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A TRIBUTE TO THE SECOND OUTSTANDING AFC CHAIRPERSONS & COORDINATORS

Since the Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) was first established in 1987, its volunteer-partners have made numerous contributions to the development of the agriculture and fishery sector in the country. The AFC is the mechanism for private sector participation in the development processes at the regional, provincial, and municipal levels.

The council has been the

Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries' (PCAF) partners in achieving the goals and mandates of the agency as well as the Department of Agriculture (DA) as they help in making the decisions and policies that the government should pursue through sound relevant and timely policy recommendations

Throughout the years, PCAF acknowledges the importance and significance of engagement, because

this follows motivation for stakeholders' participation toward improving the agri-fishery sector.

A year after the six winners have been recognized in 2016, a team from PCAF interviewed the awardees to determine the lessons they have learned, experiences they have encountered, and contributions they can still provide to further improve the situation of agri-fishery sector.



ISIDRO ACOSTA, SR.

Cagayan Valley Region | Outstanding RAFC Chairperson

"The very important lesson I learned is **"hard work, unconditional commitment and dedication"** as a volunteer, without expecting any remuneration. It makes the volunteer, like me, feel so proud. Even our DA partners in the RFO were likewise very proud of our achievement.

As a volunteer-partner, we can improve/help further the agriculture industry by **advocating policy recommendations/resolutions** as we observe them in the field."



VIRGINIA MANUEL

ARMM | Outstanding RAFC Coordinator

"The recognition given to me by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries as Outstanding RAFC Coordinator for 2016, will be treasured as long as I live. I was overwhelmed by the recognition and that I came to realize that **"the commitment to work to the best you can, and patience in an environment full of challenges, make a difference."**

An Agriculturist by profession, the opportunity to work with the

private sector is a fulfillment of my determination to assist the farmers and fisherfolks.

Some friends believed, it (the recognition) was a "hard-earned" award after serving the Council for more than two decades, including that of PAFC Maguindanao.

I believe I am still capable and very willing to serve the AFCs in spite of problems and challenges encountered along the way.

As a secretariat of RAFC ARMM, I believe I can do more by **advocating and encouraging the participation of more farmers and fisherfolks on the ground, for they are the real actors**. Their contribution may be small, but when consolidate, will give us the true picture of what is agriculture and fishery development."



NORA ARIBON

Masbate | Outstanding PAFC Chairperson

“As a volunteer, I have learned that to be a leader, **I have to walk behind my MAFCs and co-workers to successfully work for the agriculture and fisheries.**”

Despite of her age, Nora Aribon still continues to serve and willing to share her experiences and leadership in making a difference in the lives of farmers and fisherfolks.

She assured that she will continue to work for the improvement of the situation of the country's agri-fishery sector, by advocating for a more responsive program for the sector; providing funds for the amelioration of the livelihood of the famers' and fisherfolks' families; encouraging the LGUs to plant commercial fruit trees for a lifetime source of income for farmers; helping in the monitoring of approved DA-funded programs and projects; and conducting trainings.

Aribon believes that by fulfilling the mandate of PCAF, our goals for the agri-fishery sector will be achieved despite of the few emerging challenges.

She also thanked PCAF for the privilege of serving the country's sector and the farmers and fisherfolks.



CECILIA NUÑEZ

Masbate | Outstanding PAFC Coordinator

“Having recognized (as 2016 Outstanding PAFC Coordinator) only serves to increase my commitment to mobilize our collective strength to accelerate and sustain development in agriculture and fishery sector.

Establishing strong rapport, camaraderie, coordination, and linkages with our partners and getting resources and support of people where they are most needed become easier thereby ensuring the success of AFC activities. This is the most important lesson I have learned.

I am proud with my AFC work because our government / private sector partners became more active and inspired in sharing their expertise and services. More individual members involved in agriculture signify their intentions to become part of the AFC.

As the secretariat of PAFC, I will continue to promote the activities of PAFC, particularly the involvement of farmers, fishers, LGUs, and stakeholders in identifying and addressing issues and problems concerning agriculture and fisheries. **I will cultivate in them, the spirit of volunteerism to increase membership and strengthen networking and linkages.**”



WILFRED ADVIENTO

Alubijid, Misamis Oriental | Outstanding MAFC Chairperson

“Although sometimes, I am discouraged and frustrated, but when you meet the farmers then they will tell you *na maganda yung nagawa mo, ang sabi ko*, “I have to stay.” **It is frustrating, but at the same time gratifying.**”

This is Wilfred Adviento's thought while he serves the AFC over the years.

Adviento believed that to be a good leader, he/she must possess the three H. First is the **Heart** to easily connect to the farmers' and fisherfolks' feelings and passion. Second, **Head** to create a strategy and plan. Last is the **Hands** to perform what has been planned, and to achieve the goals for the agri-fishery sector.

Being commended for being a mentor and financial manager, Adviento encourages the farmers, fisherfolks, and other stakeholders to “Be careful with money matters” as it is one of the issues that our sector experiences.

“Volunteers are not paid, not because they are useless. But because they are priceless,” a quote from an American author which Adviento conveyed during the interview.

“Volunteerism is the driving force in community building. Philippine Red Cross Chairperson and Sen. Richard Gordon once said that volunteerism is believing that we have power, that we have choice to create possibility in bringing out the goodness in all of us in order to help improve lives, whether it will be on disasters or in crisis.”

- Guest speaker of 2016 National Volunteers' Day, Secretary to the Board of Red Cross Corazon Alma de Leon, in her speech.



ANNIE LUMANOG

Bula, Camarines Sur | Special Citation

PCAF awarded a Special Citation to Annie Lumanog for her exemplary contribution as MAFC Coordinator of Bula, Camarines Sur. She was lauded for being a good and effective agent of economic change through engaging the farmers in Bula to adopt agricultural insurance system.