

ugnayan

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For articles, suggestions and feedback, please send an email to the

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Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.



MFCouncilPHL



MCPI is BSP's Outstanding Financial Inclusion Partner

On its 10th year of recognizing partners' contribution in various advocacies, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas presented the Outstanding Financial Inclusion Partner - National Capital Region award to the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc.

The award "recognizes partners who support BSP in its goal of financial inclusion and demonstrate tangible results in terms of breadth and depth of outreach to the previously unbanked or underbanked as well as showcase the capacity to innovate to better serve this target market. It is given to institutions that have contributed to BSP's work in financial inclusion in the areas of policy and regulation, capacity building and consumer protection."

The 2013 BSP Stakeholders' Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Lunch for the NCR awardees of the different categories was held last July 16 at the Assembly Hall of the BSP. ♦



The Secretariat poses with MCPI's Outstanding Financial Inclusion Partner award from BSP.

MCPI members gather for annual meeting

Members of the Microfinance Council of the Philippines, Inc., last July 26, gathered at the BSA Twin Towers in Mandaluyong City for MCPI's annual meeting of members.

During the gathering, members expressed, by a show of hands, their commitment to support the Microfinance Code of the Philippines, a draft legislation that intends to codify social performance management standards as well as provide support to accredited microfinance institutions, among others.

New members—Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc., ASA Philippines Foundation, SEDP-Simbag sa Pag-asenso, Inc., St. Martin of Tours Credit and Development Cooperative, and Gata Daku Multi-Purpose Cooperative—were also welcomed by the assembly.

MCPI also recognized the champions of the Learning Initiative on Social Performance Management for sharing their practice tools to the SP Fund initiative: Peoples Bank of Caraga, Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc., Kasagana-ka Development Center, Inc., Tulay sa Pag-unlad, Inc., Community Economic Ventures, Inc., Alalay sa Kaunlaran, Inc., and First Consolidated Cooperative along Tañon Seaboard.

Alalay sa Kaunlaran, Inc. receives two international recognitions

In celebration of its anniversary, *Ugnayan* is featuring ASKI's achievements for the first half of the year. Happy anniversary, ASKI!

ASKI agri program cited in Mongolia

By Erwin S. Embuscado
ASKI Corporate Media
and Public Affairs Unit

Alalay Sa Kaunlaran, Inc. (ASKI) was recently recognized by the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) for empowering the farmers and fisherfolk in its areas of operation.

The awarding ceremony was held during the 36th annual meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and hosted by the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI); with the theme "DFIs and Chamber of Commerce & Industry: Advancing Sustainable Development."



ASKI Chairperson and President Alicia G. Caliwag (center) receives the Plaque of Merit for ASKI from Mr. S. Demberel (left), Parliament member of Mongolia and Chairman and CEO of Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Datuk Wan Azhar Wan Ahmad (right), Managing Director, Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Berhad and Chairman, ADFIAP.

The recognition was presented for ASKI's financing, market linking, and capacity building programs that empower small farmers and provide opportunities to increase their income through the provision of infrastructure support like water pumps, solar dryers, hanging bridges for easy transport of their produce, as well as technical training on agriculture. These led to the farmers' increased productivity and contribution to the overall economic progress of the country.

"ASKI's agricultural program will serve as a model to other organizations implementing similar programs in their respective areas," said ASKI Executive Director Rolando B. Victoria, after receiving the recognition.

Moreover, international organizations are also signifying interest in partnering with ASKI to further boost the agricultural program and support the farmers in Regions I, II, and III where

ASKI is operating.

ASKI's microcredit initiatives to improve food security also strengthen the value chain development, increase the yields, and empower farmer communities.

The program for the indigenous peoples in Nueva Ecija and Aurora engaged in cassava production also gained recognition as they were linked directly to San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) for feed processing of their produce. This linkage gave the farmers increased income and ready market for their harvests.

Last year, ASKI's program in agriculture was also recognized during the 4th European Microfinance Week held in Luxembourg. The Philippines bested 15 countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. ♦

ASKI Global Ltd., graduates receive Bagong Bayani awards

By Mark Lyndon F. Antaran
ASKI Corporate Media
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ASKI Global Ltd. in Singapore was recently awarded as Outstanding Organization during the Bagong Bayani (Modern-day Hero) Awards held at the Arts House, Old Parliament Building in Singapore.

The recognition was given to ASKI Global for its exceptional contribution to the Filipino community in Singapore through training on financial education and basic entrepreneurship for overseas workers.

"This recognition has motivated ASKI Global to go even further in terms of our vision and mission in helping the OFWs in Singapore," said Irma L. Cosico, ASKI Global's Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Cosico received the award presented by Ms. Mary Jane Salomon, publisher of Bagong Bayani magazine, and guest of honor and Commission on Filipinos Overseas Undersecretary Mary Grace Tirona.

Cosico also said that they are hoping to expand their outreach program into other parts of the world where the number of Filipino migrant workers are high, to equip them with the same skillset.

In the same occasion, four graduates of ASKI Global Ltd. were also recognized as Outstanding Overseas Workers. They were Lucille Quijencio, Rosemarie Urcia, Eleceria Alonzo, and Maryn Sibuha.

The awardees were recognized for their commendable business ventures in the Philippines and being an inspiration to fellow overseas workers for their hard work and dedication to improve their lives.

Quijencio, who has worked in Singapore for 28 years, has invested in a mini-mart business in Ilocos Sur; while Urcia, who has been working in the city-state for 16 years, now owns livestock, transportation, and leasing businesses. Sibuha and Alonzo have also gained success in their business ventures in their respective hometowns. The awardees were among the first batch of graduates of the ASKI Global program, which also helped them to avail of microfinance loans from ASKI Philippines.

Honored to receive the award, Quijencio said, "My experience in Singapore now means a whole lot more thanks to both ASKI and Bagong Bayani."

The event was organized by Bagong Bayani (Modern-day Hero) magazine, a Filipino news magazine distributed to the 200,000 Filipinos working and living in Singapore, that seeks to promote Filipino excellence and raise Filipino pride. It holds the distinction of being the first and only Filipino magazine in Singapore to have been a finalist in the Magazine Publishers Association of Singapore (MPAS) Awards 2012 for its excellence and effort in magazine publishing. ♦



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PBC submits 11 tools, gets scholarship for Panama SPTF meeting

Peoples Bank of Caraga (PBC) received a scholarship to the annual meeting of the Social Performance Task Force (SPTF) last June 5 – 8 in Panama City for submitting the most number of managerial tools to the Social Performance Fund Call for Tools initiative that was launched in March of this year. PBC was represented by Ms. Cristina Bulao.

The SP Fund Project is an initiative that facilitates the implementation of the Universal Standards for Social Performance Management (USSPM) among microfinance networks. It is funded by the Ford Foundation, managed by the Microfinance Centre (the regional microfinance center and network for Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States, and Central Asia), and implemented by MCPI in the Philippines. MCPI is focusing on two sections of the SPM standards: Treating Clients Responsibly; and Designing Products, Services, Delivery Models and Channels that Meet Clients' Needs and Preferences.

The aim of the yearly gathering is to advance the global social performance agenda to the benefit of microfinance clients. Mr. Allan Robert I. Sicat, Executive Director of MCPI, presented PBC's practices on USSPM during the networks' meeting.

The SPTF consists of over 1,000 members from all over the world and from every microfinance stakeholder group: practitioners, donors and investors (multilateral, bilateral, and private), global, national and regional associations, technical assistance providers, rating agencies, academics, researchers, and others. ♦



MCPI members gather.....from page 1

A plaque of appreciation was also given to Mr. Leonilo “Topper” G. Coronel for his contribution in setting up and strengthening the Microfinance Credit Bureau, in which a number of MCPI-member MFIs are also a part of.

A fresh mandate was given by MCPI to its new set of Board of Trustees that will serve until July 2014. The members of the board are Ms. Mila M. Bunker (Ahon Sa Hiras, Inc.), Chairperson; Mr. Antonio C. Sevillano, Jr. (Aakay ang MILAMDEC Microfinance Foundation), Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Eduardo E. Mendoza (Tulay Sa Pag-unlad, Inc.), Corporate Secretary; Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez (Community Economic Ventures, Inc.), Treasurer; Mr. Jose Misael Morales (Bicol Microfinance Council, Inc.), Internal Auditor; Ms. Carmelita Bilao (People's Bank of Caraga), Member; Dr. Cecilia D. del Castillo (Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.), Member; Ms. Maria Anna dR. Ignacio (Kasagana-ka Development Center, Inc.), Member; and Mr. Gadwin Handumon (Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative), Member. ♦

