

‘Philippines Interfaith Village Project 2008-2010’

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Filipino Project Name: “BAYANIHAN PARA SA KAUNLARAN”

“*Bayanihan*” means helping one another, which is part of the Filipino culture; everyone in the community will help someone with difficulties or tasks. The task may be small like doing household chores or babysitting for a neighbor, or big like transferring one’s house (by carrying on their shoulders) to the next village. Its root “*bayani*” means hero, to become a hero is to do something sacrificial for someone or for the society.

“*Para sa*” means to move forward or towards.

“*Kaunlaran*” literally means progress.

The name of the project therefore means that the members will unite, cooperate, and help one another so that there will be progress.

Rationale

The 2005-2007 Human Rights Education (HRE) trainings have been so successful that IARF Philippines members have had their eyes opened to religious freedom issues. It must not be left there; there is a need for follow-up programs and activities to continue what has been achieved.

General Objective

To continue promoting IARF’s advocacy (based on Article 18 of the UN Human Rights Declaration) through HRE trainings while providing livelihood projects and giving opportunities for a positive, friendly and peaceful relationship among members of different faith communities in the Philippines.

Specific Objectives

1. To continue sharing the principles of religious freedom and tolerance through the HRE Trainings;
2. To give a livelihood alleviation project to the participants so that they may improve their standard of living;
3. To give the participants an opportunity to develop friendships & deeper relationships among themselves and with members of other faith communities;
4. To demonstrate a healthy interdependence & cooperative relationship among the IARF member groups & the community as well.

Mechanics

The IARF, the local government unit and the different faiths will unite in a cooperative relationship to implement a livelihood project — *raising poultry (ducks*, a staple of local diets) — that will alleviate poverty and improve relationships among its participants which will eventually result in progress, unity & peace in the community.

In this project IARF will provide capitalization for the ducks & incubators, while the local government will provide the consultancy & technology, and the participants or recipients of the project will provide the other components.

Methodology:

- IARF will provide each region with: 200 drakes, 1,000 ducks, 5 incubators.
- A qualified participant is entitled to one drake and up to five ducks (depending on how many one feels capable of raising), to raise until every female has hatched ducklings.
- One month after hatching the participant will transfer the ducklings to the next beneficiary with the help of her/his Team Leader and host church/group/faith organization.
- One must also give a tithe of 10% of the ducklings or its value to one's host church/group/organization.
- At least one male duckling out of the ducklings hatched by the same mother duck will be exchanged by the participant with other male ducklings from other participant for purposes of cross-breeding and to insure that there is an ongoing cooperative relationship among participants.
- The project will hire one technician who will take care of the incubators. Every time the incubator is used the participant pays a minimum amount for its electricity consumption and maintenance.
- The team leader, technician and the host church/group/organization shall be in consultation in managing the incubators and the contributions to make the project sustainable.

Each region must have:

- a) A host church/group/organization which will provide the venue, TV, VCD player, public address system, etc.
- b) A team leader who will monitor the project and see that it becomes sustainable.
- c) A technician (paid by the project) who will operate the incubators.
- d) A Memorandum of Agreement with the Local Government Unit that it will help the participants by providing consultancy and technology in duck raising through its Department of Agriculture.
- e) HRE and project values formation trainers (with subsidized honoraria) during the first year of implementation; the project will continue and will take care of the honoraria the following year onwards.
- f) Participants (at least 20 participants per training for 20 trainings).

A Qualified Participant must meet the following requirements:

1. Must have undergone the HRE training and project values formation/ orientation..
2. Must have a rat-free, fenced space to raise the ducks.
3. Must have five prescribed boxes for the ducks to lay and sit the eggs.
4. Must have a basin or container for water.
5. Must be willing to take care of the ducks and raise their ducklings.
6. Must sign a contract that stipulates:
 - a) Once the ducklings can survive without their mothers, one will transfer the care of the ducks to the next beneficiary, and that one will participate in the male duckling exchange system.
 - b) That in case any of the ducks die while under one's care, one must pay for its replacement.
7. Must give a tithe of 10% to one's host church/group or faith organization of all the ducklings one is able to produce for the sustainability of the project.

A Memorandum of Agreement shall be signed among:

1. IARF;
2. The Project Team Leader of the region;
3. The host church/group/faith organization;
4. The Local Government Unit of the locality that the LGU through its Department of Agriculture will provide with the technology and project consultancy.

Monitoring:

The IARF International Council Member oversees the project together with the Team Leaders all over the country. They must ensure the project's implementation and its sustainability.

- Every year a duck festival is held when participants will hold the annual IARF Conference and activities to showcase the project. This is when the progress of the project will be reported, and members can share experiences about the project and the different religious freedom issues that they were confronted with.
- A contest may be held to reward whoever was able to raise the heaviest fowl, the most ducks, who earned the most from the project, etc.

Reasons for choosing duck-raising:

1. Low maintenance (ducks can survive from table scraps).
2. Ducks' resistance to diseases.
3. Less supervision is needed.
4. Short gestation period (prolific).
5. Easy to raise, and they are good pets.
6. Easy to market products (fresh eggs, salted, century, balut, feather products, other by-products).
7. Duck raising is a lucrative business and it can provide more jobs for the community.
8. Recommended by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as a good livelihood project.

Impact in the community:

1. The project will provide its participants with opportunities to improve their standard of living through income-generating activity.
2. Participants can help raise funds for their churches/faith organizations.
3. The government will support this initiative because of its positive effects in helping in poverty alleviation programs, as well as peace and order in the community.
4. The project will facilitate the fostering of positive relationships among members of different faith traditions, therefore it will contribute to the peace process not only in the locality where the program is implemented, but in the wider community as well.
5. Eventually cooperation, peace and unity among faith traditions will become a way of life, therefore progress and religious freedom can be attained.