

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

“Mobilizing Church and Community Towards a Caring Society”

VISION

"Children in nurturing communities enjoying life in God's abundance"

MISSION

Lingap Pangkabataan is a faith-based development organization called to:

Lead in child participation and advocacy efforts
Implement child-focused community development programs
Network and partner with likeminded organizations
Generate and optimize resources for program and organizational sustainability
Assist local project partners, and
Promote lifelong learning and community self-reliance

.....so that children especially the disadvantaged would be able to live life in all its fullness.

CORE VALUES

As a God loving organization, we value:

Inclusiveness Regardless of faith, gender, gender preference, consciousness, abilities, and social status, we recognize the beauty of diversity and we can always come together to create a nurturing community for children living in God's abundance.

Accountability As trustee of God's resources, we honor our commitment to take care of one another, build up each other even as we submit ourselves to rectify our mistakes and grow more in our commitment to do better in the service of God and people especially the children.

Competence Though equipped with knowledge and skills in implementing child-focused community-based programs, we do recognize the need for lifelong learning and are committed to sharing our competencies to our partner churches and communities.

Teamwork LPI stakeholders and likeminded individuals collaborating together, sharing and inspiring each other to do good works to accomplish the goals to glorify God in Christ Jesus.

Service LPI ensures continuing relevance by serving the children, families and communities with love and humility.

Chairperson's Message

Greetings of peace and hope to the entire family of the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) as we share with you our humble accomplishments for 2019 amid the challenges and the vicissitudes of life.

A person cannot reach his or her full potential unless he or she goes through the pains of many of life's trials and tribulations. Little did a person know that these "stumbling blocks" are mere phases in a prolonged purification process much like the metamorphosis from coal to diamond, which required the pressure of tons of earth over millions of years in order to be created.

The same process is required of an organization before it reaches its true potential and value, albeit with much less time required. LPI has existed for only almost two scores, just a tiny fragment of time compared to what was needed to form a real diamond. But close to 40 years of existence for a non-government organization (NGO) is already a monumental achievement.

You can scan the history of the civil society in the Philippines and you will realize that LPI, indeed, belongs to an elite class of survivors in the small community of NGOs in the country. The fact that it is still alive and kicking today is a testament to its effectiveness and relevance.

Relevance. That is a beautiful word. It is very apt for Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. I believe the very reason why LPI exists still is because it is still relevant. Aside from being relevant, it has proven through the years its ability to adapt and reinvent itself.



Like a creature that stubbornly refuses to be extinct, it evolves in spite of the changing times and tides. It grows and grows as it overcomes one challenge after another. The year 2019 was typical. Like other years, there were road blocks that prevented a smooth sailing. The trick is to never surrender and to not be weary because we have a God who will never forsake us!

He is the same God who has seen the affliction of His chosen people, Israel, at the hands of the Egyptian oppressors. He is the same God whose eternal power will not forsake our commitment and dedication to continue serving Him by serving the poor and marginalized children in our country today.

Steadfast to our pastoral and prophetic perspective of assessing today's miserable realities, we have been challenged to respond through the life-work of the LPI based on the theme, "Mobilizing Church and Community Towards a Caring Society."

This theme was inspired by the spirituality of the Good Samaritan, a character featured in one of Jesus' unforgettable parables who saw no barrier in helping someone in need. This same selfless compassion for the needy that continues to inspire us to engage in development programs such as LPI's transforming children's ministries in partnership with churches and the wider community.

Such spirit of faith and hope, I humbly claim, is deeply rooted in this institution. We must bestow due recognition on the forebears of the LPI who laid the foundation of godly values, which have become the cornerstone of this child-focused institution. It is apparent that God used them as His instruments in helping children and families through LPI for many, many years.

We offer our utmost respect to these special people. May God bless and protect them throughout their lives. They deserve no less because it was them who formulated the secret of LPI's survival for almost four decades against all odds—this secret, we now know, is its unshakeable, immovable, impenetrable, and unbending avowal to its core values.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, may I, therefore, humbly extend my assurance that we will honestly and sincerely perform our policy-making roles and responsibilities to ensure that all programs and activities will be anchored, as we had throughout the past year, on our institutional core values that is geared towards the realization and attainment of the LPI's Vision, Mission and Goals even amid whatever challenges that will block the way of this revered institution.

We will not give in to the temptation of giving up. We will not be weary. We will not lose hope, instead each challenge and hardship will fuel us to achieve more. It is the least we can do to show our gratitude to LPI's forebears.

Let us, therefore, keep the faith anchored on St. Paul's affirmation that, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 8:39b), who is our centripetal and centrifugal power as well as our inspiration in serving the least children of our time.

Let us pray: Pour upon our hearts and mind to appreciate the rich experience of the past on how LPI has been responding with relevance to the call and challenge of building a peaceful community for children and the wider community.

Bless us, O God, with a discerning wisdom as we continue to commit to this meaningful stewardship you entrusted to us for the proclamation of your Kingdom in Christ's Jesus, where love, mercy and compassion, justice, peace and righteousness prevails in the relationship of the whole humanity and the whole creation.

In the name of the Triune God. AMEN.

Bishop Jerome Baris
BOT Chairperson

CCM: An Empowering Approach to IM

“The Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) is an approach to Integral Mission, not only spiritual but practice, serving people through our hearts, mind and hand.”

This was emphasized by Ms. Fennelien Stal, Impact and Learning Coordinator of Tear Netherlands, who facilitated the Learning Session participated in by representatives of the Manila-based church partners of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI).



Ms. Stal shared that there are various approaches in Church and Community Transformation such as Church Involvement, Church Mobilization, and CCM where the latter can mobilize the community to work together.

“CCM is about giving the local church a vision for their community and empowering the church to go out into the community,” she remarked.

By the end of the gathering, the participants were unanimous that they have gained a fresher and deeper understanding of CCM and that they were, indeed, fortunate to be a part of the process.



The Principles of CCM

Ms. Stal shared these principles by providing the following examples, which are all based on the Asian context:

- **Church-led:** Initiated by the local church, but led jointly with the community.
- **Relational:** Important to take time to build good relationships and trust. Seeking to restore all four key relationships (with God, others, self, and creation).
- **Participatory:** All people should be involved in the process and enabled to participate. It aims to particularly include those who are marginalized and support them as a priority. How do we reach the poorest, the most marginalized?
- **Bible-based:** The work of the church should be rooted in the Bible's teaching on integral mission. Reflection and action are undertaken with biblical reflection and prayer; theology shapes the process.
- **Contextualization:** This is key to applying these principles successfully in different places.
- **Facilitative and empowering:** The approach is not about outsiders coming in and telling communities what to do, but is about helping communities realize their own strengths and resources and act for themselves. The local church and community should gain skills and confidence so that they can take the responsibility for their own development.
- **Open-ended and non-prescriptive:** What the local church and community decide to take on is entirely up to them. The facilitator does not have a pre-set idea of what they will do. The "mission" is ongoing, not a stand-alone project, or one about process, with an endpoint. It's a mission and a project because the process goes on.
- **Local resources and sustainability:** This process should always start by helping the church and community to identify and use their own resources and help people break free of a dependency mindset. The process first looks to the local resources, before bringing in external inputs to increase capacity. The process and projects should continue long after the external support has ended.

Conversation with Micah Philippines

Act justly and compassionately to promote the common good.

The LPI staff and other faith-based organizations gathered for two days for the sole purpose of deepening their awareness on various social issues confronting the country today.

The conversation was organized by Micah Philippines.

With the theme, "The Gospel and the Common Good," the conversation aimed at examining the participants' perspectives on justice and determine whether they conform to God's justice. It was also a time to reflect on how current ministries demonstrate God's justice and mercy.

The well-organized session was adjudged a success since it was able to realize its purpose of amassing the inspiring stories of the participants from various church and community-based organization.

The organizers believe that the wealth of lessons shared by them can help in the pursuit of the common good for the country that is challenged by various social issues.

MICAH CONVERSATION ON
THE **GOSPEL &**
THE **COMMON**
GOOD



REV. CB SAMUEL
Keynote Speaker

DR. JAYEEL CORNELIO
"Social Justice & Social Responsibility"

DR. RIGO VILLANUEVA
"Nurturing Justice in the Church"

MS. FE FORONDA, MSW & MS. MENCHIT WONG
"Justice Starts at Home"

ATTY. ROMEL BAGARES & ATTY. JOJO LACANILAO
"Toward a More Just Government!"

Gawang-Kamay (Hand-Made)

Wenifreda Lambon and her husband, Danny, were still in high spirit as they shared their experience on stage last April while receiving the college diplomas of their two daughters.

"It was mixed emotions," she recalled, "we were nervous but happy and overwhelmed by these blessings."

Weni was thankful that all these were made possible through her active participation in Gawang Kamay.

"That was our first time to go up on stage for the college graduation of our daughters," says Weni, as she is called in the community.

Her daughters Divina, 23, and Dorina, 21, graduated from Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez Sr. Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST), a state university, with BS Secondary Education and BS Business Management degrees, respectively.

"Education is the only treasure that we can bestow to our children as our legacy," she confessed. "If not for the income we received by working for Gawang Kamay, I would have no means of supporting the education of my children," she added.

Gawang Kamay is a local social enterprise formed by a group of mothers in Barangay Escopa 3 in Quezon City.

In 2016, these mothers banded together to address the issue of working children and children on the streets in their village. Children spend their days selling sampaguita leis, cigarettes and bottled water on the busy streets of Katipunan Avenue and are exposed to different risks of abuses and road accidents.

Children as young as six years old would tag along their parents and older siblings while the latter vend their goods on the streets. Most of these kids do not attend school anymore; while those in school eventually end up dropping from their classes.

Weni and her seven kids are no different back then, until they were oriented about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child or the UNCRC in 2005.

For Weni and the other parents in their barangay, taking the kids away from working on the streets was not easy. While their children attended formal school, parents like them are taught in the community about recognizing the rights and developing responsibilities of their children based on their evolving capacities. Getting an orientation was easy. But putting it in practice became a day-to-day struggle.

Allowing their children to work on the streets to earn an additional income but at the same time supporting them from their dream of acquiring a college education provided the balance. They know that it was the right thing to do as a family.



Being actively involved in Gawang Kamay also provided opportunities to grow their community enterprise. With their God-given talent of selling, they learned to become effective entrepreneurs. Gradually, they improved their income-earning skills.

Gawang Kamay is a partner of Mission Alliance Philippines and Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. Since 2016, parent participants of Gawang Kamay has helped 94 community members in improving their income through their bag-making and t-shirt printing businesses.

They initiated the formation of the ESCOPA 3 Kilos Kabataan para sa Bayan (EKKB), a community-based children's association in the forefront of advocating for children's right and protection in their communities to prevent and respond to the concerns and issues of children on the streets.

Also through Gawang Kamay, around 50 in-school and out-of-school children and youth are provided back-to-school kits and tutorial assistance through the Educational Tutorial and Alternative Learning System (ET-ALS) Project.

Gawang Kamay and the EKKB are also represented in the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and, thus, are able to participate in decision-making processes at the barangay level especially on children's concerns.

Weni and Danny are blessed to be able to send their children to school. For them, Gawang Kamay was one of the instruments used by the Lord to make it possible. Now that their two daughters have graduated from college and are applying for work, they believe that the two can also help send their other siblings to finish school.

Weni and Danny believe their family was done by God's hand. "Gawang kamay ng Diyos."

"Hand-made products are generally sturdier but the process of manufacturing is tedious and labor-intensive," she said. "It is like reaching our dreams and raising our children that cannot be fast-tracked and done hastily."

Like the bags that Gawang Kamay produces, their family is a product of love and commitment, so are their dreams of a better future for their kids and families.

Weni and Danny hope that Gawang Kamay will help many more community members improve their lives and their children.

A Workshop that Fosters Friendships

Through the partnership of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), the National Service Training Program (NSTP) of BFA Theater Arts Sophomores of ADMU successfully facilitated the Trainers' Training Workshop on Theater Arts for the children leaders from the partner communities of LPI including E. Rodriguez Sr., Escopa 3, and Brgy. 170 of Caloocan City.

The student facilitators conducted nine sessions of theater arts workshop this year for this batch of 20 young participants whose ages ranged from 10 to 17.

During the workshops, the children, through the guidance of the facilitators and adult support staff, underwent and participated in various activities to build trust, connection, and skills that would be essential not only in the practice of theater arts but also in the art of living.

Here are some of the feedbacks from the children participants:

"Una sa lahat, nagpapasalamat kami dahil sobrang daming natutunan, naging masaya kami sa pagtuturo ng mga ate at kuya namin sa Ateneo. Minsan nakakapagod pero masaya pa rin naman".

Marami kaming natutunan tulad ng pag-e-exercise bago mag-umpisa ng pagtuturo sa amin. Ang pinakamasaya na exercise namin tuwing umaga ay iyong ii-stretch namin iyong mukha namin para masanay sa iba't ibang emosyon ng mukha. Natuto rin kaming umarte ng biglaan. Natuto rin kami ng teamwork sapagkat kung hindi kami magtutulungan ay walang matatapos na gawain.

Marami rin kaming naging kaibigan mula sa iba't-ibang lugar. At ito'y ilan lamang sa napakaraming naitulong ng aming mga ate at kuya mula sa Ateneo." (Maria).



"Ako ay naimbitahan na dumalo sa isang theater workshop kung saan tinuruan kami kung paano maging isang disiplinadong tao at umarte.

Dito ay marami kaming natutunan hindi lamang sa pag-arte pati na rin kung paano makisalamuha sa ibang tao at makinig nang maigi sa itinuturo ng isang facilitator. Kami ay tunay ngang nasisiyahan sa isang oportunidad na ipinagkaloob sa amin ng LPI.

Inaasahan namin na sana ay maulit ang ganitong klaseng workshop. Kami ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa mga naging parte ng workshop na ito." (Cham).



The recently concluded workshop has not only been instrumental into the children's understanding and practice of theater arts but also to their personal lives as well.

It is with hope that opportunities like this will reach more children.



Something Worth Doing: Updates on the Typhoon 'Ompong' Response

Bracing for devastating typhoons all year round has been a normal event in the Philippines, especially in areas near the coastline.

However, some typhoons that visited the archipelago these past couple of years stood out due to the massive damage they wrought to communities where they made their landfall.

One of these was Typhoon "Ompong," which devastated communities including Cagayan and Isabela. It rammed several towns in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, leaving numerous houses and infrastructures there in shambles.

One of the immediate needs in the aftermath of the typhoon was the restoration of houses as well as the damaged infrastructure of the community.

In the emergency response that LPI conducted, one of the objectives was to help restore the residents' shelters, which the partners in the communities, namely Episcopal Diocese of Northern Luzon (EDNL) and Episcopal Diocese of Santiago (EDS), acted on immediately.

Hence, more than 300 houses were restored in no time, something that the families affected by the typhoon appreciated very much.

Due to their timely response in providing shelter, the Diocese of Santiago instead proposed to restore public infrastructure in the community to benefit more families.

For the community of Baggao in Cagayan, they chose to rebuild the church that was destroyed during the typhoon and make it a multi-purpose center to address the concerns of where to gather for education, instructions, meetings, seminars and trainings.

This also answered their need for a community center and worship center. And in times of calamity it will serve as their evacuation area. Rev. Claudio L. Bagano, Integrated Missions Officer (IMO) of EDNL, said "we were inspired by the experience of losing a building which used to be the meeting center of the community, and further inspired by the target of having a sturdier one that can survive the fury of future typhoons. The community - men and women and even the youth and children were united to realize that vision of having a building of their own."



The multi-purpose structure will not only be limited to Episcopalians' use as it will be available for use by the whole community. It is now easier to gather the community whenever they need to and the site became the literal community center.

When Rev. Bagano was asked about his thoughts when the church/multi-purpose community center is nearing its completion, he said that there is "a feeling of fulfillment, thankfulness, security and contentment."

For the residents of Dinapigue community in Isabela, they prioritized the water system knowing that summer and El Niño phenomenon often brings severe drought to the community since only a few pumps and water wells were functioning.

The Rev. Crisologo Baguiwan, also an IMO of EDS, said, "many people will benefit from the provision of water system in the community."

The construction of the water system took up to five months to ensure the right of way for the passage of main line hose and observation of the source itself. They also had to make sure if the spring is sustainable or not, which according to survey shows that the supply is well enough to produce the required amount of water to supply the 74 households' daily need in the area.

After the construction was finished, the availability of water in their kitchens made people happy, indeed. The accessibility of safe water contributed immensely to the improvement of health and sanitation in the area.

They are now actively engaging in backyard gardening for additional household income and for their own consumption.

When the two IMOs were asked what were the lessons that they learned during this whole process Rev. Bagano said, "God is alive, and works in many mysterious ways. There is always a God who can use other partners for the recovery of his people. Teaching us resiliency, unity, hope, and love."

Rev. Baguiwan added, "it was worth mentioning that after you have accomplished your work, you will find fulfilment and feel happy because through other people's efforts, we helped other people. Community organizing is not easy but it is worth it."



Trauma-Informed Care

The Philippines has a long running history of bracing itself through one disaster after another. These calamities usually leave casualties and destruction of numerous properties in its wake.

The impact of disasters on our communities cannot be avoided anymore, hence, we need to be prepared for the effects of disasters to our well-being and our mental health, especially those of the children.

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI), in partnership with a group of social development practitioners called Advocacy, Capacity-building, Empowerment and Training (ACET), conducted a training-workshop on Trauma Informed Care.

The training workshop was held at the St. Mary's School of Sagada, Inc. in the hinterlands of Sagada, Mountain Province and was attended by the members of the clergy and lay of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP). There were 44 of them.

Among the objectives of the training-workshop are as follows:

1. Describe trauma and its impact to survivors;
2. Recognize signs and symptoms of trauma;
3. Demonstrate proper techniques for addressing challenging behaviors and conflict using trauma informed approaches;
4. Identify and implement self-care strategies to prevent burn-out;
5. Develop a plan of action for the improvement of the shelter's operation and management; and
6. Strengthen cooperation, collaboration, team work, and support towards an effective and efficient delivery of services.

The facilitators combined the tedious session with lectures, workshops, and other structured learning exercises to make the learning process "stress-free" and a venue for a healthy discussion.

After each activity, a processing session is facilitated to gauge the participants understanding and appreciation on the topic. There were also instances where participants were asked to contextualize and integrate their learning in the various programs and activities of the church.

One of the facilitators said the "processing and proper handling of survivors can make or break their way towards recovery; and most of the time, it affects their development in the long run."

The facilitator also reminded the participants that "it is important for workers, especially those who are responding to traumatized survivors, to know how to handle such cases."



Reflection

The seminar on Trauma-Informed Care was very timely for us members of the clergy and lay of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines.

Thus, on behalf of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Brent Harry W. Alawas, and the Diocesan Clergy and laity, we would like to thank the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. for sponsoring and help conduct this seminar for us. Likewise, to our resource persons who came all the way from Manila to facilitate this seminar, we are so grateful and we pray that your work and our ministry together will be blessed by God as we work for His Kingdom and for His people.

Indeed, this seminar will be of great help to us in our ministry as a church with regards to what we call our "Pastoral Care Ministry" in serving the needy, depressed, oppressed, suffering, bereaved, and any other forms of physical, mental and spiritual problems encountered by our people.

Our Pastoral Ministry involves dealing with all kinds of problems that our people in the pews and in the communities where we serve are facing, purposely to encourage, give hope, counsel, give assistance in whatever way we can and pray for them.

By these, we live out the gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ who came to restore, rebuild, heal, forgive, give hope and save the people during His earthly ministry. We carry the same mission in our work as a church and as concerned citizens of the country.

Of course, we cannot only do these things in our individual capacities as pastors but also in partnership with the different agencies of the government and even non-government organizations, especially in the areas where we are located.

Further, our approach to such ministry is wholistic in the sense that we minister to people physically, spiritually, etc. and we also refer them for professional help in cases that need it.

Again, thank you so much Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. the management and staff for making these things possible. May God guide and bless us all in all our endeavors by God's grace and guidance.

Rev. Lioba A. Achawon
Participant
EDNP Integrated Mission Officer

PCM with FBOs and CBOs

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) organized a consultation workshop with partners from the faith-based and community-based organizations as participants.

Among the consultation's objectives include: reflection session on Child-focused Church and Community Mobilization, understanding the basic concepts of Project Cycle Management, and eventually to identify broad strategies for the Child-focused Community-based Development Program (CCDP) and Communities for Development (C4D) for the year 2020.

A brief session on the topics Project and Financial Management Cycle, Gender and Development (GAD), Disaster- Risk Reduction (DRR), and Social Enterprise were discussed with LPI's partner communities from Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Baguio City, and Eastern Samar.



Engaging Barangays in Community-Based Child Protection Program

“It takes a village to protect a child,” so the saying goes.

According to a United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (Unicef) study in 2015 , 80 percent of the estimated 39 million Filipino children have experienced some form of violence at home, in school, in their community, and online.

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) actively addresses this through its pioneering approach of Child-focused Community-based Development Program (CCDP). LPI, however, cannot protect all the 39 million children alone. With fellow duty bearers, the rights holder themselves and other stakeholders, we engage in the process of Child-focused Church and Community Mobilization (CCM).

For the child protection program to be effective, it must employ a systems approach like LPI’s CCDP. LPI launched the CCDP in year 2000 and has contributed in building the capacities of the communities of BASECO in Manila and Barangays E. Rodriguez Sr. and Escopa 3 in Quezon City in addressing child-focused needs.

In 2016, child- focused community organizing was advanced to establish an enabling environment for child protection. This leads to the formation of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in its partner-communities in Metro Manila.

Last June 28 and 29, LPI and leaders from its eight church partners in Metro Manila and Eastern Visayas, five barangay local governments, community-based organizations (CBOs) and community-based children’s associations (CBCAs) in Metro Manila converged to initiate medium-term strategies on child protection.

Facilitated by registered social workers of Advocacy, Capacity-building, Empowerment and Training (ACET), around 70 adults and children-participants reviewed community-level child protection situation and programs, identified resources and gaps, defined purpose in the next three years and planned child protection strategies.

This is a start of a series of trainings that seeks to build the capacities of barangay, church and community workers and help operationalize and institutionalize a robust child protection programs led by barangay LGUs.



We may not be able to solve every child abuse case or prevent new abuses from happening immediately, but through this workshop we were able to take small steps towards drafting a multi-year program that will see each of LPI's partner communities as model barangay for child protection.

Yes, it takes a village to protect a child and we dream that this is what we will see in these communities. There is a functional Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, Reporting and Referral System is in place, policies and manuals for child protection are passed, child protection workers are inspired and happily carrying out their responsibilities and community members including children through their CBCAs, are actively working to prevent and respond to child abuse, violence and exploitation.

<https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/national-baseline-study-violence-against-children-philippines>





18th Annual General Assembly

The annual gathering of member churches of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc., its project partners, and children leaders took place on May 16, 2019 at the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) Social Hall in Quezon City. The theme for this year is "Mobilizing Church and Community Towards a Caring Society."

The praise and worship were led by the representatives of LPI's new partner organizations from the New Life Christian Center (Port Area) Inc. in Manila and the Jesus the Word of Life Ministry Inc. in Quezon City.

Prior to the business session, the Rev. Lendehl Rey M. Sallidao of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines (EDCP) in Novaliches, Quezon City and Pastora Ana Sasi of the Jesus Christ the Strong Foundation Community Church based in Balangiga, Eastern Samar presented and shared their experiences and stories in relation to Church and Community Mobilization (CCM).

Rev. Sallidao said, "the Episcopal Church in the Philippines believes that the church is an agent for community transformation, thus, we seek to be relevant in and among communities through Community Transformational Development."

He also stressed that "the EDCP and LPI collaboration seeks to call on families, community leaders, local government, and other stakeholders in the community to participate for the welfare of children according to God's heart for them".

Pastora Sasi, on the other hand, shared their initiatives in Eastern Samar. She emphasized the need for "family strengthening" using the module Understanding God's Heart for Children. She also talked about the clean-up drive of their Church as a community-based program that mobilizes youth to move for action. This strategy, according to Pastora Sasi, is coupled with youth discipleship.

During the business session, the LPI Executive Director Norman Franklin Agustin presented the highlights of the organization's accomplishments of the previous year. Also, the Treasurer of the Board reported on the financial status of LPI. The 2019 Learning Conference Statement was also presented to the General Assembly for their action.

The General Assembly elected new members of the Board of Trustees, namely: the Rev. Francisco S. Aviso Jr. of the United Metropolis Conference of the UCCP, the Rev. Lendehl Rey M. Salidao of the EDCP, and Pastor Roselito N. Roque of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines (CAMACOP).



2019 Learning Conference

“Mobilizing Church and Community Towards a Caring Society” was the Learning Conference’s theme for 2019.

In partnership with the Office of Social Concern and Involvement (OSCI), the annual gathering was held at the Ateneo de Manila University last May 13-15. It was participated in by delegates all over the country.

The Learning Conference is an annual gathering of church and community leaders, workers, and practitioners of social development.

Launched in 2018, with more than a hundred church and community development workers from different regions of the country as well as international partners, the conference aimed at contributing in strengthening unity among advocates and practitioners of church and community mobilization towards community development or transformation.

Recognizing the long-time experience of Christian churches and faith-based organizations in journeying with communities on various advocacy and social development initiatives, LPI was inspired to grow this platform so that stories can be told, learnings are shared, and good practices are presented. LPI is also excited to see how ministries are shaped, and how communities gradually experience transformational development.

The Learning Conference 2019 objectives include learning the various models of church and community engagement; deepening the understanding and appreciation of church and community mobilization principles; and to heighten the solidarity of advocates and practitioners on church and community mobilization.





Good Governance: Key to Development

“A well-governed organization is an effective organization.” This truism is especially so if its new Board of Trustees are well-oriented on their roles and responsibilities.

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) Executive Director facilitated an orientation with the new members of the Board of Trustees with the objective of providing an overview of their important roles and responsibilities in the organization. The Board of Trustees, as a governing body, provides the leadership needed by the organization.

Functions such as setting of direction of the organization, formulating guidelines and policies, ensuring responsible stewardship, delegating management responsibility to the Executive Director, and taking the lead in resource generation were emphasized during the orientation that took place at the LPI office in Quezon City.

The LPI General Assembly in their annual gathering last May elected the Trustees. They were: the Rev. Lendehl Rey M. Sallidao, Secretary; the Rev. Francisco Aviso Jr., Treasurer; and Pastor Roselito N. Roque, Member. The Trustees will serve for three years except for Pastor Roque who will serve for two years or the remaining period of the unfinished term of a former trustee.

It was also highlighted during the orientation that the Board of Trustees has distinct and separate roles to that of the Executive Director. The latter manages the day-to-day operations of the organization while the former focuses on the governance.



LPI, Churches, Organizations Forged Partnership

What does it mean to journey together?

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) with its partner-churches and community-based organizations agreed to help local churches on how to journey together with their communities to address their needs capitalizing on their own resources through the Church and Community Mobilization (CCM).

And to start this journey in bringing transformation to churches and communities, LPI entered into partnership agreement with six local churches and two community-based organizations from Quezon City, Valenzuela City, City of Manila, Province of Negros Oriental, and Eastern Samar. These churches and organizations are:

1. The United Church of Christ in the Philippines – United Metropolis Conference (UCCP-UMC), Quezon City
2. Jesus the Word of Life Ministry Inc., Quezon City
3. New Life Christian Center (Port Area) Inc., Manila

4. Martina Gacillos Tigley Memorial Church (UCCP), Eastern Samar

5. Jesus Christ the Strong Foundation Community Church, Eastern Samar

6. The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines Inc., Valenzuela City (renewal)

7. Katilingbanong Pagtagad Alang Sa Kauswagan Inc., Negros Oriental

These entities agreed to continue and bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. The Memorandum of Partnership Agreement also emphasized the need for both parties to adhere on their sacred duty to uphold and protect the children's rights as embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As partners, they will also commit to uphold the principles of participatory and sustainable development that builds on their resources to bring about positive changes in the communities.

The Memorandum of Partnership Agreement was signed by Atty. Jerry F. Bantilan, CPA, Chairperson of the LPI Board of Trustees and the respective heads of churches and organizations.



"Helping Transform Communities"



Integral Mission Workshop

What is it all about? How to do a mission? Is doing service doing mission? Whose one mission is it, the church's or God's?

These are the common questions participants posed when asked what their expectations are of the Integral Mission Workshop held in Lawaan, Eastern Samar.

Attended by 20 church workers and leaders from the LPI project-partners and local churches in the province of Samar, the learning session introduced and levelled off with the various church denominations regarding the manner of implementation of holistic ministry as expressed in the missiological framework of "Integral Mission."

The learning session, combined with workshops, was designed to explore both the biblical foundation and praxis of holistic ministry for and with children and resiliency-building where participants freely expressed their understanding of IM.

The participants grouped themselves and presented their understanding of integral mission as fullness of life or "buhay na ganap at kasiya-siya."

Integral mission, according to the participants, has three mission components—prophetic, priestly, and kingly.

Another group said that integral mission is like a church that represents light, heart and hand that reaches out to the communities.

Bishop Jerome Baris of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines – East Visayas Jurisdictional Area (UCCP-EVJA) and currently the LPI's Chairperson of the Board of Trustees facilitated the session on IM and holistic development framework.

"IM is both proclamation and demonstration," he said. He also shared the UCCP's different programs such as Teaching (establishing schools), Preaching (establishing churches), and Healing (through the establishment of hospitals).

In his presentation, he added that mission grows out of the context where it occurs. Proclamation of the Gospel and bearing witness are expressed "in the context of one's immediate community, the nation, and the rest of humanity" (Exodus 3: Luke 4:18-19).

A national situationer was also presented where participants actively shared in the discussion especially in the issue of war on drugs of the Duterte administration. After the sharing, Bishop Baris posed this question to the participants: "What, then, is our response in these changing times?"

He quoted a statement from the 8th NCCP General Convention, which states: "the role of the Church is not only to see, hear, and feel or to speak-out, but more importantly, to act and be involved in bringing into contact the Lord Jesus Christ in every human condition."

The biblical point of view of development principles were discussed. Development work should be patterned after God's act in Christ as seen in terms of the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection.

In the incarnation, God identifies with the poor and oppressed, and becomes an Emmanuel for those who hunger for justice, righteousness and abundance. In the crucifixion, God takes up the cause of the marginalized and struggling poor seriously up to the end. In the resurrection, God gives the assurance and hope that he is the power for justice, freedom and well-being. So that Christ is the dynamics of development and liberation that lies at the coil of the toiling masses.

In his concluding statement, he said: "Social injustice is the over-arching root cause of unpeace in this benighted country, Philippines. Such is the context of our IM and ministry and we cannot define and claim the Church that we are if we do not respond to such context".

Pastora Ana Sasi, Administrative Pastor of the Jesus Christ the Strong Foundation Community Church (JCSFCC) and an LPI Trustee, also facilitated a workshop session on the different biblical passages pertaining to the IM.





The Asia Resilience Learning Forum 2019

“Power through Networks” is the theme of the first ever Resilience Forum held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia jointly hosted by Tear Netherlands and Tearfund United Kingdom (UK).

Participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, UK, USA and Zimbabwe gathered and shared useful learning experiences on how networks can help in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Management (DM).

With the great number of participants coming from different backgrounds, methods used during the forum combined small group discussions, presentations and field visits, thus, making it a more relaxed and exciting learning experience.

The main purpose of the learning forum was to share diverse experiences, research, and innovations of church and partner-led Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management in order to learn, be inspired, and strengthen relationships for better DRR and DM practice.

The objectives include:

1. Sharing of Tearfund’s latest research findings on church’s role in DRR / DM as well as hear others’ stories in order to know better what role we can expect the church to play and how to help it play that role better.
2. Exploring different understandings of “resilience” to broaden the participants’ understanding of it and get useful ideas for everyone to take away and try out.
3. Appreciating participants’ success stories and innovative ideas in DRR/DM networks, exploring what worked and why in order to draw out principles that can be applied elsewhere.
4. Visit local churches in Yogyakarta and see how they are addressing local disaster risks in order to see real practice, be inspired, and see what could be useful in different contexts.
5. Strengthen existing social connections and form new ones leading to networks of individuals and organization who can help each other do better DRR and DM - beyond Tearfund/Tear/ partner boundaries.

Participants were also tasked to draft a paper on their experiences that will be published to showcase their resilience-building experiences, learning, and good practice in church and partner-led DRR/DM.

“Journeying with local churches through CCM: The LPI Experience,” which is also published in this Annual Report, is the title of the paper submitted by LPI.



Journeying with local churches through CCM: The LPI Experience

Can churches work together especially during emergencies?

We are witnessing how churches are being transformed and equipped through long years of experience and capacity-building. How Sunday Schools are transformed into Child-friendly Spaces or even Day-Care Centers, if the community needs one. Recognizing this uniqueness and building on their strengths enabled us to discover that a local church community can thrive doing visible actions together.

Identified as the second poorest province in the Philippines, the agriculture and fishery-dependent Eastern Samar was one of the most affected areas of super-typhoon "Haiyan" in 2013. Half of the population were already in extreme poverty in the first place, yet the disaster exacerbated their pitiful situation and made them much more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Only a few social development organizations can be found and government programs do not even include disaster preparedness and response. People usually seek help from priests, pastors, and other church workers than from the local government agencies.

Visible in the community are church structures as venue for worship and other related activities. From time to time, they hold medical missions, feeding programs and various community outreach activities with the purpose of touching more "souls" and hoping for increased church membership.

"Haiyan" destroyed and changed everything, but provided us an opportunity to facilitate the creation of a new path for local churches to work with the community and to rebuild.

The magnitude of damage prompted Tear-Netherlands to facilitate the formation of a Consortium called Restore Eastern Samar Together (REST) which is composed of several faith-based organizations. The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) or Care for Children, as a member of the consortium, actively participated in its activities and processes. The LPI is a non-profit and faith-based organization in the Philippines composed of nine church denominations from the Evangelical, Protestant, and the Catholic faith.

The consortium is composed of several faith-based organizations like ZOA, Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN), Center for Community Transformation (CCT), Ang Mananampalatayang Gumagawa (AMG), and Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated (LPI).

Working with these churches is the lifeblood of the organization for more than three decades now to ensure that children in nurturing communities are enjoying life in God's abundance. Educational support to disadvantaged children, provision of food and non-food items through project partners during calamities, livelihood program for families, strengthening capacities of community development and church workers through various training and learning sessions were among the many interventions LPI had facilitated with the churches.

Recognizing the value of managing disaster response cooperatively with other organizations, we initiated the partnerships and collaborations of local churches to also do the same.

We facilitated regular consultations and meetings among our local church partners from the Evangelicals, Protestants, and Catholics initially to deliver response services and discuss disaster management concerns. This later on led to the establishment of a learning and sharing community. Having clear roles, they were able to identify areas for effective collaboration. They also shared the same vision with the community despite different doctrines and religious practices.

Six years after 'Haiyan'

Through our child-focused church and community mobilization, LPI is continuously equipping local churches and drawing out from their own experiences, adversities and hopes. Though facilitating the collaboration of churches is a very challenging one – there are cases when one church is very strong in its social action advocacy while another maintains a very traditional and conservative stance – together with the local churches and other stakeholders in the communities we defend the rights of children from abuse and exploitation especially during emergencies.

Local churches now regard children as active participants and not merely as beneficiaries. Church youth organizations opened up for other children in the community doing child rights advocacy and providing psycho-social support through child-to-child approach. Because of the increasing awareness on child rights of community leaders and members, child protection in emergencies are now prioritized.

One child participant said “the church advocates for human rights and equality regardless of your social status or religious affiliation, a venue to promote social justice, and a place where you can easily seek help”.

Inspirations to move forward

Building capacities of local churches increases ownership and accountability because they envision, craft, implement and monitor their own disaster response plans. They also have a clearer role depending on their capacities and available resources. Churches become more evident as they are equipped to manage disaster response and prepare for future disasters.

Though international aid organizations have left, LPI will continuously capacitate local churches and communities so that they will work together despite of their differences in responding to current disasters and will continue to journey towards resilience.

New Chapter Awaits

Last August 10 and 11, around 20 children leaders from the different children's association from Lingap's partner-communities in Metro Manila participated in the "Bagong Kabanata Para Sa Mga Bata: Formulation of the Membership Guidelines and Membership Development Plans" with the goal of ensuring 150 children leaders possess the capacity to represent and actively participate in community-based children's associations by year 2020.

The training-workshop, which was held at Robbinsdale Residences, Quezon City, had various outputs, including a timeline of activities that the children's associations have facilitated and undergone over the years.

The children leaders also participated in the fun and knowledge-filled UN CRC game, which aimed at reviewing and recalling the four fundamental rights of a child; Survival, Protection, Participation, and Development.

Moreover, the children were also able to identify their organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) that contribute to the sustainability of their children's associations.

As one of the main objectives of the training, the children were also able to develop a set of membership guidelines and revise their annual work plans that will contribute to the attainment of their organizational goals, advocacies, and expansion of membership.

Let us share a child-leader's reflection after the activity:

The training was participated in by six different organizations from the communities of the cities of Caloocan, Quezon, and Manila such as SPYCO, EPIC, Y-SPEAK, Baseco Children's Association, ARMY and EKKB. Youth leaders from different organizations showed their artistic and critical thinking skills by creating a SWOT Analysis that emphasizes the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of their organization that they have encountered.

By doing this activity, I have learned the different problems of every organization and how they cope. Also, I have learned the importance of resolving a conflict in the organization for it to be able to survive the socio-cultural, and political changes in the society that can strongly affect the organization.



In addition, the training enhanced our ability to think strategically by creating a solution to the problems that the organization encounters either internally or externally. Moreover, it enhances our self-confidence in sharing our own ideas and thoughts in front of the other youth leaders.

The training also discusses the rights of the youth to be a part of an organization in the community and its role and significance.

I have realized that problems in the organization can't be avoided; however, by creating a strategic plan, the organization can stand up and become stronger amid any circumstance and in spite of any challenge it will encounter.

Lastly, I realized that being a young member of the organization is not a barrier to building a strong foundation for the organization; instead being young can be used as a motivation to lead and share their own ideas, thoughts, and deal with the problems they encounter in the community.

Indeed, children and youth are capable of being leaders. All they need are spaces and opportunities for their skills, talents, capacities to be honed and developed.

Truly, they are the hope of tomorrow. Every opportunity is a new chapter waiting to be unfolded.



Group Savings Program Assessment Workshop

Saving money has always been an integral part of being financially and economically stable.

Knowing how to use your hard-earned money, recording it, and knowing when to save play an important part when you're budgeting, planning something for the future or just tracking your expenses to know whether or not you're using your money efficiently.

Last August 21, Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) invited their project-partners who are already practicing group savings to come together and assess their current group-saving programs.

The workshop was aimed at improving the competence of the members on saving their money as well as providing a guide on how to implement their group-saving programs. It was also aimed at highlighting their good and bad practices so that they would know what policies to adopt, change or drop from their current programs.

In the first part of the workshop, the facilitator, Ms. Ivy Shella E. Pagute, asked the participants: "Why is there a need to save?"

The participants said that they save so that they have extra money in times of emergencies. They also do group savings because they want to help the community through community programs that their group savings program help fund.

After that, a lecture on financial literacy and management was conducted. For the last workshop, the participants listed down the good and bad practices on their current group savings program. They also pointed out what they wanted to implement in their current program.

The output that the participants produced in this workshop can help in improving their current group-savings policies, which they plan to update in the coming months.

The participants said the session really helped them realize the flaws on their current policies as well as the good practices that they implement. They also said that they realized that talking about their practices from time to time help them reflect on the current state of their practice. They said it helped them pinpoint where they currently are and know when and how to move forward from that point onwards.



Re-Orientation Workshop in Administering the Philippine ECD Checklist

Children grow in amazingly fast rate during the first few years of life.

“Nakakatuwa at ang bilis nilang magsilaki,” was how one teacher remarked when asked how the children under her care have developed.

It used to be that keeping track of children’s height and weight was the go-to measure to know their “growth and development.”

Apart from this, however, children undergo major stages or developmental milestones represented by skills and tasks that a child can do at a certain age classified as domains. These are: fine motor, receptive and expressive language, cognitive, self-help and lastly socio-emotional aspects.

This essentially is the purpose and content of The Philippine ECD Checklist developed by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Health (DOH).

It was designed to help Child Development Workers or CDWs assess a child’s development and guide parents and other caregivers on how they can help their children develop fully.

The Philippine Early Childhood Development (Phil. ECD) Checklist is designed for service providers like teachers, rural health midwives, child development and day care workers, parents/caregivers who can easily administer the service after a brief training period. By using the checklist, they will be able to determine if a child is developing adequately or is at risk for developmental delays.

With communities and church-partners of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) continuing to provide early childhood development programs in the past four years, it is important that they are reoriented and kept updated on these standards. Through a one-day Re-Orientation Workshop on the Administration of the ECCD Checklist held on August 21, 2019 at the LPI Board Room, 16 participants, many new to the project, shared that they have gained a better understanding of the technical and administrative use of the checklist through discussions and practical experience in administering it.

Facilitated by the LPI staff, the workshop impressed among the participants that the tool is not intended to be used to label a child's growth and development like having development delays or that the children are not "normal." It should help the school administrators, the CDWs, and the parents to monitor the status of their learners against the indicators provided in the checklist. The workshop stressed that the ECCD checklist is only one of the tools and could be complemented by the ECCD Card and others, such as anecdotes or teacher-and-parent observations.

During the workshop, participants from Barangay 649 of Baseco shared some of the indigenous materials they produced in conducting the assessment.

"Hindi dapat bumili at hindi dapat magastos ang mga gamit sa pag-assess. Tingin lang tayo sa paligid ng komunidad natin, at marami tayong magagamit doon na pamilyar na din sa mga bata," (Assessment materials need not be bought and need not be expensive).

"We can make use of the everyday materials found right in our communities that are already familiar to the children" shared Luna Gadi, a long-time learning facilitator in Baseco and trained by LPI and the Manila Department of Social Welfare.

They also shared that observing and recording children's activities, behavior, and interactions in a more regular basis can help a lot in assessing children's growth and development.

When asked about their take-away from the workshop, two participants shared,

"This re-orientation workshop was very helpful for us learning facilitators as we have this tendency to pass on judgement and labels to our learners, a practice that is totally wrong," said one of the participants from Barangay 170 in Caloocan City.

"I will be careful to write down assessment notes and anecdotal so as not to forget them and include them in my assessment reports," added Teacher Julie of SAKSES-Child Development Center.

This workshop is part of LPI's way of providing technical support to churches and communities to help them sustain their community-led child-focused projects. In 2018, a series of training- workshops was facilitated by Miriam College to enhance capacities of child development workers and service providers.



Around 50 participants attended the training improving the quality of preschool services in our partner communities. Currently, it is supporting 36 various community projects in five marginalized communities in Metro Manila including two tutorial centers and two Child Development Centers (CDCs).

<https://www.teacherph.com/early-childhood-development-checklist/>



Our Experiences as Norwegian Interns at Lingap

We arrived at the Philippines on August 24, 2019 after an 18-hour-long journey from Norway. We are Aud Marie Anglevik and Andrea Linnéa Moen and we came to visit and stay at Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) to complete our internship, a requirement of our course. We have been staying here for a total of three months.

We are students from Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway taking up Bachelor's Degree in Child Protective Services. We are on our third and last year of studying. Our school cooperates with the Norwegian Mission Alliance, which introduced us to LPI.

We will now share to you our experiences in the Philippines and in the organization. When we first arrived, we met the head of the organization, Kuya Norman, and got introduced to Ate Cathy and our supervisor, Kuya Russel. They took good care of us and gave us an easy start due to the jetlag and the difficulties of facing a new culture.



At the beginning of our stay, we visited different barangays and had meaningful conversations with the social workers there. Early in our stay, we made some thoughts about what we wanted to focus on during our stay.

We wanted to increase our cultural understanding, learn about how the social workers work, how they protect children and handle issues and conflicts that are, of course, focused on the children.

What have we been doing in the Philippines

During our stay, we spent one week observing social workers in Barangay 170 of Caloocan City. We also had good conversations with the police, the barangay leader and Fr. Lendehl Sallidao of the Philippine Episcopal Church (PEC). Furthermore, we once joined the barangay night watch (the barangay police's regular night patrol) in Barangay Escopa3. We also directly observed how the day-care center next to LPI and the pre-school in Barangay 170 worked.

In the middle of our stay, we accompanied Kuya Freyel and Ate Bianca in their work in Sagada, Mountain Province. Then, we stayed in Baseco, Manila for a few weeks and got to observe Kuya Gilbert and Ate Tess at the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). We got to visit R.A.C and had conversations with the police, DSWD, VAWC and other barangay members. We also attended meetings and seminars with LPI.



Our experiences and learning

We experienced a lot during our stay. Our first impression of the Philippines was the people's hospitality, friendliness, and kindness.

In Norway, we have a strict eight-hour-a-day working period. Norwegians are used to separating their work time and their time for themselves. Here, we experienced something different.

The social workers of LPI work from early morning to late evening, while barangay workers are always available and are committed to work in a good way. We find it motivating to see how dedicated the people are and their strong determination to do a great job.

One of our biggest discoveries was the importance of the non-verbal language. In Norway we do not focus much on the body language nor facial expression. But here, we experienced how 'no' can be a 'yes' and 'yes' can be a 'no.'

At the beginning we did not understand what was happening, but we soon learned about the importance of body language in conversations.

Since we do not speak Tagalog and found it difficult to always get the language translated, we paid more attention to the people's non-verbal language.

We are really grateful for our time at LPI and are taking a lot of good experiences back to Norway. Our experiences will help us in our work as social workers in Norway and will give us a wider cultural understanding.

It is easy to think that our own way of handling cases is the most convenient, but here we experienced how different ways to work with cases can be as good as the Norwegian ways or even better.

We thank the organization for involving us in their work and for making us a part of the Lingap family. We also want to give a big thanks to all the people in the barangay with whom we got to be in touch with.

Maraming salamat po!

Celebrating Children and their Rights

On the 27th year of celebrating National Children's Month, Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI), Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), and ULAP Manila in cooperation with Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT) co-organized a children's concert that revolved around this year's theme, "Karapatang Pambata: Patuloy na Pahalagahan at Gampanan Tungo sa Magandang Kinabukasan."

Also this year, the Philippines, as one of the countries to ratify the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), is celebrating the 30th year of UN CRC, which was adopted on November 20, 1989.

The children's concert held last November 24 at the Marcela Agoncillo Elementary School in Manila was graced by over a hundred participants coming from the local community partners, as well as network-partners of LPI and COM, including: Virlanie Foundation through the National Council of Social Development (NCSD), Kapatiran Kaunlaran Foundation Inc. (KKFI), New Life Port Area, and Block 7 Community Organization in Baseco (B7COM).

These groups actively participated in the children's concert with Virlanie Foundation showcasing their talented children singers, the young beneficiaries of KKFI performing a theatrical presentation, and the children of B7COM displaying their talent in dancing.

Apart from the performances, there was also an On-The-Spot Poster and Slogan Making contest participated in by children participants from different partner-organizations.

The concert would not be complete without the informative segment—the Children's Rights Orientation facilitated by Ms. Sally Ujano of PACT.

After the concert, winners for the On-The-Spot Poster and Slogan Making contest were announced and given tokens. This was followed by the recognition and appreciation of guests and participants.

At the end of the event, everyone uttered a prayer of hope for a world where children's rights are promoted and protected.



“Together to get there”

East and Southeast Asia (ESEA) Church and Community Mobilization of Practitioners and Influencers in Salatiga

“What if every church in East and Southeast Asia was mobilized along with the whole community, to work towards the whole life transformation- for the poorest and most marginalized?”

These are the challenging words from David Crooks of Tearfund-UK.

I found myself asking the same question even before attending this year’s Church and Community Mobilization or CCM Learning Conference in Salatiga, Indonesia, with our Executive Director, Mr. Norman Agustin, and some other CCM practitioners from the Philippines.

The first learning conference was in Cambodia, where we learned about the concept of CCM. The plenary sharing from long-time practitioners, community and church visits coupled with some orientation-sessions from Mr. Stephanus Herjanto guided us to reflect on some CCM principles and processes and apply it in our current Child- focused Community Development Program (CCDP) framework.

It is not quite long, but our deepening interest to practice CCM in the Philippines grew for the best interest of Filipino children.

During the ESEA-CCM Conference, Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) shared its CCM Timeline and the stories on how it engages local churches to become child rights advocates. It is encouraging that fellow participants were eager to listen to our stories on how we actively engaged our partners to work with children in the process of whole life transformation. We also listened to the stories and insights of fellow participants from Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand and China.

The East and Southeast Asia Church and Community Mobilization of Community of Practitioners and Influencers has successfully brought together CCM practitioners and influencers from different countries in South and Southeast Asia to learn from the unique experiences of one another, collaborate and even to envision together. We looked forward to their lively and participatory learning exchange as we engaged ourselves in discussions, workshops, field visits, Bible reflections and worship.

It is basically our belief that the task of defending and promoting the rights and welfare of children is not relegated to the external agencies or personalities but rather the inherent responsibility of the families and communities, including the church and children themselves.

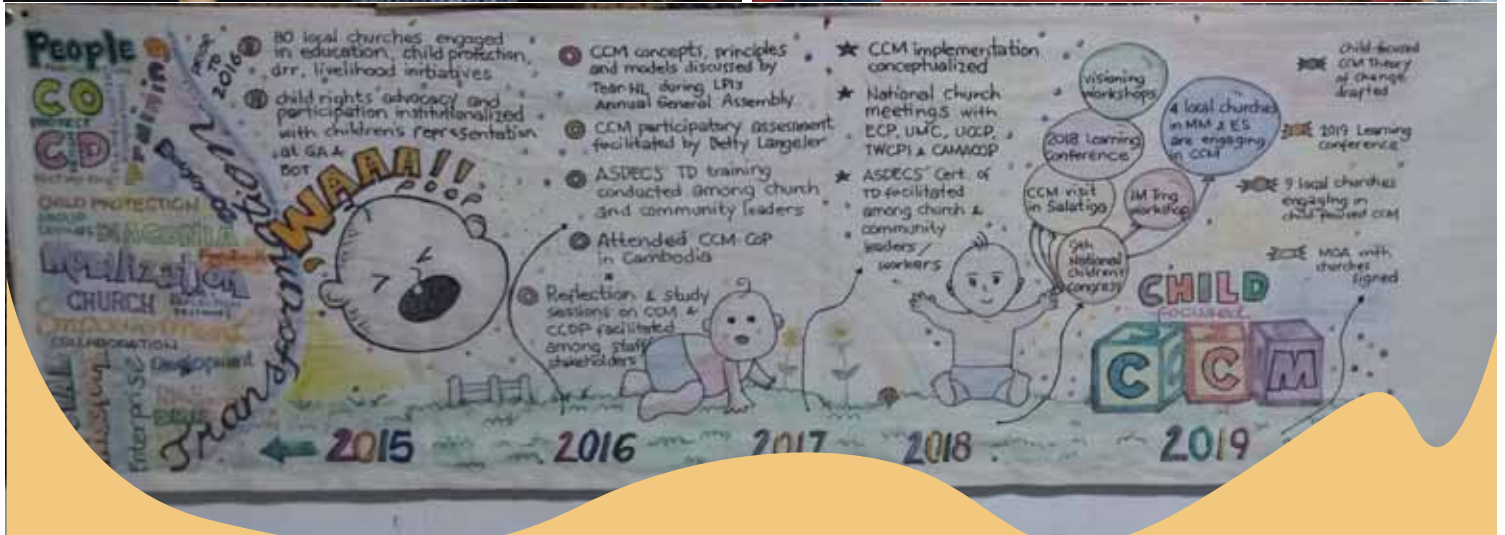
Changing mindsets, restoring power in the hands of the people (empowerment), especially the poor and the marginalized to chart their own development through the active engagement of Christian churches and Local Government Units (LGUs) in the area are what we need towards a child-focused community development.

Child-focused CCM helps local churches to work together with their community in addressing children's needs and issues maximizing their own resources.

We all agreed to have CCM as a lifestyle, a journey and a lifelong process. A process that is participatory enough for the church to envision and work together with the community collectively addressing social problems and issues using their own resources. It is rooted in the Bible and shaped by theology, maintaining the identity of the church.

This becomes a hope and prayer, a credo.





Trauma Stewardship Conference

In development work, we deal with all kinds of situations in the community, including ones that induced trauma to people.

We help people process their traumas and assist them on getting back on their feet. However, together with our work and countless disasters that happened throughout the years, it is impossible for us not to get affected.

The question is, who will we go to for help?

We were fortunate to attend the first-ever Trauma Stewardship Conference. It was both a training and a retreat as well with plenty of time for fellowship. The activity served as venue to share stories and minister to each other.

The main purpose of the conference is to process the kinds of traumas that development workers sustained throughout their time in the field. The conference promotes self-love, self-reflection, and just immersing yourself in God's presence and to know that you are stronger than what you think you are.

The conference was divided into plenary sessions, such as reflection and trauma processing sessions. We were also asked to choose a "care station" to participate in, such as: mindfulness, building resiliency, fundraising, Bible journaling, baybayin writing, guitar lessons, and board games.

Truly it was a safe place for people to share their stories, relax, and to just interact with others who share the same vision while you develop as a person and as development worker together.





CCM: Our Purpose as Envisioned by LPI's Founding Members

When friends ask me, "What does Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) do as a non-government organization?" I would share LPI's activities with children and communities and lead them to imagine and romanticize about our work with indigenous communities and marginalized urban communities.

With eyes and mouth wide open in awe, they would enviously comment how blessed LPI workers are to be involved in such ministry.

Many of my friends abhor being confined in their offices or centers and waiting for clients to come to their desks. Those who worked in the corporate arena, deplores having to work with "channels" – organizations and or institutions - and not directly with the grassroots or the masses. I remember a friend who was so frustrated with the politics in this channels that he resigned from work.

Their envious reactions make me proud. But I feel guilty, too, that something very important is "lost in the explanation." The role of the church should be given justice.

When I joined LPI, there were almost 40 project-partners throughout the Philippines facilitating different development services from education, child protection, family interventions including enterprise development, community organizing and development. These are supported through the fostership scheme in partnership with Kindernothilfe, e.V. of Germany.

It was an ideal ground to test all the interventions we learned in social work – there is casework, groupwork and community development – everything in one organization. However, LPI did not do all these. Important allies facilitated these with the communities.



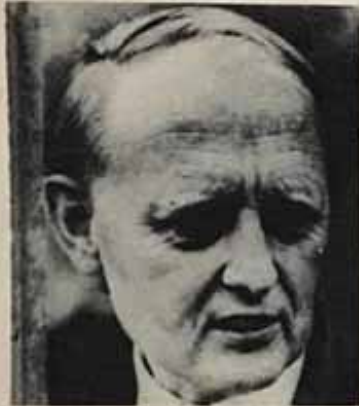
LINGAP PANGKABATAAN INC.

(Partner Organization of KINDERNOTHILFE)

Duisburg, West Germany

Established: June 1980

NATIONAL OFFICE: LEGASPI CITY, PHIL.



Mr. LUDER LUERS
Executive Secretary
Kindernohtilfe e. V.

THE BLESSING

For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee . . . saying thou shall open thine hand wide unto thy brother . . . to thy poor and to thy needy in thy land.

DEUTERONOMY 15:11



Mrs. PERLA S. INTIA
Executive Director
Board Secretary

Matt 25:40 "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethen, ye have done it unto me"



Dr. CARLITO S. PUNO
Chairman



Dr. METODIO A. PALAYPAY
Vice Chairman



Miss EVELYN T. MARBELLA
Treasurer

Local Churches Facilitating Development through Church and Community Mobilization (CCM)

LPI continues to engage local churches - Catholics, Protestants and Evangelicals. They used to be referred to as local project carriers (LPCs) in the early years of LPI and eventually as project partner-organizations. Since churches stay in the communities beyond LPI partnership and project schedules, it was, therefore, important that they are trained to effectively facilitate and sustain development projects together with the communities.

Since its formal establishment in 1981, it's been clear that LPI will work with churches in facilitating transformation in their communities. This is what our founders want for LPI. After 39 years, we are proud to have kept it that way. Churches, as stakeholders, work with the community to collectively respond to the community's needs through a process called "Church and Community Mobilization (CCM)".

CCM is the process where the local church works with its local community to identify and respond to their needs together. This is an exciting process of mobilizing the community as the church begins to be the "salt and light" by encouraging and supporting communities to analyze their own situations and to take steps to work together to make changes for the better.

This year, with the crafting of its Child-focused CCM Theory of Change, LPI's direction and role for the next decade was further clarified and reinforced. Working through churches does not make LPI less sensitive to the needs of the people. LPI, through the local church partners, will continue with its On-Ground-Zero living and feeling the same situation that the communities are experiencing.

In order to guide these partner churches towards Child-focused CCM programming, LPI embarked on a series of training-workshops in 2017. The most recent workshops under this flagship program was the Laying the Foundation: Training of Trainers for Church and Community Mobilization held last December 16-21, 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Twelve participants from the LPI management, staff members and from church partners actively participated in the training-workshop.

Drawing parallelism to what the Lord Jesus Christ did in spreading the Good News and salvation initially through His 12 disciples, this training was also called "Foundations for Discipling for Development."

It aims to develop the 12 trainers as disciples of the Lord Jesus for development/transformation among communities through local churches.

It was rare to see church leaders – a bishop, conference ministers, pastors and local church leaders - joined by the LPI Executive Director, Program Coordinator and an LPI staff member bonding together, learning and reflecting on the foundational principles, biblical contexts, processes and other important aspects of CCM.

These participants committed to further enhance their skills and to devote their time to help LPI work towards achieving the goals of CCM. These men and women will be the forerunners of the Child-focused CCM “Community of Practice” or movement among churches and communities in the Philippines.

During the training, we were guided and our needs taken care of by the training facilitators led by Mr. Stephanus Herjanto or Pak Herry and his team of seasoned CCM practitioners, namely, Mr. Ry Roern, Ms. Phanna Mer and Ms. Kimleng Mao.

As a prime mover of CCM in our communities, it is good to be guided by these reminders from the training-workshop.

Poverty is in the HEAD and NOT in the POCKET.

Communities and even development workers must look at poverty beyond the issue of money. Other lenses must be used and other dimensions must be examined and one important area to look at is changing mindsets. Sometimes people are so frustrated and resigned about their situation and we must help them see and think that something can still be done to address their difficulties.

CCM is about PEOPLE and not about PROJECTS.

CCM aims towards transforming people from mere “beneficiaries” to empowering them to be architects of their development by using resources that they have. It is not concerned with simply having projects because of available funds or support. CCM is about bringing changes and responding to the expressed and collective needs of the people.

True development does not promote cycles of dependency.

It is common for people to expect to get something from the project. However, they should be helped to think and plan beyond the project period. This includes building their capacities level up their project designs, expand and sustain its implementation.

More trainings are in the pipeline for these trainers in the coming year including the development of a CCM Training Module. The module would incorporate the initiatives and experiences of church organizing and mobilization by our partner churches in the past decades, including LPI's very own experiences in the last 39 years.

As LPI works more closely with local churches to enable them to facilitate development in their communities through Child-focused CCM, we expect that churches and the communities would not refer to their initiatives and projects as LPI projects anymore. It is our vision, too, that they will also sustain their development initiatives in partnership with the community.

Now when friends ask me what does LPI do, I would tell them LPI contributes towards developing resilient communities to empower the most vulnerable groups and that we operate through "local churches" - training and equipping them to end poverty and rebuild their communities thru Child-focused CCM.

The spotlight is removed from LPI. But who cares? What is important is that we give justice to what our partners such as the local churches and communities with children especially are doing to jointly address their situation.

For LPI, organizing local churches is equally challenging and romantic, anyway.

For the local churches, they've got you. They are the true heroes in this battle.





Revisiting LPI's VMG

"A shared VMG among stakeholders makes an organization stable and effective" is a maxim the staff of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and its stakeholders abide by faithfully.

One cannot over-emphasize the worth of an awesome vision, an inspiring set of mission statements, and clear, achievable goals in propelling an organization to achieve what it has set out to do. In contrast, an organization ends up nowhere when each of its members pulls the group in different directions.

With that in mind, the stakeholders of LPI reviewed the corporation's Vision, Mission and Goals in an attempt to find out if the original purpose still addresses the demands of the changing times.

The representatives of LPI bonded together as one family and community to share their ideas, dreams, and thoughts. It was an opportunity to reflect on the plans that it crafted almost three years ago.

In his opening address, LPI Executive Director Mr. Norman Franklin Agustin said: "As we continue our journey with the churches and communities, along the way we can identify new and emerging trends, threats, opportunities and even challenges."

Agustin said the Mission answers the question "why do we exist?" while Vision answers the question "what will the future look like as we fulfill our mission? What will be different?" He explained that while mission is about today, vision is about the future, what we will become.

"We know why we exist, but what will the future look like as we fulfill our mission?" he asked. At the end of his address, he reiterated the questions that the collective needed to answer: "Are they still relevant and still hold true? Is it really achievable?"

After a tedious participatory process, the group agreed that "the Vision and the Mission that we crafted years back has not been changed as it is still very relevant."

The stakeholders unanimously agreed that the Child-focused Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) will remain as LPI's overarching development strategy, which is a holistic development ministry based on biblical truths.



The group also agreed that this strategy will only be effective once supporting strategies coupled with intensive information and orientation activities with local church and community partners are achieved and implemented. The situation will lead to commitments to initiate development activities that are relevant to children and the community.

These strategies include: Community-based Child Protection, Child Rights Advocacy and Participation, Children in Emergencies, Community-based Economic Development, and LPI Sustainability.

It was also targeted that in doing so, church and community members will become self-reliant and capable of generating resources by building relationships through discipleship. This will also foster belongingness and inclusivity so people and church members participate in regular worship in their respective churches.

The vision of LPI - Children in nurturing communities enjoying life in God's abundance—may seem distant. But the stakeholders of this church-related non-government organization is undaunted. After all, they have confirmed that the path they decided to trod more than a decade ago is the correct one.

With renewed commitment, stronger will, and the support of other groups that believe in our advocacy, the LPI is once again ready to pursue its goal headlong, confident that God is on its side.



The Lingap Staff

Office of the
Executive Director

Norman Franklin C. Agustin
Executive Director

Marlyn F. Abueg
Administrative Assistant

Finance and
Administration Unit

Javier B. Rico, CPA
Finance Manager

Marion Rico G. Serapion
Finance Officer

Ruby Joy L. Embornas
Finance Assistant

Child-focused Community
Development Program

Cathyrine M. Llave-Eder
Program Coordinator

Russel Anthony N. Albano
Program Officer

Freyel D. Vera Cruz
Program Officer

Bianca D. Guiang
Program Officer

Publication Contributors:

Bishop Jerome Baris
Norman Franklin Agustin
Russel Anthony Albano
Freyel Vera Cruz

Rev. Lioba Achawon
Cathyrine Eder
Bianca Guiang
Aud Marie Anglevik
Andrea Linnea Moen

OUR CHURCH PARTNERS



OUR MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS





158 Ermin Garcia Street, Brgy. E. Rodriguez Sr.,
Cubao, Quezon City, 1109 Metro Manila,
Philippines



+63 2 8912 4225 | +63 2 8912 0302



www.lingappangkabataan.org
lingap.pangkabataan@gmail.com
facebook.com/lingappangkabataan