3rd NVD Celebration honors PCAF ASBs as shining beacon of volunteerism

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) joined the country in the observance of the National Volunteers Month as it celebrated and acknowledged the value of participation and volunteerism committed by its Advisory Special Bodies (ASBs) through the third National Volunteers’ Day Celebration on December 6, 2017 in Iloilo City.

The celebration also highlighted the awarding of the winners of the Search for Outstanding Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) Chairpersons and Secretariat-Coordinators. The Search provides recognition to deserving AFC chairpersons and coordinators who have rendered exemplary contributions and services. More than 300 guests from the ASB’s National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAF Council), National Sectoral and Strategic Concerns Committees (NSSCCs), and AFCs, along with the Department of Agriculture and PCAF employees gathered in the Province of Iloilo during the event.

"Just like our celebration’s theme “Volunteers, shining through the years”, our ASBs shine because of their dedication to participate, share knowledge and skills, and most importantly they radiate because of their desire to uplift the lives of our farmers and fisherfolks," PCAF Executive Director Sarah Gutierrez-Cayona, said in her speech.

On the other hand, Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary and environmentalist Regina Paz “Gina” Lopez graced the event and talked about her project called “I LOVE” or Investments in Loving Organization for Village Economies.

"I came (to see you) because I believe that agriculture is a key and non-negotiable way for our country’s growth, and I think, the foundation of a genuine economic growth is love. It is not the money that makes the difference, it is the heart. When you care, when you feel the pain of others, that’s the key of making a difference,” Lopez said while emphasizing the value of volunteerism with a heart.

Honoring the minds and hands of volunteerism

The event also celebrated the notable accomplishments of the Outstanding AFC Chairpersons and Secretariat-Coordinators. The Search was conducted nationwide covering all incumbent chairpersons and secretariat-coordinators of the regional AFC (RAFC), provincial AFC (PAFC)/ Highly Urbanized City AFC (HUC AFC)/ Independent Component City AFC (ICCAFCs) and the nominated Municipal AFC (MACF)/ City AFC (CAFC).

The criteria include performance and impact, leadership, creativity, innovativeness, resourcefulness, and commitment to the agri-fishery sector. The nominees should have rendered at least three years of service as chairperson and at least five years for the secretariat-coordinator.

For this year’s Outstanding RAFC Chairperson, Dionisio Bautista from Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat of Socskargen bagged the award. Chairperson Bautista, through the Sectoral Resolution number 6, series of 2016, spearheaded the creation of a unit or section responsible for the preparation and packaging of farmers and fisherfolks project proposals, known as ALAMM or Alalay sa Magsasaka at Mangingisda.

William Valdez of Angeles in Pampanga, Central Luzon Region brought home the Outstanding RAFC Secretariat-Coordinator award. Through
Accountability, empowerment manifest during VRP-PAVES

“We are the best!!” A noteworthy pronouncement of PCAF regular employees during the Values Restoration Program – Public Accountability and Values Enhancement Seminar (VRP-PAVES) on October 3 to 6, 2017 at the Aparcible Conference A in Quezon City.

The activity was organized by the PCAF’s Personnel Development Committee in collaboration with the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values-Corruption Prevention Unit (CRFV-CPU).

Almost a hundred PCAF employees attended the said seminar and were grouped into two batches. The first batch was scheduled on October 3 to 4 and the second batch was on October 5 to 6.

Raising accountability partners in transforming and rebuilding the nation by reinforcing positive personal values system was the main objective of the seminar.

CRFV-CPU is an anti-corruption organization established in 1994 to curb the unabated rise of corruption in the Philippines through the restoration of world-renowned Filipino values that have been eroded by wickedness, greed, covetousness, compromise and sin.

The topics focused on the 10 national illnesses and its corresponding solutions, love of God, respect for authority, taming the tongue, sanctity of marriage, and public accountability content which include Republic Act 6713, RA 3019 and Executive Order 292.

Jesus Sison, a paralegal expert and one of the lecturers, delighted the participants through his funny antics while giving sufficient knowledge on republic acts and executive order wherein conduct of a government employee was highlighted.

Video presentations were included in the discussion as it focuses on the daily activities of a human person where values are being taken for granted. An open forum was done after the presentation of each topic where PCAF employees raised certain questions for clarifications and understanding.

Participants were encouraged to live as the son and daughter of God, which means to serve and love one another. Through this, building a nation that is free from the temptations of graft and corruption is achievable and doable.

Towards the end of the seminar, PCAF employees were group into 5 and were given series of activity. During the group presentation, participants were able to identify things to stop, to improve and to continue in the workplace, family and most important within self.

Sison, together with his fellow lecturers led everyone in a pledge to be conscious and vigilant in injecting values at all times. The seminar ended with a prayer of commitment where PCAF employees gathered and hugged the agency’s key officials, division chiefs and section chiefs as a form of commitment in promoting and enhancing Filipino values.

AFMech key players formulate strategies for strengthening LGUs’ AE groups


The two-day activity was held in pursuant to Section 29 of Republic Act 10601 or the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law (AFMech) that mandates the LGUs to create and/or strengthen their AE groups to serve as the planning, coordinating, regulating, and implementing bodies on agri-fisheries engineering, mechanization, and infrastructure programs and projects.

The consultation-workshop aims to gather inputs from almost 100 participants from concerned government agencies, LGUs, and private sectors that will be incorporated in the action plans and strategies in the strengthening of the LGUs’ AE groups.

The plenary workshop identifies issues and concerns on: policy, capacity development; and compliance on the policies/issuances.

Among the concerns raised during the discussion were structure, staffing pattern and qualification standards of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ABE) positions; awareness of the Human Resource Management Office on the creation of LGUs’ AE; and lack/limited on regular AE-related trainings for extension workers, trainors, and farmer groups.

Engr. Ariodear Rico, Acting Chairperson of AFMech Committee, answers various questions raised by the participants during the plenary workshop.

Memorandum from Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Civil Service Commission

See next page
PCAF’s Partnership Development Division leads AFC Operational Meeting 2017

PCAF through its Partnership Development Division (PDD) convenes more than 200 Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) Chairpersons and Secretariat-Coordinators nationwide for the AFC Operational Meeting/Knowledge Unloading on December 6, 2017 at Punta Villa Resort, Iloilo City.

The gathering was a tidbit for the National Volunteers’ Day celebration honoring the exemplary performance of PCAF partner stakeholders in the government and private sectors. The event also served as the general assembly of PCAF volunteer-partners in formulating sound policies for the agriculture and fisheries sector.

PDD Assistant Division Chief Soledad Bernardo presented the objectives of the meeting while PDD Chief Elgie Namia highlighted the AFC accomplishment reports. Namia applauded the body for a significant improvement in crafting comprehensive policy resolutions and resolving local issues/concerns. She also gave recognition to the regional, provincial, city and municipal AFCs for surpassing their 2017 targets and encouraged other AFCs with under accomplishment to work harder.

Section chiefs also presented their corresponding targets for the year 2018. Floreliz Avellana, Chief of Social Mobilization Section for the AFC consultations; Arsenia Perez, Chief of Capability Development Section for the AFC trainings and Marilyn Gonzales, Staff of Volunteer Management Section for the AFC support activities.

AFMech key players...

(GSC), and Professional Regulation Commission – ABE (PRC-ABE) regarding the implementing guidelines on the strengthening of AE groups of the agricultural offices in the LGUs.

It was also recommended to conduct Information Education Communication Campaign regarding the provisions of AFMech Law and massive trainings for LGUs’ AEs.

The undertaking has also paved the way to formulate/finalize the DA Deployment Program of ABE in the fourth to sixth class municipalities.

PCAF’s Gender and Development (GAD) Committee intensifies women empowerment. Women leaders of PCAF’s Advisory Special Bodies and selected PCAF women employees participated in the 1st Women Leaders’ Summit. With the theme “Women in the Changing World of Work”, the first-ever gathering of women leaders held on November 28, 2017 at Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority Convention Hall, Visayas Ave., Quezon City served as a platform for women leaders to be well-informed on their rights and privileges. It also showcased women’s societal responsibility which focused on the capabilities of women in bringing changes to the world of work. Significantly, three policy resolutions were recommended after the presentation of workshop’s output for endorsement to the concerned government agencies. Photo shows the resource speakers of the summit (L-R) Jocelyn Hekrdle, Winner of the 2016 DA Search for Outstanding Rural Women shares her experience in leading an organization; Jelen Paclarin, Executive Director of WLB talks about the salient features on the Magna Carta of Women; Pacita Juan, Chairperson of AWEN emphasizes women’s function in the field of business and entrepreneurship; Amparo Miciano, Secretary General of PKKK discusses women leadership status in the Philippines, and Lorna Villegas, representative of Department of Agriculture GAD System highlights the department’s GAD programs and initiatives.
his monitoring and technical guidance, Central Luzon was able to produce Gawad Saka winners, such as 2015 Outstanding City Agricultural and Fishery Council (CAFC Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija), 2015 Gawad Saka National Winner for the Agri-Entrepreneur (DVF Farm, Nueva Ecija), and 2016 Gawad Saka National Winner for the Barangay Food Terminal (Brgy. Tuyo, Balanga City, Bataan).

Valdez also guided and empowered the AFCs to resolve their own issues and problems by allowing them to choose the best solution.

Outstanding PAFC Chairperson was awarded to Bebito Matuguinas of Naval, Biliran of Eastern Visayas Region. He led the request to Biliran Representative Rogelio Espina for the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation group life insurance of 160 MAFC and PAFC members at PhP375 per person with a total of 60 thousand pesos.

Chairperson Matuguinas also spearheaded the conduct of sea patrol operations to eliminate illegal fishing in Kawayan and neighboring sea waters. In relation to that, he spearheaded the passing of a policy resolution, in coordination with BFAR to conduct regular monitoring and impose penalties on illegal fishing operations within the waters of Biliran province.

Mercidita Quiamco of Mati, Davao Oriental of Davao Region earned the Outstanding PAFC Secretariat-Coordinator.

During her term as coordinator, PAFC Davao Oriental was declared as the Gawad Saka Outstanding PAFC in the Region from 2010, 2012 and 2015. The council was also one of the national finalists for the said search.

Part of her accomplishments was her initiative in the establishment, institutionalization, and strengthening the Agrikulturang Makamasa Barangay Extension Technician (AMBET) in the province to assist farmers and fisherfolk in the delivery of agricultural service, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist.

The Outstanding MAFC Chairperson was awarded to Stephen Divinagracia of Tampakan, South Cotabato in Soccsksargen.

He has been instrumental in the Technical Reinforcement Training concerning pest and disease infestation, risk management caused by Climate Change which involved farmers and other stakeholders in the community. He was also involved in the Memorandum of Agreement between Tampakan and partner line-agencies that provided logistics such as food, speakers and transportation.

Louisa Carbonel of Bakun, Benguet in the Cordillera Autonomous Region brought home the Outstanding MAFC Secretariat-Coordinator.

She assisted the MAFC Bakun members in requesting farm equipment and facilities from DA, as she is also a focal person for High Value Crops Development Program and Good Agricultural Practices. She also crafted project proposals for acquisition of green houses, seed storage and other farm equipment whose beneficiaries of this project are the MAFC farmer-members.

A Special Citation was awarded to Alfredo Oben of Polangui, Albay in Bicol Region for his 30 years of steadfast PAFC leadership and dedicated leadership, including dialogues with the local chief executives which brought additional funding to the AFCs especially to the conduct of meeting of the non-targeted MAFCs.

The six winners received a plaque and cash prize worth 60 thousand pesos, while PAFC Chairperson Alfredo Oben, received a Special Citation award and 30 thousand pesos aside from the plaque.
PCAF joins industry players at 2nd Sardines Conference

More than 300 participants from the fishing industry recently gathered at the second National Sardines Industry Conference in Zamboanga City on November 28 to 30, 2017.

The three-day conference provided venue for the industry players, including PCAF -National Sectoral and Strategic Concerns Committees (NSSCCs) to be updated on the current scientific studies about the implementation of Closed Fishing Season Policy in the City and join discussions concerning Tamban or Sardines as the main industry resource.

The sessions were divided into science-focused and the industry-focused.

Science-focused sessions presented the stock assessment of Tamban (Sardinella Lemuru) in Zamboanga Peninsula (ZamPen), the impact of Closed Fishing Season Policy in ZamPen, Socio-Economic Impact of the Policy, and the issues and challenges of ZamPen fisheries.

While the industry-focused sessions raised questions on the situation of the national Sardines industry, both the fishing and canning. One of the sessions were the update of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region 9 Industry Tripartite Council on the fishing and canning program for livelihood and employment as a result of the Policy. Also included in the discussions were the economic importance of the Sardines industry.

“This December 1 will be the 7th year of the implementation of Closed Fishing Season. Unang taon palang nakakita na kami ng improvement,” SOPHIL’s Roberto Baylosis said in an interview.

Baylosis also pointed out that the “Southern California Sardine Fishery Collapse” triggered the conservation effort of the ZamPen’s Closed Fishing Season Policy. However, aside from the negative reactions on the Policy, at that time there were insufficient studies on the spawning season of Sardines that are crucial in strengthening their position paper.

“Based on our observations, December is the peak of the spawning season because from the cannery that we are supplying, it shows na merong mga buntis na isda na naisasama.” Baylosis added.

According to Romeo de Guzman, technical staff of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 9, the yearly production or catch of Sardines from 2012 to 2016 increased since the start of the implementation of Closed Fishing Season.

BFAR Region 9 recorded 234,278.49 catch per metric tons in 2016 compared to the 90,373.55 catch per metric tons in 2012.

The report also emphasized the importance of Tamban in Zamboanga City. According to BFAR’s National Stock Assessment Program, 66% of the captive top species in Region 9 is Tamban. Almost 100% or 96.78% of the population of the fishers in Zamboanga are big industrial fishers and are exclusively fishing Tamban.

In a separate interview, Engr. Ronel Castelo of Mega Global Zamboanga Operations, maker of Mega Sardines, told PCAF-Knowledge Management team the effects of Closed Fishing Season to fishing companies like them. He also mentioned that even before the implementation of Closed Season, the fishing operations of Mega Global has been resting during the month of December for equipment turnover.

Roberto Baylosis presents the issues and challenges of ZamPen Sardines fisheries to the participants of the conference.

PMKMD Chief Estrella Tulay (left) asks questions to Dr. Maria Rio Naguit of Jose Memorial State University (right) during the 2nd National Sardines Industry Conference.

Engr. Ronel Castelo listens to PMKMD Chief Tulay and NSSCC-Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Vice Chairperson Teresita de Jesus in a visit to the Mega Sardines factory.

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CPLFC presents poultry industry workshop output to Sec. Piñol and its stakeholders

DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and poultry industry stakeholders further strengthened efforts in ensuring the security of the sector.

Through PCAF Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Feed Crops (CPLFC), Sec. Piñol convened with the industry stakeholders on November 21, 2017 to present the output of the sector's consultation-workshop which was held last September 19, 2017.

The said workshop was held after a series of dialogues were conducted when Sec. Piñol confirmed the first Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak in San Luis, Pampanga and municipalities of Jaen and San Isidro, Nueva Ecija in August 2017.

The activity served as an avenue for the concerned government agencies and private sectors to review and update the protocols of the DA relating to the AI outbreak and propose “more adaptable” policies and procedures in case some circumstances would happen again in the future.

Poultry industry consultation-workshop output

One of the main issues that was raised is the concern of the local government units on land use/conversion, zoning, and farm tenure. It was explained that the banking institutions wanted the poultry and livestock businesses to be converted into agro-industrial zones for them to be able to apply for a loan because these farms are now mechanized.

Antonio Raya of United Broilers Raisers Association (UBRA) said that another reason that hinders the expansion of the sector’s farm is the five-hectare limitation of ownership of agricultural lands as mandated by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

Sec. Piñol believed that Butil Partylist Representative, Congw. Cecilia Chavez, can help the sector as she can push for the amendment of the zoning law.

Representative Chavez responded to the concern of the sector. She also urged the stakeholders to send her a draft bill, if they already have, for her team to study it.

Aside from this, among the issues that came up during the workshop was insurance coverage for poultry farmers during crisis and calamities.

Atty. Jovy Bernabe, President of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), explained that there is a Livestock Mortality Insurance Coverage.

According to him, free insurance coverage is given to small farmers while those that are not included in the Registry System on Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) are to pay for premium insurance (68 centavos per bird/28-days cycle).

Sec. Piñol instructed PCAF to facilitate a dialogue between PCIC and concerned poultry and livestock stakeholders to discuss the amount of premium and coverage of insurance to come up with an agreement that is amendable to all parties involved.

On the other hand, the participants also expressed their concern on the proper waste disposal for poultry manure; crafting of high-value livestock zone; import taxes/Minimum Access Volume; importation of Mechanically Deboned Meat; World Trade Organization commitment, and among others.

With regard to the amendment of the country’s AI Protocol, Sec. Piñol asked for the sector’s recommendations which include the farm indexing that will be used instead of the one kilometer radium as quarantine area.

Participants also suggested that the seven kilometer radius as control area should be reduced to one kilometer and farms that were not affected within 1-km radius should be individually tested.

It was agreed that chickens will be culled for the farms that will have positive result while farms with negative result will be permitted to transport their poultry after an issuance of a clearance.

PCAF joins...

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maintenance and vacation for some their staff.

“The first three years of the implementation of the Closed Fishing Season Policy became very expensive in terms of operations because we need to import Sardines to cope up and assure that the distribution of our product in the market will not be affected,” Engr. Castelo added.

However, he admitted that the greatest challenge is actually the manpower. In the first year of the implementation, their canning plants has to closed because there were no fish supply.

“This is the time that we got them into skills trainings or send them back to their families. But we are still asking for the help of the government agencies. This December, DOLE have programs like mangrove planting but the problem with this is konti lang ang na-i-involve. We want something that is encompassing, something that will really address the majority of the displaced workers,” Engr. Castelo said.

On the other hand, Baylosis encouraged fisherfolks and fishing companies to consider conserving the resources.

“The Closed Fishing Season has been successful and beneficial not only to Filipinos but also to all mankind. This should be continued perpetually,” said Baylosis. (See PCAF Express Issue Number 3 at www.pcaf.da.gov.ph for related story.)
PCAF celebrates WFD 2017. PCAF joined DA with its bureaus and other attached agencies in the international celebration of the annual World Food Day (WFD) on October 17, 2017 at the Quezon City Circle. Despite the nationwide transport strike that caused suspension of work in all government offices, more than 70 PCAF employees gathered to support the worldwide campaign of the United Nations’ (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address hunger, poverty and increase in extreme weather events caused by climate change that contribute to migration challenges. For years, WFD encourages government and other civil society organizations to brainstorm possible policies or programs focusing on agriculture, food production, nutrition and poverty alleviation that brought this year’s WFD theme “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.” Photo shows PCAF employees along with other DA bureaus and attached agencies listen to UN Resident Coordinator Ola Almgren as he gives message.

SCC strengthens SC’s and PWD’s capability program. PCAF-Senior Citizens Committee (SCC) celebrated its second Senior Citizen (SC) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Day on December 20, 2017. As part of the celebration, the committee prepared series of activities that enhanced the capabilities and open opportunities to the members of SCs and PWDs. Aside from the SC and PWD Day, the SCC also prepared Agriculture and Fisheries project visitation and seminars, and social service programs and activities like spiritual retreats. Photo shows members of PCAF SC and PWD pose with AVEN Nature’s Farm owners Angelina Veneracion (left, standing) and Archimedes Veneracion (second to the right, seated) during one of the agri-fishery project visitations. (Photo courtesy of Angelina Alison)
One of the joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to express our sincerest gratitude to all.

It is always a pleasure working with our Advisory Special Bodies: NAF Council, NSSCCs and AFCs, and our dedicated employees.

You are the reason behind the success of the agency and I am looking forward to more years of strong partnership.

I am wishing you all the best this Christmas!

Sarah Gutierrez-Cayona
Executive Director

PCAFE A celebrates 2nd founding anniversary. Carrying the slogan “We Are The Best!”, PCAF Employee Association (PCAFE A) celebrates its second founding anniversary on a high note. The anniversary program started with an invocation and welcome remarks led by PCAFE A secretary, Apolonio Macaisa followed by the inspirational speech of PCAF Executive Director Sarah Gutierrez-Cayona. In her anniversary address, Exec. Dir. Cayona thanked all the employees for their exemplary help and narrated how PCAF withstand and triumphed through different challenges. The celebration was jam-packed with activities such as cheer dance competition, search for Miss PCAFE A, parlor games and sports-fest. Photos show the different teams in their fighting colors, as they join the activities held at Department of Agriculture- PCAF Gymnasium on November 06, 2017.

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