught and it was the first time for me that a seminar as a whole was not boring.**

**“I would really like to set up and establish firmly a regional organization of all PVO’s under the supervision of the ICA. I think ICA is energetic enough to look for the people in the smallest corners of this country and bring them together by using its expertise. Maybe it is only the ICA who can do this at the moment.”**

*This program brochure is the third in a series of reports on the Tiwi Multi-Community Development Program. This issue emphasizes inter-agency training and livelihood development. The several aspects described here also highlight the Institute of Cultural Affairs' integrated development approach.*

## The Human Development Training School

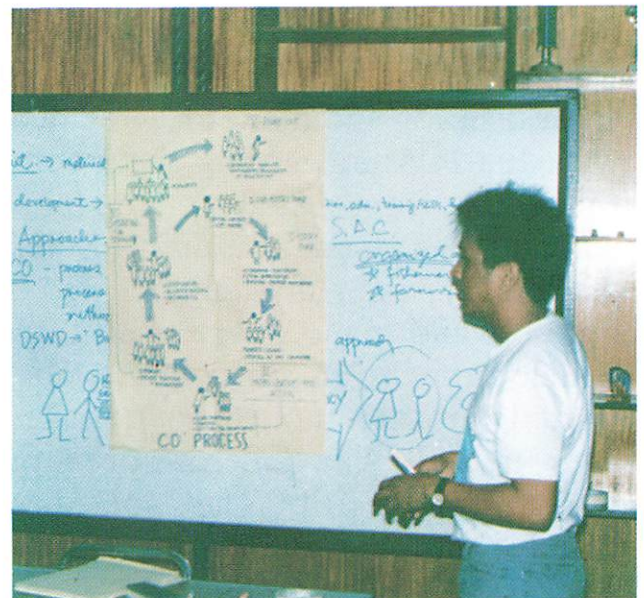


This year, two important developments marked the HDTS. It was offered, in project director Palamen Telakau's words, to "agencies who need the training and don't have the chances to go such programs."

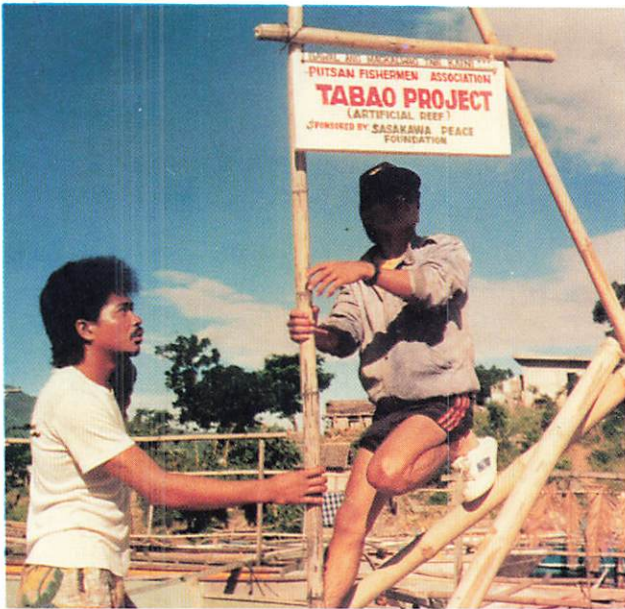
At the same time, the ICA staff used a collaborative approach in the

school's curriculum, one that utilized the strengths of three different organizations. These were Plan Bicol (Foster Parents Plan International in Bicol) and Management Technologies, Inc., and the ICA. Plan Bicol developed a curriculum on "Social Development"; Mantech on "Economic Development"; and the ICA on "Leadership Development."

In the Leadership Development Module, the ICA staff utilized a mixture of lectures, participative workshops, videos, and case studies. The module focused on skills and methods that could help individuals and groups in planning and leading their organizations and communities in society today. It also attempted to give a broader picture of what the world needs today and why, placing each community's local action in a larger context.



## Strengthening the Economic



### Working with Fishermen

In April, 1988 the fishermen of Putsan started construction of the tabao, a fish shelter. The tabao was built of bamboo with styrofoam provided by Philippine Geothermal, Inc. A big part of the construction was building a 1000-kilo anchor which was made of cement and large stones. There were 38 fishermen who had joined an association and made an agreement with the ICA concerning the income that comes from the tabao. The tabao was launched and anchored on May 2. In July, the fishermen decided to use nets and made a very small catch which brought in only P91. They waited another month to try again and netted 12 baneros or large baskets full of fish. They sold these fish for about P6000. The September catch was 7 baneros of fish which

brought in about P4000. Depending on the type of fish, one basket can sell for from P600-P900. The fishermen have established a bank account for saving for the next tabao as well as having money to donate to community projects. The fishermen seem to understand the project concept and are responding well as reflected in the following comments from the fishermen:

“The way the ICA works is through and with the whole barangay which is the best thing. (Since we built the tabao,) it is more organized and there are more fish to catch. We save a percentage of the fish catch which goes to the Putsan Fisherman’s Association bank account which is now about P3500. When we get P10,000 we will buy another tabao for Putsan and also will help with the



barangay as a whole—a revolving fund. I think the fund and the agreement is good, it's like we own the project really.”

“The tabao helps the livelihood of Putsan people. We're always going. Now it's more regular— so more regular income. It really helps. I'm

always working now and catch much more fish so I can eat well now. I can make improvements to my house. They are good, the ICA people, and they work, especially at mingling with the people and always getting out to be with us. The association is good for the people of Putsan.”



### **The Sari-Sari Store**

After the Income Generating Project (IGP) seminar, the team wanted to follow-up on some of the business plans presented by the barangay residents in attendance. One such plan was with a young woman who lives in Putsan. She has only a high school education and says she wants to earn money to go to college. An ICA staff member has helped to plan her small variety (sari-sari) store, purchase stock and has taught her bookkeeping. Thus far she is selling peanuts, cigarettes, soy sauce, vinegar, kerosene, vitsin, black pepper, matches, candies, soap, and rice. Her family constructed a bamboo room extension to house the sari-sari store. In her first month of operation she sold her goods and was able to buy a weighing scale for rice for P175. After seven months she will have paid back her starting loan and be in business for herself.

## Barangay Gardens



By April, 1988 the Agricultural team had developed 37 farmer cooperators, farmers who were planting vegetable gardens. The team has kept accurate records of the amounts of seed loaned and returned. In addition, they have made sure that each farmer himself had produced enough seed for his upcoming crop.

An ICA agriculturist says: "Our primary aim is for them to become conscious not only to harvest but to think of the future. . to keep seeds. Their tendency is for instant cash. Since the typhoon experience, they now know the importance of setting aside seeds for the next planting."

In each area, the team helped the farmer to prepare the land for the garden, and later visited the site to note progress and estimate seed requirements. Seeds were then loaned to each farmer. The seeds returned were then made available to another farmer. The old farmer cooperators

were phased out as they became seed self-sufficient. By September, 37 farmers had been successfully phased out and 13 new farmers had been added.

## The Demo Garden

The agriculture team began the design and development of a demonstration garden in barangay Naga with the cooperation of a local landowner and the Department of Agriculture, which provided technical assistance and seeds. Seeds have been expensive and difficult to locate since Typhoon Sisang in late 1987. The "demo" garden has become a place to show what can be done as well as establish a small seed bank in Tiwi.

Thus far, seven kinds of crops: have been planted: cucumber, ampalaya, bush sitao, okra, string beans, and camote. Trellises for climbing crops have also been built. Future crop plans include introducing garlic, cinnamon, and sayote.



## **Pre-School Program**

ICA staff started off the program year working with the day-care teachers on a survey conducted during the summer school vacation. The purpose of the survey was to find out how many pre-school age children go to the day care centers. During the survey the day-care teachers talked to each family about the benefits of their child attending the day-care centers—how it will help prepare them to enter first grade and later grades. The enrollment in June increased substantially over the previous year's enrollment.

In August and September, ICA staff focused on organizing fund-raising events for the day care centers. Naga intends to have a playground ready

for the children by Christmas from this fund-raising effort. Sugod is raising money for tables and chairs. Each pre-school has now planted flowers around their building. Later they will add small vegetable plots.

A monthly meeting of the day-care teachers was started. During the meeting the teachers report about the last month's activities and then plan their activities for the next month. The teachers seem very pleased with the chance to share classroom ideas. Lisa Centino, the Putsan day-care teacher — a young, new teacher — said, "I think the meetings we have with all the pre-school teachers are good because I learn how to teach children's games and different activities."

## **Nutrition Program**

Over the past six months, ICA staff has been compiling a low-cost recipe book for use by families in Tiwi, Albay. Research has included visits to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute and various non-government organizations, and writing to other ICA offices around the world. Currently, they have 60 good recipes they feel can be distributed within the barangays. While working on the recipe book, they have also organized cooking demonstrations in the four barangays. Seventy-nine (79) mothers have attended. Recruitment was coordinated with the day-care teachers, who informed the mothers of the program.

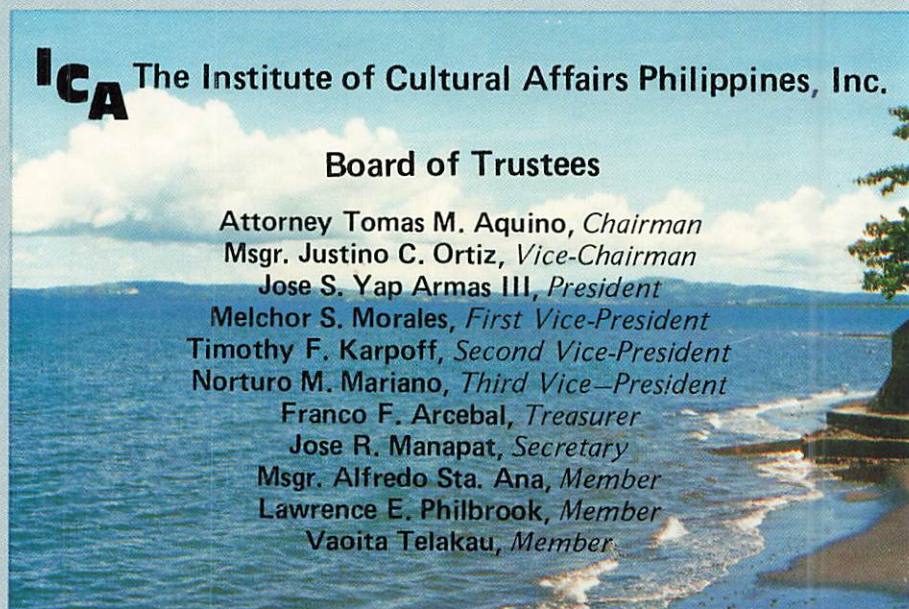
Each cooking demonstration provided complete information about one dish. Meals throughout the Bicol Region depend largely on fish and rice. Recipes were introduced that used fish, but in some way added a few vegetables. One recipe is a type of fishball called "sachumagi." It uses fish, carrots, onions, cabbage and eggs. The day-care teacher in Putsan said, "It tasted delicious."

Another non-government organization invited the ICA staff to do a cooking demonstration for 60 people at the Bagong Pag-asa (New Hope) Child Care Center in another barangay, Santo Domingo. A total of 139 people attended the cooking demonstrations.

# Institute of Cultural Affairs, Philippines, Inc.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs Philippines, Inc. has been working in the Philippines since 1975. It is a non-stock, non-profit corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The ICA is supported by programs, organizations and concerned individuals. The ICA Philippines, Inc. is a donee institution in accordance with the provisions of BIR-NEDA Regulations, Certificate of Registration Number 0260 1984. Through a combination of research, demonstration and training programs, the ICA is helping people help themselves and involving them in shaping their own future—the human factor in development.

Specifically, the ICA believes that it is important to mobilize already existing resources in various sectors of communities. External inputs that bridge obvious gaps can then be most efficiently employed. Toward this end, the ICA conducts educational and leadership development seminars and conferences to help government, business, and volunteer groups interact constructively with each other and local communities. The ICA's on-the-ground programs within communities emphasize the growth of individual initiative as well as community cooperation.



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## Rural Development Programs in Bicol



**The Institute of Cultural Affairs Philippines, Inc.** conducts a two-tiered program in Bicol. One component of the program is an integrated development program conducted in five barangays in Tiwi, Albay. The second component consists of inter-agency training programs conducted for youth and adults across the Bicol Region. The program arenas activated in Bicol include:

- **PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM.** *This program seeks to upgrade the day-care services through providing better materials and environment for the day-care centers in Tiwi. In*

*addition, teachers' meetings are encouraged to interchange teaching ideas.*

- **NUTRITION PROGRAM.** *Vegetable eating is encouraged through recipe books and cooking demonstrations.*
- **YOUTH PROGRAM.** *Leadership development programs are offered which encourage entrepreneurship, staying in school, and discovering the resources available.*
- **FISH CATCH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.** *Small tabaos or fish shelters increase the income*

*of fishing villages in Bicol.*

- **SMALL BUSINESS VENTURE LOANS.** *Small businesses are initiated and guided to independence and profitability in a few months through individual guidance and assistance.*
- **BARANGAY GARDENS.** *A "save your seeds" program fosters seed self-sufficiency, increases family income, and augments family diets with vegetables. A demonstration garden shows "it can be done" and provides a seed bank for Bicol.*
- **COOPERATIVE TRAINING EVENTS AND SCHOOLS.** *Encourages and sponsors training utilizing the resources already present in Bicol. Provides materials for needed hands-on training. Provides the participants with innovative and effective ICA planning methods.*

## Urban Development Programs in Metro Manila

**The Institute of Cultural Affairs Philippines, Inc.** is working with Backside, a former squatters' area in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. Projects already undertaken and completed include:

**A WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM.** A complete water system was installed for all 1500 residents of Backside with twelve legal water faucets placed conveniently throughout the community. This was coordinated with MWSS and funded by the Dutch Embassy.

**A DRAINAGE SYSTEM.** A fully cemented and connected drainage system was installed to prevent the periodic and disastrous flooding of the area and improve the health conditions. This was funded by the Municipality of Mandaluyong.

*Present and Future Programs include :*

- **A SEWING BUSINESS.** Training and work for more of the women in Backside.
- **COMMUNITY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER.** A Building to conduct a pre-school, house a chapel, provide community services, and

*hold the sewing business*

- **YOUTH PROGRAMS.** Training and employment for the unemployed youth of Backside. Sports and leadership development programs.
- **MINI-PARK DEVELOPMENT** Creating a communal park to upgrade the living environment and offer an alternative to squalor.
- **ADULT TRAINING PROGRAMS.** Training programs in planning, proposal writing, group dynamics, fund-raising, and vocational arenas.

- **PATHWAYS IMPROVEMENT.** Continued improvement through paving of the paths between the homes.
- **HOUSING UPGRADING AND RELOCATION.** Gradual replacement of rotting lumber with more fire resistant materials. Relocation of houses in connection with street creation and airflow improvement.
- **STREET ACCESS.** Providing an outlet from the community to improve the economic accessibility and fire safety.

