



USALUMNEWS

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Alumni Lead Nationwide Coastal Clean-Up



In June, U.S. Department of State international exchange alumni organized a nationwide coastal clean-up across the Philippines in celebration of World Ocean's Day, Philippine Environment Month, and the State Department sponsored "Our Ocean" Conference. Volunteers collected a total of 275 sacks of garbage from the coastlines of Parañaque-Las-Piñas, Dumaguete, Ilocos Norte and Iligan City and more than 100 sacks in the follow-on activity in Lanao del Norte.

Metro Manila

The coastal clean-up activity in Manila was held in Las-Pinas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area (LPPCHEA). Deputy Chief of Mission Brian L. Goldbeck launched the event with representatives from LPPCHEA, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Parañaque Chamber of Commerce (PCCI). U.S. Government alumni, led by Sports United alumna Geraldine Bernardo, and more than one hundred volunteers from LPPCHEA, DENR, PCCI and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) participated in the clean-up. After the activity, the volunteers toured the forest, home to endemic plants and birds.

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Young Southeast Asian
Leaders Initiative (YSEALI)
SPECIAL UPDATE
Seeds of the Future WINNERS



Deputy Chief of Mission Brian L. Goldbeck participates in the clean-up activity at the Las-Pinas- Parañaque Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area (LPPCHEA)



Volunteers with 100 sacks of trash.



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the fifth edition of USAalumnews! Once again, I am impressed by the amazing achievements of our alumni and YSEALI members!

I have traveled all over the Philippines meeting alumni and also enjoying the beautiful countryside. So, I was especially impressed by our alumni who organized a nationwide coastal clean-up across the Philippines. Congratulations to all who participated! If you are interested in organizing a coastal clean-up of your own, please check out the U.S. Embassy Manila's Facebook page for our "Coastal Clean-Up Kit."

You will find more inspiring stories of alumni helping their communities in this newsletter, from educating future leaders on the impact of the ASEAN integration, to donating books in rural communities.

And if you are 18-35 years old and have not signed up yet for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), please visit: <https://youngsoutheastasianleaders.state.gov/> and register! It's simple, and as a member you will be eligible for workshops, exchange programs, and grants! Check out this issue to learn about the projects of the Philippine winners of the first YSEALI Seeds for the Future competition.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to learn about more exciting opportunities.



Jennifer Foltz
Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer

ALUMNI Talk:

Trash to Art

by Allan Remedios,
Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) Alumnus

In response to widespread concern about our environment, my organization took the challenge to be a catalyst for social change through recycling and environmental crusades. I founded MUGNA ARTS in 2007, which became a banner organization for social entrepreneurship of the Holy Trinity College of General Santos City, with its sustainable programs of creating artwork and ornamental decorations from plastic, scrap metals, and driftwood. Mugna Arts' unique artistry has earned numerous awards and citations including 6-time Best Non-Food entry for YAMAN GENSAN, an annual competition for the most innovative products in General Santos City.

As an advocate for social change, I feel that there's more to just showcasing the art. Instead I use it as a tool to educate and create awareness in my community, and reinforce the importance of recycling and its positive effects for people.

Last July, U.S. Embassy Manila partnered with my organization to implement "Arts and Crafts: A Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Intervention." Participants came from underserved communities in General Santos City, as well as students from different colleges and universities. The project promoted civic awareness and alternative livelihood programs by creating a social connection among the community and academe. The first phase of the seminar was a lecture presenting the deplorable condition of our environment and its devastating effects. The participants were trained to utilize recyclable materials and transform it into art, which could be potentially sold as souvenirs, items for collection, and decorative items for households, restaurants, and even hotels.

I was also invited to exhibit my work at the Independence Day celebration at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. With pride and honor as the only exhibitor from Mindanao, MUGNA ARTS showcased its unique artwork, much to the delight of the visitors and other dignitaries. But for all the exhibitors who were present, the challenge still lingers on how to create sustainable programs and massive advocacy that will translate into social transformation. Admittedly, there are more hurdles to leap and a lot more barriers to break, but I am very optimistic that through our collective efforts, we can make things happen in God's perfect time.



MUGNA ARTS exhibit at the U.S. Embassy Independence Day Celebration.



Allan instructing participants on how to create arts from their trash.

Contributing Writers:

Gloria Seno, International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) Alumna

Jamsheed Abdul, Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) Alumnus

Allan Remedios, Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) Alumnus

Alumni Lead Nationwide Coastal Clean-Up

Ilocos Norte



Zumba/Taebo work-out before the clean-up activity in Ilocos Norte.

During the clean-up in Ilocos Norte, led by Florante Riego, and alumni of the Southeast Asian Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP), alumni held a Zumba and Taebo class and an “Amazing Trash Mob Race” to get the volunteers energized. With the alumni, members of the community collected 29 sacks of trash.

Alumni from Marawi and Iligan City, headed by Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) alumna Ayana Maranda, held a coastal clean-up activity with volunteers from Barangay Santiago, Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (BFARMC), Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) Department of Psychology, College of Arts Social Science Executive Council (CASS), Muslim Organization in MSU-IIT, and the Iligan Bloggers Society. The group collected 75 sacks of trash, and ended the program with a boat rowing contest by female members of the community.

Marawi



Women of Brgy. Santiago participated in the boat rowing competition at the end of the activity.



Lanao del Norte

U.S. Government alumni, led by PYLP Alumna Lynnrose Genon, held a follow-on coastal clean-up in Lanao del Norte in July. Two hundred and seventy-five volunteers from different government and non-governmental agencies, including the 15th Infantry Battalion of AFP, Philippine National Police, Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (KALIPi), students of the Alternative Learning System (ALS), and residents of Brgy. Baybay and Poblacion, collected more than 100 sacks of trash in the area.



Volunteers collating the trash after the clean-up activity.



Volunteers after the clean-up at Silliman Beach.

Dumaguete

SEAYLP alumna Kate Young and Fulbright alumnus Ramon del Prado led other alumni in Dumaguete to clean-up Silliman Beach. Eighty volunteers participated in the activity, including the Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (BFAR) Provincial Fisheries Office, Dumaguete City Environment and Natural Resources Office, Silliman University Student Government, Philippine Voyagers, and fisher folks. The group collected 35 sacks of trash, and ended the day with an “upcycling” contest where volunteers turned trash into art.

ALUMNEWSBITS

K-L YES Alumna Featured on TV in the U.S.

U.S. local television program, FOX San Antonio 29's Street Corner, featured Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange Study (KL-YES) alumna Nicole Linsangan on June 21. Nicole, who is deaf, shared her experience as an International Exchange Student in Texas and how she established an American Sign Language (ASL) Club in Marshall High School. The club became so popular that the Principal decided to include ASL classes in the school curriculum. Nicole's host family shared how Nicole had become part of their family and encouraged American families to host exchange students. Nicole was also featured during the Education Corner on Texas Public Radio.

To watch: <http://www.foxsanantonio.com/news/features/streets-corner/stories/streets-corner-deaf-foreign-exchange-student-makes-lasting-impression-399.shtml#.U6jQZvmx4RW>

Marawi Alumni Conducts Workshop on Creative Writing and Environment



In June, alumni from Marawi organized a creative writing workshop with U.S. Embassy Cultural Specialist Tony Perez as a speaker. The workshop focused on the role of youth in developing their communities. Students from different schools in Marawi participated in the event at Mindanao State University- Marawi. A month later, the same group of alumni screened environmental films for 70 student participants. After the screening, the participants created a public service announcement on how to protect the environment.



AYVP Alumnus Conducts Proposal Writing Workshop in Baguio

ASEAN Young Volunteers Program (AYVP) alumnus Ace Aniceto conducted a proposal writing workshop at the Philippine Science High School Cordillera Administrative Region (PSHS-CAR). This workshop followed another project, the 1st Cordillera Junior Environmental Scientists, which was launched by PSHS-CAR and AYVP in April 2014. The proposal writing workshop helped the first batch of junior environmental scientists to create environmentally sound projects. Ace also shared his experience as a participant in the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) workshop he attended in Kuala Lumpur in April.





Alumni Talks and Community Building Workshop held in Samar



Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange Study (KL YES) alumni, headed by Abner Bayangan, conducted a workshop in Guiuan Samar entitled “Alumni Talks and Community Building Project” from August 21-24. The alumni held a dialogue on Community Building with 300 students of Saint Mary’s Academy of Guiuan (SMAG) and over 70 college students from Eastern Samar State University (ESSU). The four-day activity included a visit to Guiuan’s tent city, where a group of families displaced from their homes due to Typhoon Haiyan is temporarily sheltered. The alumni also made a book donation to nearby public schools.

PYLP Alumni Protect the Environment

The latest batch of Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) alumni attended a follow-on workshop in General Santos in August 2014. The theme of their 4-week exchange program was “Environmental Leadership in the Philippines: Developing Youth as Agents of Change and Ecological Activism.” Each participant designed and implemented a community project upon their return to the Philippines. The participants, coming from all over Mindanao, showcased their projects including artificial coral reefs, mangrove rehabilitation, and fish sanctuaries. Several groups used recycled materials to design items such as paper beads, school bags and supplies. One alumni even produced bokashi fertilizer for use in container gardening and communal flower or vegetable gardens.



PYLP Batch 11 alumni at the follow-on workshop in General Santos City.



USG alumni led by PYLP Alumna Alyssa Fatima Sali, replenish fish stocks in Marawi.

Youth Dialogues on ASEAN Integration Launched

One hundred students and young leaders attended the launch of the ASEAN Youth Dialogues (AYD) on August 12 at Ateneo de Manila University. AYD is a series of conferences to engage young leaders and students in a dialogue about the impact and implications of the upcoming integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on issues relevant to youth. Filipino alumni of U.S. Department of State exchange programs and members of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) organized the forum with the support of U.S. Embassy Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs- Foreign Service Institute, Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and the Ayala Foundation Inc.



ASEAN Youth Dialogues organizers and U.S. Government alumni Janvic Mateo, John Allanegui, and Renzo Guinto, with U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg.

U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg closed the event with a reminder to the attendees that youth, as future leaders will have to address the challenges of the 21st Century including demography, climate, economic development, and varying political systems.

The ASEAN Youth Dialogues will be held in four other locations this year: Ateneo de Davao University in Davao, St. Louis University in Baguio and in two universities in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ASEAN HUB Water Hyacinth Project Launched in Cotabato City



YSEALI members from the Philippines, Nor-Ain Kumayog and Christine Delner, launched the ASEAN HUB Water Hyacinth Project in Cotabato City on August 26. The project will train housewives and unemployed youth to use water hyacinth, which has caused flooding in the Cotabato area, as a source of income. The organizers taught the beneficiaries how to make coin-purses and paper bags from hyacinth. Two YSEALI members from Indonesia will implement the same project in Jakarta.

"Streams of Hope" Commences River Rehabilitation Efforts

The "Streams of Hope" project, co-organized by YSEALI members from the Philippines Tobit Cruz and Sheryan Guialel, commenced river rehabilitation efforts through a series of community trainings. The group taught communities how to make and use Bokashi Balls, an organic filter, to clean rivers. The team has already conducted river clean-ups and community trainings in Agusan Marsh in Cotabato and Mahabang Sapa Creek in Taytay, Rizal. The project is in collaboration with YSEALI members from Vietnam and Cambodia who will clean rivers in their home countries.





SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE
COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the five YSEALI “Seeds for the Future” winning projects from the Philippines!

“ASEAN Open Institute”
Paul Omar Gangoso

“ASEAN Youth Ending Slavery”
Jose Mateo Dela Cruz

“Beyond ASEAN”
Christian James Nazareth

“Green Education Initiative”
Ace Mark Aniceto

“My Idea”
Kathleen Dawn Young Ricardo

Watch out for more exciting YSEALI news and events in days to come!



YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

YOU CAN BE A LEADER IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. JOIN YSEALI!

Do you have great ideas and want to make a difference in your community? Then check out YSEALI, the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative!

U.S. President Barack Obama launched YSEALI in 2013 to support youth like you who are concerned with economic development, environmental protection, education and civic engagement in Southeast Asia.

Join YSEALI and enjoy these benefits:

- **YSEALI Seeds for the Future** awards funding for your public service projects.
- **YSEALI Generation Workshops** provide hands-on training and peer networking to give you the necessary tools to take on leadership roles.
- **YSEALI Institutes** and **YSEALI Fellows** invite students, young professionals, and mid-career community organizers to the United States to deepen their knowledge about regional issues and share their experiences.
- **YSEALI Social Media** and **youth-to-youth outreach campaigns** link U.S. embassies, young leaders, and communities together to collaborate and respond collectively to shared ASEAN challenges. YSEALI’s Facebook page and Twitter allow you to find out more about YSEALI and connect with other YSEALI members outside of your community and country.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/youngsoutheastasianleaders

Twitter: twitter.com/yseali

- **Other Benefits** include interacting with top U.S. leaders. Past YSEALI members have met ambassadors, the U.S. Secretary of State, and even the President of the United States.

Become a YSEALI member on our website youngsoutheastasianleaders.state.gov.

It’s simple. Members must:

- Be between 18 – 35 years of age,
- Be a citizen and resident of an ASEAN country, and
- Be interested in working on economic development, environmental protection, education, or civic engagement.

We look forward to welcoming you into the YSEALI family!

YSEALI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 10

Deadline: Call for Application
Winter 2015 YSEALI Institute for Religious Pluralism
Info at <http://manila.usembassy.gov>

SEPTEMBER 21

“Streams of Hope” talk featuring award-winning Professor and Chairman of Environmental Science at Allegheny College, Pennsylvania Dr. Eric Pallant in Taytay, Rizal

NOVEMBER 15

First ASEAN Blogathon (Details to follow)

NOVEMBER 16

ASEAN Youth Dialogues in Baguio
www.facebook.com/aseanyouthdialogues

Welcome to the Alumni Community!

Kennedy- Lugar Youth Exchange Study (KL-YES)
Batch 2013-2014



The new batch of alumni with Ambassador Philip Goldberg.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fayyidh Norsieh Mallari Juhary | Ellyssahanna Espinosa |
| Mustapha | Bryan Khetmir Guardiario |
| Datu Yoseff Pendatun | Nahida H. Ali |
| Jayson Peralta | Jianazen Hapas |
| Yusra Sahi | Lyn Dee Khareen Hussam |
| Bai Alaisha Korina Saikol | Jaminah Jappalul |
| Rabbiya Ahda Sangkula | Arrianna Jupakkal |
| Nashmerah Sapad | Nicole Joy Linsangan |
| Firash Zhed Ututalum | Nonie Lumbis |
| Fatimatuzzhra Abdulmajid | Irah Ezan Apil |
| Athina Adjawi | Sittie Ayeenah Arindig |
| Jherfhar Ajirim | Mona-Jean Awab |
| Jaymerose Heart Concepcion | Aiza Dahman |
| Leopoldo Dacera III | |

CONGRATULATIONS!



Southeast Asian Youth Leadership (SEAYLP) 2010 alumna Alexandra Soledad was chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) this year.

State Alumni Community - Philippines Facebook page

Philippine International Exchange Alumni have their own Facebook page: State Alumni Community-Philippines! This page and alumni.state.gov serve as social media platforms for alumni to share news, updates, insights, and opportunities with the Philippine alumni community. If you haven't yet "liked" our page; please do so and connect, inspire, and empower!

 facebook.com/StateAlumniPhilippines

If you have an upcoming Alumni Event or interesting stories and experiences to share, please contact:

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