



MARADECA Inc.

Maradeca

The official Publication of the Maranao People Development Center Inc.
July 2024 to December 2024

Updates



**Serving with Heart,
Crossing with Courage.**
Community Development in Action

Inside this issue

2. Editorial 3. Adopting Technology: Revitalizing..., Joint CSOs-LGUs Kapihan... 4. Feature: Undying Hope... Regional expo... 5. MARADECA Strengthens ..., Youth-Led..., MARADECA at HALAL ..., 6. MARADECA Co-facilitate..., U.N. Resident Coordinator... 7. Mayor Lucy Torres Gomez..., Joint Strategic Plan ... 8. MARADECA Year-End 2024 Assessment Held, Empowering CSOs: MARADECA..., Greener Day: Tree... 9. Active Case Finding Continuous in Siquijor, Human Resource..., 10. MARADECA in MEL..., MARADECA participate..., EU Ambassador Dialogue... 11. LEAP- Lifts: Basilan Coffee..., Global Peace Confab in Manila Calls for Louder Voices for Women

EDITORIAL

Empowering the torch bearers to better bridge lives

MARADECA Inc. is now opening up its boat sails as it embarks a new journey to bridge the water separating those who have and those who have less in life, and bring hope and light to the marginalized.

The challenge is so vast, for the number of torch bearers of hope remain few, they must update their skills to rise up to the challenge.

Thus, civil society organizations, like MARADECA, have to regularly update with trends in human development and humanitarian assistance. It is, therefore, necessary to refresh them through trainings, workshops, conferences and other domestic and international gatherings organized by CSOs and allied aid organizations.

MARADECA, for example, has special scholarship program for post graduate studies of staff under the Staff Development Program to equip them with the latest development in academic-based knowledge on community development.

Along the way, these valuable insights and new skills acquired would provide new vigor and strength to their tasks ahead so that communities would become self-reliant and self-sustaining.

In Lanao del Sur, MARADECA and its staff are into the thick of invigorating agriculture back to their pervious production health by teaching the new technology and new vision on managing their farms. Communities are also guided into addressing common health concerns afflicting them for decades.

All these need a more equipped and better capacitated human resource from MARADECA to bridge lives to better opportunities ahead. The torch must always be lit to give the beacon of hope to the corner most nook of places that MARADECA serves.

INN SHAA ALLAH

About the Cover Photo

MARADECA Staff on a bamboo raft crossing river to Barangay Mipaga, Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur symbolizes dedication and heartfelt effort to overcome challenges in reaching disadvantaged communities. It highlights staff commitment to delivering services supporting community development that aligning with MARADECA's mission of aiding those in need.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Salic B. Ibrahim
Editorial in Chief

Sinab D. Ibrahim
Associate Editor

Alvin M. Abbas
Managing Editor

Hairiah C. Abdul-aziz
Layout Editor

Abduljabbar O. Sarif
Layout Artist

Awi Cayon
News Editor

Dr. Moctar Matuan
Advisory Board Member

Mobashar Abbas
Advisory Board Member

CONTRIBUTORS

Safia Mapandi, Faridah Salic, Aquila Kahar, Fairoso Casan, Norhana Talib, Noraima Macasimbar, Norlia Deron, Johayver H. Mulay, Norhakimah B. Comacasar, Jihan M. Cali, Aslima Bantuas, and Al Mario Carumba

Adopting Technology: Revitalizing Agri-Eco System

Pruning is a practice of cutting and bending a plant stem or branch to encourage new growth, promote root development, or control the plant size and shape. Among the benefits of this particular agricultural technology is increasing the yield, better disease management and upsurge root development of trees.

The coffee farmers were introduced to this particular type of agricultural practice through a training designed “to equip cluster learner leaders to replicate the techniques with coffee farmers and to monitor and report the training’s outcomes.” Mr. Reinaldo Palencia of the People in Need (PIN) led the interactive demonstration on coffee tree rejuvenation, focusing on improving tree shapes, health, and flowering. It also covered stumping as pruning technique as well as proper maintenance and management of rejuvenated trees.

To make the trainings more convenient and accessible for coffee farmers, they were conducted in several occasion, from July 6 to 13 in Barangay Kabbon Takas in Patikul, Sulu, from July 14 to 16 In the Barangays of Buhanginan, Limping Pighi, Daho in Sulu, and in July 17 in Barangay Tagbak, Sulu.



One of the farmer in Barangay Kabbon Takas in Patikul, Sulu during the coffee rejuvenation training.

In the province of Basilan, the same trainings were conducted in Barangay Boheyawas and Limo-ok, all in the municipality of Lamitan from July 23 to 24, respectively. The said trainings were participated in by 321 farmers.

Retired Army Captain Ahajuli A. Ahajani, described the activity as having “renewed and revitalize not only the coffee trees but also the lives of the coffee farmers”).

Joint CSOs-LGUs Kapihan



MPDC of Bubong, LDS discussed his ten key points and learning he experienced during learning visit in Metro Manila and the partnership

One of the components of the “Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society for Good Governance in CARAGA and BARMM project” is the organizing of series of *Kapihan* (a common local term for forum) in the three municipalities, one city and another one province within the CARAGA and BARMM region.

Municipal *Kapihan* were conducted in the municipalities of Maluso, Basilan and in Jolo, Sulu last August 27 and 29, 2024, respectively. The following month, on September 11, 2024 another forum was conducted in the municipality of Mainit, Surigao del

Norte and the following day, September 12, in Surigao City.

The *Kapihan* served as a venue for participating CSOs and LGUs to ventilate issues and concern affecting the communities. Among the issues were: water supply, gender-based violence (GBV) and related awareness issues, education, livelihood and support services, waste management and environmental sustainability, malnutrition and health, and, access to community resources and support.

In a show of shared concern among the LGUs and other government agencies with the CSOs, the former outlined activities and services to address the issues and encourage the latter to put into resolutions for considerations of the respective local legislative councils and the local chief executives.

In a related development, the CSOs-LGUs *kapihan* Forum for the province of Lanao del Sur was held on August 30, 2024 at the Provincial Capitol Complex where the Municipal Planning and Development coordinator of the municipality of Bubong shared his observations and experiences obtained in the Learning Visits to some of the LGUs in the National Capital Region.

Feature **Undying Hope**



Ms. Aira, Maradeca Project Officer, during PPI survey interview in Brgy. Gadongan Saguiran

Noronisah B. Imam, 43 years old, is one among the myriads of people who refuse to awaken from a dream but whose journey ends on a shore. As one enjoys gazing the bright colors of the sand, enticing sound of waves moving by, and the harmony of singing birds beneath scenting trees, hope spring eternal as the dream turns to the house adorned with shining gold, its glass windows overlooking the beautiful rising sun, creating an ambiance of peaceful and joyful for a family the earned much.

The similitude of the above metaphor is like today's reality as people of Lanao del Sur appear to be living well among the highways only to find themselves living in anguish, trying to

survive from the ugly faces of poverty.

The name Noronisah B. Imam becomes familiar to me during my few days of interaction with family household in different Barangays in Saguiran municipality.

Like her, I met some families that march with life full of hope to escape the manacle of poverty. As I threw question to household for the Poverty Probability Index (PPI) survey conducted by MARADECA, I reflected on the reality, while thousands of Maranao have million riches, thousand more aspire for good but failed despite their undying hope.

This survey is worked through with partnership of Plan International- Pilipinas through its Child Sponsorship Program.

Of the 730 household in Barangay Gadongan, Saguiran, the issue has always revolved around poverty indicators. For instance, 86 has a member with disabilities or vulnerability. Among them were those cried or if not, hope for help to come.

Imam is 43 years old, married to Dauday H. Ismael, 54 years old and blessed with seven (7) children, five girls and two boys. She said farming is their sole source of income. They chose to send their children to a near-by school because of financial constraints. She remarked, *"for a long time, a house-to-house, we thought were left behind by time, alhamdulillah, time has come."*

Regional Expo and Visit to Coffee Farms and Processing Facilities.



Delegates of Regional Coffee Expo 2024

Twenty-three coffee farmers from Basilan and Sulu were sent for an exposure visit to coffee farms and processing facilities in Davao del Sur from September 18-24, 2024 to introduce them to quality coffee farming, appropriate technologies and coffee-processing facilities. The visit also provided them opportunity to establish network with potential coffee buyers.

Among the coffee farms and processing facilities visited is the FROG Kafee, a coffee roastery, seller of local and

international sourced coffee beans and known for its best roasting machine in Davao del Sur, the Balutakay Coffee Farmer's Association (BOCOFA) and Tibolo Farm Worker Association (TIFWA) whose processing building is in accordance with Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) regulations. In TIFWA, in particular, the farmers witnessed the actual De pulping of green coffee beans and marketing facilities.

An expert from M'Crea, an organization of coffee business, explained to participants of the exposure trip that *"learning from failures is a key step towards success."* He also expressed his thought on starting from small and growing into something bigger and better.

The participating coffee farmers expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and committed to serve as model in coffee farming when they go back to their places, and to influence others to get involve in coffee farming due to its promising benefits, both financially and in revitalizing Agri-eco system.

The Regional Expo was organized by European Union, People in Need (PIN) and MARADECA as among the series of activities in the Leveraging Expanding Agri-aqua Production (LEAP) project.

MARADECA Strengthens Commitment to PSEA through Refresher Training



MARADECA Project Officer, Fairosa Casan Speaks during PSEA refresher Training

Ms. Fairosa Casan, the PSEA Focal Person of MARADECA, participated in the two-day Refresher Training on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation Abuse (PSEA) held at Em Manor, Cotabato City

from September 12-13, 2024. The training aimed at strengthening capacity of PSEA Focal Persons and promoting common understanding of PSEA core standard.

The input in the training focused on building the capacity of PSEA Focal Person in implementing effective PSEA measure and establishing a standardized approach to protect those at risk, particularly the vulnerable communities. As a refresher training it renewed the commitment of the participating organizations in strictly adhering to the PSEA standard and survivor-centered approach that honors the dignity and rights of individuals. While the participating individuals obtained knowledge on mandatory reporting, prevention practices, and the importance of survivor-oriented approach the training also served as platform for the participating organizations in exchanging insights on effective practices across different contexts.

The two-day training was made possible by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs or UNOCHA responsible in coordinating humanitarian affairs and Plan International-Pilipinas.

Youth-Led Child Protection and Peacebuilding Initiative Expands in Lanao del Sur



Ms. Aquila Kahar from MARADECA facilitates youth conversation

Following the successful completion of Phase 1 of the "Youth-Led Community Orientation on Child Protection and Peacebuilding, as well as the Promotion of U-Report in Lanao del Sur," the project is now entering Phase 2. A strategic planning session was recently held, bringing together key stakeholders such as Local Chief Executives, LGU representatives, Local Youth Development

focused on aligning goals, finalizing logistics, and planning outreach strategies to ensure a smooth and impactful rollout. Phase 2 will expand the initiative to six additional municipalities: Kapatagan, Pagayawan, Bubong, Taraka, Wao, and Butig. The goal is to deepen youth involvement in addressing community issues, shaping sustainable solutions, and influencing local governance in the areas of child protection and peacebuilding.

The expansion aims to foster stronger partnerships between youth and local authorities to create more responsive and inclusive policies. This phase will also strengthen the use of U-Report, a digital platform that gathers real-time feedback on social issues from young people. Activities such as Youth Conversations, Dialogues, and the development of localized child protection programs will continue, encouraging both online and offline civic engagement. Through collective action and sustained leadership, youth advocates will help build safer, more inclusive communities across Lanao del Sur.

Pakaradiya-an and First Halal Trade Expo in Iligan City 2024



Maranao delicacies showcased during Halal Trade

MARADECA proudly served as one of the sponsors of the inaugural Halal Trade Expo in Iligan City, held from July 23 to 27, 2024, at Robinsons Mall. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry-Iligan (DTI-Iligan) in partnership with the Iligan Hotels, Resorts, Restaurants, Cafes, Culinary Schools

Association (i-HORECCA), the event aimed to position Iligan as a significant player in the global Halal market. It celebrated local culture while fostering economic growth, business networking, and awareness of Halal practices and certification.

Ma'am Anita Cipriano, President of i-HORECCA and Directress of Christian Horizon School, formally introduced MARADECA as a sponsor, recognizing their longstanding collaboration in community development. At the expo, MARADECA showcased traditional Maranao delicacies and locally made products in partnership with two women-led cooperatives: Balaigay Women's Producer Cooperative from Lumbayangue and Olango Sindaw Ko Kawiyagan Producer Cooperative from Piagapo, highlighting their commitment to empowering grassroots enterprises. The expo brought together exhibitors from Lanao del Sur, Marawi, and Iligan City, offering a platform for knowledge exchange and business promotion. It underscored the growing appeal of Halal-certified products, not only for Muslim consumers but also for other communities with shared values, supporting inclusive and sustainable market development in the Philippines.

MARADECA Co-facilitate the CARAGA and BARMM Regional Forum



MARADECA CEO speaks on the importance of partnership in development during CSO-LGU partnership regional forum

"The development, if we look at it, cannot be considered true development without participation. The people must be involved in building and shaping the development of our community, including the government and the citizens. So, if we look closely, there must be collaboration between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the government."

-Salic B. Ibrahim CEO MARADECA, INC.

As concluding episode of the project on Strengthening Capacities of Civil Society in CARAGA and BARMM, two regional forums were conducted for the two regions.

The project was a partnership initiative of the European Union (EU) and People in Need (PiN), with MARADECA and Balay Mindanao Foundation, Inc. (BMFI) implementing it.

During the workshop on the Regional Forum for the BARMM region, MARADECA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Salic B. Ibrahim, emphasized the urgency of "thinking outside box" in the face of the ever-growing challenges particularly with the

fast-changing technology development; that to do so one has to leave their comfort zone and take the hard fight for change.

Furthermore, he highlighted the early technologies, starting with the early mobile phones, who rejected to upgrade until they lost their share in market and technology. Partnership alone between the CSO and LGU is not enough to define and determine development; there has to be simultaneous and harmonious approaches to the developing trends of the day "para hindi maiwanan ng panahon".

The two regional forums were organized with two different themes. For Day One the theme was Regional Sharing and Learning Event while Day Two was Regional Forum on strengthening CSO Collaboration for Good Governance.

The forums served as venue for CSO to share their experiences in constructive engagement and social accountability initiatives with LGUs, as well as bring forward and discuss sectoral and community concern gathered from consultations, barangay/municipal/provincial forums. It was also an opportunity for the participants to share and reflect on the achievements, gains, challenges, lessons, learnings, and best practices.

The Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor and Employment, and the Ministry of Health of the BARMM attended in the regional forum. The Bangsamoro Women Commission and the Bangsamoro Youth Commission, and Members of the Parliament are also in attendance. In the CARAGA region the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Health, and the Department of Agriculture attended the Regional Forum.

U.N. Resident Coordinator Listen to CSOs and IDPs Voices

Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA) Inc. hosted a meeting organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Marawi field Office with the United Nation (UN) resident coordinator, Mr. Gustavo Gonzales on August 1, 2024. The meeting was set to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), seven years after Marawi Siege.

Various stakeholders including representatives from MARADECA, KALIMUDAN Foundation, ECOWEB, THUMA and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) leaders from Sagonsoyan, West Dulay, and Mipantao convened to deliberate on the current situation of IDPs, the programs of civil society organizations (CSOs) in assisting them, as well as the obstacles in achieving long-term solutions to displacement in Marawi City.

During the meeting, the most common challenges aired by IDP leaders includes; limited income to meeting basic needs, expiration of contract with the landowners where

shelter houses are constructed, water supply, substandard housing, transportation cost within the area, and flooding due to lack of proper drainage.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the UN Resident Coordinator to hear the voices direct from the people affected by the Marawi siege. He acknowledges all the challenges and concerns facing the IDPs in Marawi City. The information gathered in the meeting will be used for future initiatives and strategies to support and improve the lives of the IDPs for a long-term recovery.



Mr. Gustavo, UN Resident Coordinator has a dialogue between CSOs and IDPs in Marawi City

Mayor Lucy Torres Gomez Sits Down with MARADECA



MARADECA staff with Hon. Mayor Lucy Torres Gomez at Ormoc City

The incumbent Mayor of Ormoc City, Lucy Torres Gomez find time to sit down with MARADECA Team to discuss the ACCESS TB Program in the City. The said meeting was held at the Conference Room of the Office of the City Mayor.

The Team briefed Mayor Gomez on the ACCESS TB Program as health services program supported by the Global Fund and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The Team also introduced itself as NGO based in the province of Lanao del Sur and is the one conducting the Active Case Finding (ACF) together with the service provider of the mobile x-ray machine to identified communities by PBSP and the DOH. During the meeting the mayor was informed that the City's most populous Barangays of Linao and Tambulilid were identified as among the community's recipient of the ACF services.

The mayor expressed her appreciation and thanks to the groups/organizations behind the ACCESS TB program for selecting the two Barangays in her City to received free chest x-ray. *"The program substantially benefited the communities, especially those who cannot afford the required payment for chest x-ray, thanks,"* the mayor commented.

From November 12 to 13, 2024, the MARADECA Team screened a total 378 individuals from the two (2) Barangay.

Mayor Gomez is a Filipina actress and television personality before entering politics. In 2010 she was elected as Leyte's 4th District Representative to the Philippine Congress for four consecutive terms. In 2022 she succeeded her husband, Richard Gomez as mayor of Ormoc City.

Joint Strategic Plan on Child Sponsorship Crafted



Plan and MARADECA strategic planning at GO Hotel, Iligan City

The Plan International- Pilipinas and the MARADECA Inc. recently embarked on a joint strategic planning session for their Child Sponsorship Program, a testament to their commitment to improving the lives of the children in Lanao del Sur. The three-day session, held on October 22-24, 2024 at Go Hotel in Iligan City, brought together 28 program staff and heads from both organizations. This strategic planning initiative was a crucial step towards ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the child sponsorship program, which covers the municipalities on Marantao and Saguiran, Lanao del Sur.

MARADECA and Plan International Pilipinas, long-term partners in community development in the province, have entered into a 15-years partnership for this program, marking a significant commitment to improving the well-being of children in the area. The strategic plan aims to develop comprehensive strategies, actions, and activities that address the identified needs and concerns of the target communities. This collaborative effort allows participants to



Plan, MARADECA Staffs and Management during the strat plan.

share insights and expertise, aligning their objectives with the specific needs of the children and families they serve. Through this strategic planning process, the organizations are ensuring that their strategies are not only actionable but also sustainable in the long run.

The session fostered a deeper understanding of community needs, enhancing the effectiveness of the sponsorship program and ensuring a more impactful approach to improving the lives of the children. By working together Plan International-Pilipinas and MARADECA are poised to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families in Lanao del Sur through their child sponsorship initiatives. This collaborative effort signifies a shared commitment to creating a brighter future for the communities they serve.

MARADECA Year-End 2024 Assessment Held



Experience is also education that teaches a person what has to be learned
- MARADECA-CEO

Since the founding of MARADECA 26 years ago it had been conducting year-end assessments to measure its performance, identify possible gaps, if any, in the implementation of the projects, and share the challenges confronting the staff assigned to various projects or programs.

Empowering CSOs: MARADECA Joins Refresher Training on HACT and e-Tools



CSO participants during the HACT and E-Tools Training

MARADECA administrative staff, finance officers, and project officers participated in the two-day refresher training on Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) and e-Tools in November 19-20 2024 at Paragon Hotel and Restaurant, Cotabato City. The training was part of UNICEF 2024-2028 Country Program. The HACT training focuses on partnership agreements, risk assessment, cash transfer

The result of the assessment for 2024 was generally rated 'very satisfactory' with the successful implementation of all projects according to their respective specific time-line. The year was marked with key points for consideration in expanding the organization's scope, strengths, and experiences, with all works completed in 2024, identifying challenges and solutions.

The assessment employed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats or SWOT analysis, with some innovation introduced where participants have to identify the possible "impact" of every theme of the analysis. Out of the results of the analysis projections were organized for reference purposes.

The MARADECA Chief Executive Officer, Salic Ibrahim, emphasized during his opening remarks of the three-day assessment that *"While formal education is the finest way to teach a person, experience is also an education that teaches a person how to learn what is to be learned"*.

This year-end assessment was held at the Ragayan Training Center (RTC), Ragayan Poono Marantao, Marantao, Lanao del Sur from December 17-19, 2024.

modalities and financial activities, while e-Tools deals on streamlining program documentation and reporting.

The training aimed to equip CSOs with essential skills and knowledge for transparent effective and efficient management.

MARADECA staff praised the training's practical approach, especially on the interactive hands-on exercises exploring ideas on Electronic Program Documentation and Partner Reporting Portal which are tools in the program development, implementation, and reporting, to enhance operational efficiency.

MARADECA and UNICEF were both committed to uphold accountability, transparency, and excellence in program implementation while attendees expressed their willingness and eagerness to apply what they learned from training. UNICEF reiterated its support through continuous capacity building.

Greener Day: Tree Planting in Lanao del Sur



MARADECA's Staff joined tree planting with PENRO

Conserving water and reducing waste, protecting and restoring habitats are among the practices that could minimize harm to environment and promote conservation and renewal of natural resources. These practices support Goal 13 and 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) proposed by the United Nations (UN) and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

The MARADECA, in adherence to international conventions, initiated and participated in activities that promote the achievement of the SDG. On July 15, 2024 it fielded 20 of its staff in the Lake Shore Clean-Up Drive in the municipality of Tamparan, Lanao del Sur as part of the 65th celebration of the "Araw ng Lanao del Sur".

The following month, August 8, 2024, it participated in the Tree Planting activity in Barangay Lati of the Municipality of Wato-Balindong, Lanao del Sur in partnership with Lanao del Sur Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO), Provincial Environmental and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), and LGU of Wato-Balindong in Barangay Lati. The Office of the Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources provided 1,000 durian seedlings. Organizers believed that activities like the cleanup of the lakeshores and the tree-planting would make significant inspiration to the people, encouraging them to support climate change mitigation and environmental protection particularly around Lake Lanao, which is one of the eight oldest lakes in the world and second largest in the Philippines after Laguna de Bay.

Active Case finding Continuous in Siquijor



Primo, 69 yrs. old. interviewed by one of the staff for client profiling

Since the commencement of the ACCESS-TB program in 2001 the MARADECA Team has been making the rounds in the different regions of the Visayas and Mindanao conducting Active Case Finding (ACF) in support to the prevention of Tuberculosis or TB program of the Department of Health.

This time around the team conducted ACF in the Island of Siquijor, the smallest island in the four provinces of Central Visayas, from November 4-30, 2024. Out of the six municipalities, four municipalities, namely: Maria, Larena, San Juan, and Lazi were plotted as priority for ACF mass

screening of individuals from the vulnerable sector.

However, other areas residents were also given the opportunity for the free screening, regardless of their social status.

A total of 1,614 individuals were screened, 771 from the municipality of Maria and 843 from the municipality of San Juan. The figure represented only 1.56 percent of the 103,395 population of the Island, as of the 2020 Census. (Data from the municipality of Larena and Lazi were not available as of this writing). Of the total screened, 47 were diagnosed positive with pulmonary TB and were subject to undergo GeneXpert testing.

The number of screened individuals did not mean people were reluctant to avail of free chest x-ray. On the contrary it suggests that more has to be done to reach the greater number of populations. In fact, Melba Banguiao, 61 years old, a widow, and resident of Barangay Cangmunag, San Juan, expressed her gratitude to MARADECA in bringing health services right in their respective communities. Another recipient of free chest x-ray, Primo Macasilang, 73 years old, shared the same sentiment with Banguiao.

The ACCESS-TB program is a PBSP project supported by Global Fund, the Department of Health, National TB Control Program and the Department Interior and Local Government.

Human Resource Summit Convened



MARADECA during HR Development Summit

The Human Resource Development Summit convened last July 27-28, 2024 at Ragayan Training Center, Ragayan Poona Marantao, Marantao, Lanao del Sur. The organizing of the high-level meeting is consistent with traditional practice of MARADECA of holding intermittent meeting to keep the organization and staff updated with the developing changes and trends in the environment that directly or indirectly affect the operation and management of the organization.

The two-day high-level meeting was participated in by the top management officials, project officers, finance officers, senior staff, and people from the Human Resource Department.

During the summit existing Human Resource rules and policies were reviewed and new guidelines in hiring of personnel were set. It also explored the existing employee-employer relationship through a workshop where the participants were given the opportunity to ventilate their feedback and suggestions.

For the top management, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Salic B. Ibrahim, highlighted the importance of being innovative in the fast-changing world, particularly in the field of technology, unity of the staff, and the importance of shared effort towards the goal of MARADECA. On the other hand, the Operation Manager, Ms. Sinab D. Ibrahim reminded the staff that the entire operation of MARADECA, including the recruitment of personnel, is in accordance with existing laws.

The format of the summit is participative with Mr. Bernardo "Bob" Roa, MARADECA Consultant, as lead facilitator of the two-day summit.

MARADECA in MEL Training in Bangkok, Thailand



Ms. Aquila Kahar, MARADECA Project Officer, explained the Theory of Change

The 2nd Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) training, for the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA-WPS), an initiative of the Global Networks of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) with support from the Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operation Program (PSOP) was held in

Bangkok, Thailand from June 24-28, 2024. Selected women representatives from countries in the ASEAN region participated in the four-day training with Ms. Aquila M. Kahar, Project Officer of MARADECA as CSO representative from the Republic of the Philippines.

The training aimed at strengthening the capabilities of CSOs in monitoring and evaluating the RPA-WPS, to apply the learned knowledge and skills from monitoring and evaluation, and ensure that women's role and contributions are effectively integrated into all levels of peace and security processes. During the training participating CSOs identify critical lessons and finalize parameters, evaluate questions and indicators for CSOs role. An evaluation plan to assess the progress and impact of CSOs contribution to the RPA-WPS was successfully designed and determined appropriate methods of collecting, managing and safeguarding of data gathered during MEL process for RPA-WPS implementation.

Specifically, Ms. Kahar discussed the Theory of Change and monitoring plan which link the 1st MEL held in Manila Philippines in August 2024 to the 2nd MEL held in Bangkok, Thailand.

MARADECA Participate in 2 National HR events

On August 19-20, 2024, MARADECA Inc. was invited by the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC), an inter-agency body under the Office of the President, to join in the regional consultation held at Mallberry Suite Business Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City (CDO) to help craft the 4th Philippines Human Rights Plan 2024-2025.

The consultation was attended by different Human rights advocates coming from various sectors. The wide-ranging representation underscored the inclusive approach in the 4th PHR crafting process., ensuring the voices from all sectors, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable are heard and integrated into the national human rights agenda.

Representatives from various government line agencies were present to catch and engage with different civil society organizations. The interface is crucial in ensuring that the perspective of those on the ground is considered in the formulation of policies and program under PHRP.

The CDO regional consultations was the first of three island-wide consultation to create an inclusive process for the gathering input from a broad spectrum of human rights advocates to contribute to



Delegates of 4TH Philippines Human Rights Plan 2024

the 4th PHRP. The consultation was spearheaded by the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC). The following month, MARADECA Inc. attended the consultation meeting organized by the commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Ateneo Human Rights Center. The consultation titled "Bringing the voices of the people to fore: Regional consultations with Civil Society Organizations" was held at the park Inn Hotel in Davao City.

The success of CSO consultation is evidence of the importance of grassroots participation in the crafting of national policies. The insight and recommendations gathered from the consultations will play a critical role in shaping human rights framework that is responsive to the needs of all Filipinos, particularly, the most vulnerable.

EU Ambassador Dialogue with LDS Youth Leaders

H.E. Massimo Santoro, the European Union Ambassador to the Philippines, met with youth leaders in Lanao del Sur for a dialogue jointly organized by Ranao Youth Parliament leaders in the province, the UNICEF, and MARADECA.

During the dialogues youth leaders in attendance articulates their opinion, experiences, and community challenges in their advocacy for youth leadership in the community and in governance. The community challenges mentioned includes the lack of resources and facilities of the Special Education (SPED), attempt of implicating youth with extremism enrolled in Madrasa/Arabic school, and the



Massimo Santoro- EU ambassador together with UNICEF, MARADECA , LDS Borad Member and youth LDS leaders

deplorable health condition in the Sagonsongan shelter due to lack of reliable water supply. Youth leaders aspired to support the community issues to empower themselves and their peers, promote positive change, and address social inequalities affecting their communities. With help of international donors and other agencies, these youth leaders can continue the initiatives and inspire future generation.

In response, His Excellency Massimo Santoro, acknowledge

the moral of the youth leaders who invested a lot of efforts to encourage more noticeable and productive development in their community.

The dialogue was held at the Ragayan Training Center at Poona Marantao, Marantao, Lanao del Sur on November 1, 2024. The Ambassador was warmly welcomed by the organizing group and the provincial government represented by Board Member Mr. Jamil Faisal "Jeff" Adiong.

LEAP- Lifts: Basilan Coffee Farmers Gain Hope with New Technology



Turnover of Coffee Machineries and Coffee de pulper

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform-Basilan (MAFAR-Basilan) delivered two types of coffee machines to the group of coffee farmers in Barangay Boheywas, Lamitan City and in Barangay Tubigan in Maluso, all in the province of Basilan. The De pulper machine remove the fleshy pulp from coffee cherries while the De huller machine strip away the dried outer husk of coffee beans. The delivery of the said machines is consistent with the commitment of the MAFAR in revitalizing the local coffee industry.

Director Hanie Muads Junuban of MAFAR-Basilan during the turn-over ceremony of the machineries in December 3, 2004 emphasized that, *"it is not just about machineries; it also symbolizes our commitment in empowering coffee growers from diverse economic and cultural background."* According to the Director, in describing the technology, *"by introducing this modern technology, we intend to enhance their efficiency and output, paving the way for a more sustainable and prosperous local coffee industry."*

On the part of coffee farmers, the new technology gives them hope in upgrading the quality of their coffee products, making it more competitive, and is very interested as the machine arrive during this coffee harvesting season. *"We are motivated to learn this new technology and hopefully strengthen our group in producing high quality coffee beans for the markets,"* said Mr. Rudy Montezo, a coffee farmer from Boheywas, Basilan.

The two (2) coffee farmer groups were organized under the BAEP-LEAP project funded by the European Union and implemented by People in Need (PIN) in partnership with MARADECA, Inc.

Global Peace Confab in Manila calls for Louder Voices for Women

The international Conference on Peace and Security held in Manila from October 28-30, 2024 urged government, international organizations, civil society organizations and academe to prioritize gender equality and ensure that women's voices are central in shaping global peace and security frameworks.

The Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA) Inc. attended the conference hosted by the Philippine government to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. "Forging Collaboration and Convergence for Advancing Women Peace and Security" was the theme of the conference.

The conference brought together government, civil society, and international organizations to address the critical role of women in shaping peace and security worldwide. The conference aims to show how women contribute in solving conflicts, building peace, and keeping long term security in countries after conflict.



Women Conference on Global Peace and Security

Keynote speeches from influential leaders locally and internationally highlighted the pressing need for stronger, gender-inclusive approach to security policies. The workshops, panels, and networking session provided a platform for sharing best practices and forging international collaboration aimed at empowering women in conflict-affected region.


"As the world faces many complex security problems, the conference showed how important women's leadership is, in building peaceful, fair, and inclusive world", said in a call to action at the end of the conference.


"Liberating the disadvantaged from poverty"



 www.maradeca.org

 www.facebook.com/maradeca99

 maradeca99@yahoo.com

 (063) 228 - 3635

 Maradeca Compound, Ragayan, Brgy. Poonamarantao, Marantao, Lanao del Sur 9711



Scan me