

5 towns come up with human rights action plans



HUMAN RIGHTS 101. Atty. David Bermudo discussed basic disability laws to the participants during the Human Rights training held in Iloilo City.

By Raphy Imperial

By identifying situations that are considered as human rights violations and presenting the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) under local and international laws, Iloilo and Antique's PWD are now more aware of their own human rights.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Region 6 explained the rights of PWD during a 3-day Human Rights and Disability Training held at Eon Centennial Hotel, Iloilo City last January 26 to 28, 2011.

The outcome of the training was an output named Human Rights (HR) Action Plan formulated by each municipality that aimed to strengthen rights-based approaches and to assist the Community Based-Rehabilitation (CBR) Plan achieves their goals.

"After the development of our HR Action Plan, we will integrate it to our CBR and Disabled People's

Organization (DPO) Plan to develop activities in line with the Human Rights framework," said Bobby L. Pahayahay, CBR coordinator of Concepcion, Iloilo.

Representatives from the CHR served as resource speakers who discussed the basic legal basis concerning PWD rights such as: Republic Act 7277 (Magna Carta for PWD), Batas Pambansa 344 (Accessibility Law) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Atty. David Bermudo, regional director of CHR-Region VI, discussed the roles of CHR in relation to disability concerns such as: CHR will continue to investigate any cases of discrimination and other human rights violations being faced by PWD, will continue to provide appropriate legal assistance, will take measures in ensuring that education is

provided to PWD and will ensure that educational institutions are barrier-free and accessible.

The DPO officers, CBR workers and government officials of San Dionisio, Concepcion, Batad, Lauaan and Barbaza were the participants of the said training, which was made possible thru the support of Australian Aid (AusAid) Human Rights Grants Scheme.

In this issue

- The new cry for inclusion page **2**
- Antique, Iloilo DPO and CBR Team hold Human Rights Forum **3**
- Orgz'l dev't planning helps CBR, DPO teams establish activities **4**
- 5 DPOs now SEC-registered **5**
- **DANILO TOLENTINO** **6**
- **PDAO in Antique** **7**
- **Stronger UMWAD workforce seen for 2011** **8**

The new cry for inclusion

By Edward T. Ello and Jude Ryan B. Seares

As the Philippines celebrate the 25th Anniversary of EDSA Revolution and the globally acclaimed “People Power”, another powerful cry for inclusion is being heard today. This new cry is being raised by persons with disabilities whose rights are regularly denied and ignored.

PWD are fighting for equal employment and livelihood opportunities, access to quality education, right to health development and affordable rehabilitation services, accessibility, and the right to participate in the community.

Disability laws in the Philippines such as the Republic Act 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons and its Implementing Rules and Regulations), RA 9442 (An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7277, which included 20% discount and Prohibitions on Verbal, Non-verbal Ridicule and Vilification Against Persons with Disabilities) and Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 (Accessibility Law) embodies attempts to hear the cry for inclusion.

However, there is the question of the proper implementation of laws. Are the Local Government Units (LGU) and the private sector aware of these laws and their responsibilities? Are the persons with disabilities



Cartooning by Roy Militante, PWD-Laua-an

conscious that they have these laws that will protect them in the first place? Answering the above-mentioned questions definitely rely on the government, the business sector and civil society including PWD.

As an implementing body, the government including the LGUs should have effective mechanisms in informing the public and implementing the said laws. As a profit-oriented arm, the business sector should also perform its part by making their services disability inclusive. As part of civil society, PWD in return should also be responsible, self-reliant and participative of the community’s initiatives.

So, what is the meaningful idea of inclusion? Inclusion basically means recognizing our common oneness and interdependence. Inclusion is recognizing that we are one even though we have individual differences. Inclusion further means fighting against exclusion.

Let it be emphasized that inclusion involves assuring that all support systems are available to those who are in need of such support including persons with disabilities. Furthermore, providing and maintaining support system is a civic responsibility. Therefore, inclusion is a public duty not a favor for persons with disabilities.

Antique, Iloilo DPO and CBR Team hold Human Rights Forum

ILOILO

By Raphy Imperial

To further boost the knowledge of Disabled Peoples Organization (DPO) and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) teams about the rights and privileges of Persons with Disabilities (PWD), the “Human Rights Forum of PWD” was conducted at Sarabia Manor Hotel, Iloilo City last February 25, 2011.

Queries from the participants about disability concerns were answered and clarified by the board of panelists from the Commission on Human Rights Region VI, Office of Persons with Disabilities Affairs – Iloilo City, Association of Disabled People in Iloilo (ADPI), Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office - Iloilo, Handicap International, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health and Land Transportation Office.

The queries of the participants particularly focused on the issue of employment, inclusion, discounts and accessibility.

With the theme “The New Face of EDSA: Democracy, Equality, and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities,” the forum was attended by participants from the municipalities of Batad, Concepcion and San Dionisio which are composed of their Local Chief Executives, Municipal Councilors, Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office staff, CBR coordinators and workers and officers of their respective DPO.

Other attendees were from OPDA-Iloilo City, ADPI, representatives of the Iloilo Provincial Government and the media.

The said forum was a joint activity of the DPO and CBR teams from the said three municipalities in Iloilo and supported by the CHR-Region VI, Iloilo Ford Foundation Alumni Association, OPDA-Iloilo City, PSWDO-Iloilo, HI-UMWAD Project and AusAid.

The said affair was a follow-up activity of the Human Rights Press Conference which was held at the DSWD Conference Room last February 23, 2011 that also aimed to address the issue of accessibility and the rights and privileges of every PWD.



Various media entities participated during the Human Rights Press Conference last February 23, 2011.

ANTIQUE

By Provincial Information Office – Antique and Edward Ello



INAUGURATED. Gov. Exequiel B. Javier, (2nd from right) inaugurated the Person with Disabilities Office of Antique during the HR Forum. Together with him are PDAO focal person Ms. Amie Dava and PSWD Officer Mr. Lazaro Petinglay.

San Jose, Antique – Persons with Disabilities (PWD) here were jubilant as they heard Gov. Exequiel B. Javier declare during the Human Rights Forum of Persons with Disabilities held at Cindy’s II Restaurant last February 25, 2011 that he had allocated P1.2 million for the construction of the Center for PWD as this vulnerable sector of society needs more attention and importance.

“The New Face of EDSA: Democracy, Equality, and Human Rights of Antiquenos with Disabilities” was the theme of the forum.

On the same occasion, Gov. Javier, together with the Association of Disabled Persons (ADP-Antique), Handicap International(HI)-UMWAD Project and the mayors of the municipalities of Barbaza, Laua-an and San Jose launched the Persons With Disability Affairs Office (PDAO), headed by the newly appointed PDAO Officer, Amie Dava.

The office was created by virtue of Republic Act 10070, an act which amends the Magna Carta of Persons with Disabilities (RA 7277).

According to Ms. Dava the creation of PDAO will ensure that the programs for PWD are being carried out properly.

Atty. David Bermudo, director of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Region VI, said disability is one



BRAINSTORM. DPO team of Barbaza discuss their programs, projects and activities during the organizational planning workshop.

Orgz'l dev't planning helps CBR, DPO teams establish activities

By Jude Ryan Seares

To help the Disabled People's Organization (DPO) and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) teams in setting priorities that are in line with their vision, mission and goals, a series of workshop on Organizational Development Planning was conducted by Handicap International (HI)-UMWAD Project in the municipalities of Laua-an, Batad, San Dionisio, Concepcion and Barbaza for the period of March-April 2011.

A total of 70 participants from the said municipalities attended the workshop composed of DPO officers, CBR coordinators and workers and representatives from their respective Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), Municipal Health Office, Sangguniang Bayan and Office of the Mayor.

The first part was about the basic principles and concepts of planning, discussed by Edward Ello, Inclusive Local Development Officer of HI.

The second part was facilitated by Jayrose Plana, Community Organizer for Organizational Development and Livelihood of HI.

Mrs. Plana facilitated the discussion of the DPO's vision, mission and goals. This was followed by the review of Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Plan and identification of DPO activities.

Each DPO and CBR teams were divided into three core groups concentrating on three Key Result Areas (KRA) which are Institutional and Capacity Building, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship

5 DPOs now SEC-registered

By Jayrose Plana

After an arduous processing and compliance of all requirements, five Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) were officially registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as of March 2011.

The Association of Persons with Disabilities in Laua-an, Antique (APILA), Inc., Barbaza Disabled People's Organization (BDPO), Inc., Concepcion Disabled People's Organization (CDPO), Inc., San Dionisio Persons with Disabilities Organization (SANDPWDO), Inc., and Batad Persons with Disabilities Organization (BPWDO), Inc. were formally registered as non-stock, non-profit organizations.

The SEC registration will allow the DPO to strengthen its capacities, given the opportunities as a legal entity with a juridical personality.

The said registration is also an essential and initial requirement for the DPO to be accredited as a recognized People's Organization (PO), and later on to be an accredited member of the Municipal Development Council (MDC) in their respective municipalities where they can lobby their disability agenda, organizational plans, project proposal and other activities in relation to the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities (PWD).

According to the Corporation Code of the Philippines (Batas Pambansa Bilang 68), an accredited non-stock, non-profit organizations must be organized and operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: scientific, research, educational, character-building, youth and sports development, health, social welfare, cultural, or charitable purposes.

and Advocacy, Networking and Linkaging.

The last part of the training was the presentation and discussion of each group's programs, projects and activities that they have developed.

"The Organizational Development Planning is very helpful for us, because we will know how to prioritize our projects and activities based on the three categories of KRA that we have developed," said Mrs. Hilaria Flores, DPO President, Municipality of Barbaza.

Concepcion PWD avail themselves of 4P's

By Mary A. Depalobos, Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer, Concepcion

Relative to the implementation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4P's) of the local government units mandated by the national government, underprivileged residents of Concepcion, Iloilo including Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and their children received cash transfers for health and education rehabilitation last January 25, 2011.

The cash transfer was held in Concepcion Covered Gym with the Land Bank of the Philippines-Sara Branch that released an amount of P23 million for 2,931 beneficiaries, which include 70 PWD and 25 Community-Based Rehabilitation workers.

The 4P's is a poverty reduction strategy of the national government that aims to provide grants to extremely poor households for the improvement of their health, nutrition and education particularly to children aged 0-14 years old.

A household-beneficiary can receive as much as P1,400 monthly, which includes P500 per month for nutrition and health expenses and P300 per month per child (with a maximum of three children per household) for educational expenses. Household-beneficiaries must comply with certain conditions to continue receiving the cash grants, which could go on for a maximum of five years.

The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Concepcion ensured that all beneficiaries including PWD and their families are selected through a Proxy Means Test.

This test considers the ownership of assets, type of housing, education of the household head, livelihood of the family and access to water and sanitation facilities.



PRO-LIFE. 4 P's beneficiaries of municipality of Concepcion.

3 towns present DPO, CBR Action Plans

By Amelia Hipolito, Batad Municipal Social Welfare & Development Officer

To present the Disabled Peoples Organizations' (DPO) action plan for the first quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2011 and Community - Based Rehabilitation (CBR) accomplishments for CY 2010, the second Coordination Meeting was held at the Municipality of Batad last March 25, 2011 at Barangay Alinsolong.

The coordination meeting was attended by CBR coordinators, CBR workers and DPO officers from the municipalities of San Dionisio, Concepcion and Batad, Iloilo.

The highlight of the meeting was the three municipalities' presentation of their respective DPO updates and CBR accomplishments for the first quarter of CY 2011 and CY 2010, respectively.

DPO action plans for the first quarter of CY 2011 were presented by each DPO president. Primarily, DPO action plans were focused on the lobbying of .5 percent budget allocation for persons with disabilities (PWD) to their respective local government units, lobbying for the approval of their respective project proposals and further training and workshop of the DPO and CBR teams on skills enhancement.

On the other hand, CBR accomplishments for CY 2010 were presented by each CBR coordinator. CBR accomplishments were mostly on the areas of capacity building, accessibility and inclusion of PWD in the municipality's activities.

After the presentation of DPO presidents and CBR coordinators, Mr. Edward Ello, Inclusive Local Development



INCLUSIVE MEETING. Participants during the second Coordination Meeting held at Brgy. Alinsolong, Batad, Iloilo

Officer of Handicap International (HI) presented updates and accomplishments of UMWAD Project from January to March 2011 and discussed future projects' plans for April to May 2011.

The said coordination meeting was also participated and supported by the Batad Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office and barangay officials of Alinsolong headed by their Barangay Captain Federico Gomeri.

Brgy. Alinsolong in Batad, Iloilo was cited as one of the most active barangays in the province of Iloilo in supporting disability concerns especially in the issue of accessibility and inclusion; thus, it was chosen to be the venue of the second coordination meeting for 2011.

Iloilo, Antique teams strategize for effective 2011 project implementation

By Edward T. Ello

Participants to the coordination meeting planned out and strategized approaches to improve disability related activities in their respective municipalities.

The year 2010 was for increasing the capacity of Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) and Community Based-Rehabilitation (CBR) teams in advocacy, communication and developing project proposals. Thus, the year 2011, is for the implementation of what they have learned last 2010.

Both teams from Antique and Iloilo initiated a meeting to assist the Handicap International-UMWAD Project in activities related to human rights, organizational development and capacity building of DPOs.

The joint coordination meeting was held last January 18 and January 20, 2011 for Antique and Iloilo teams, respectively.

Laua-an and Barbaza towns attended for the Antique team while the Iloilo team was attended by San Dionisio, Batad and Concepcion.

During the meeting, the activities and strategies were

discussed wherein each Community Organizer will be responsible for the following project domains: Organizational Development, Human Rights and Networking and Advocacy and Communications.

The said approach is geared towards inclusion and improvement that will further increase the skills of DPO and CBR teams on Advocacy and Communications, Human Rights and Organizational Development.

The proposed schedules and activities from January to May 2011 were also included in the agenda of the meeting. These agendas were: Human Rights and Disability Training, Organizational Planning, Human Rights (HR) Forum and Good Practices Workshop.

The HR forum aims to develop an HR directory while the Good Practices Workshop aims to identify existing good practices and translate these to advocacy tools.

According to the participants, they are now seeing the direction of the project geared towards the autonomy of each DPO.

The coordination meeting is held every three months in the provinces of Iloilo and Antique.



CATALYST OF CHANGE. Participants from municipality of Batad, Concepcion and San Dionisio during the conduct of coordination meeting held at Concepcion, Iloilo.

DPO and CBR NEWS



DANILO TOLENTINO

“Life is one big fishing expedition”

By Jude Ryan Seares

“All things in life are not permanent, it is uncertain. Even the big fish you have caught with your bare hands will jump back to the sea. So, never give up trawling the big sea for that big fish that your bare hands will catch again.”

These words of wisdom come from Danilo “Danny” Tolentino as he reflects on the major events of his life after losing his right leg in a vehicular accident.

Danny, at 53 years old, represents a strong, committed and optimistic PWD worthy of emulation and inspiration.

Humble Beginnings and career

Danny is a true-blooded Antiqueno raised in Sitio Lanitan, Barangay Bayuyan, Barbaza, on October 11, 1958. Young Danny never relied on his family’s wealth even though they practically owned the whole sitio (hamlet).

Danny entered the best schools in Antique and Iloilo City for his elementary, secondary and tertiary education. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Commerce at University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

Upon graduation, Danny immediately applied to PEPSI Cola Inc. at Iloilo City and was hired as Field Auditor. The contract lasted for six months due to the company’s retrenchment policies.

He went to Manila to work for Metrobank’s Binondo Branch as an Accounting Clerk and in 1990, became a checker at Swift Foods Incorporated where he was promoted to Sales Agent after seven years and then to being Distributor.

Danny distributed processed meat, dressed chicken, etc. at big fast food chains in Iloilo City, Iloilo and Antique Provinces. To meet the demand of his clients and to increase his sales targets, Danny bought a van and hired a driver for distribution purposes.

Turning Point

The Tolentino family by then had grown with four children named John Paul (now 23 years old), Frank Andrew (now 19 years old), Danilo Jr. (now 16 years old) and James (now 14 years old).

So as to be near his children while they were studying in Iloilo city, Danny and his family transferred and bought a house at Cuartero, Jaro, Iloilo City. With his earnings, Danny sold the Cuartero house and moved to a more beautiful one of two storeys at First Standard Subdivision in Mandurriao, Iloilo City in the year 2000.

Life then took on a different meaning

At 5a.m. of February 4, 2004, Danny and his driver travelled to Antique to distribute his products. While driving, the driver fell asleep and in the blink of an eye, the car slammed into an electrical post at Barangay Nanga, Guimbal Iloilo at around 5:45 a.m.

The driver acquired minor bruises while Danny obtained a major injury at his right leg. Both were

immediately rushed to Guimbal District Hospital. Because his injury was severe, the doctors decided to confine Danny at Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) at Mandurriao, Iloilo City for further medication.

While in WVMC, the doctors decided to cut his right leg because the bones were severely cracked. Danny stayed for several months in the hospital.

From 2004 to 2009, the family relied on the insurances of Danny until 2009 when a notice of disclosure from the bank that allowed Danny to loan the construction of the house was handed to the Tolentinos.

Danny’s family was distressed and devastated. But they did not have a choice. They sold their property including the van and other appliances and the kids transferred to Barbaza, Antique for their schooling

Last September 2010, the family went back to their hometown at Sitio Lanitan, Barangay Bayuyan, Barbaza. With their little savings, they constructed a small house made of light materials such as bamboo and nipa hut.

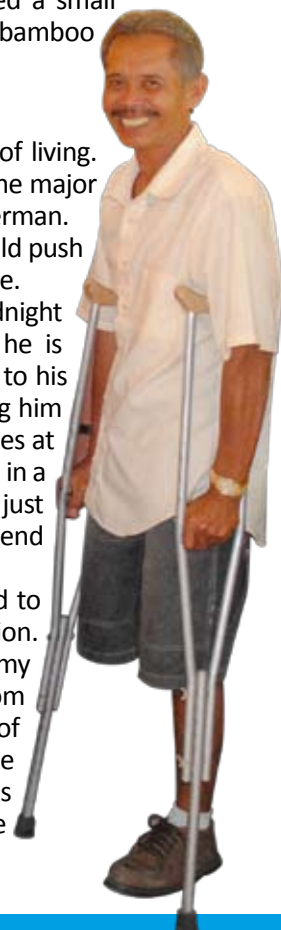
The Only PWD Fisherman in Town

Danny started to look for a source of living. Taking into consideration that fishing is the major industry in town; he decided to be a fisherman.

To help Danny, his four children would push a little banca with him in it off to the shore.

He goes fishing from 7 p.m. to midnight and then at 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. When he is done, he just blows his whistle signaling to his children to pull the rope that would bring him back to the shore. Every day Danny catches at least three to five kilos of fish that he sells in a nearby market. His income from fishing is just enough for the family to survive and spend for their daily needs.

“Despite what happened to me and to our lives, giving up will never be an option. As long as I have the strength, I will do my best for my family. I will start again from scratch. I have caught different kinds of enormous fish before, so, it’s very possible for me to catch them again,” said Danny as he remains optimistic about life which he now considers one big fishing expedition.




next feature...
DIONITA BAUTISTA
 Expert PWD Cook with a Heart for Others

PDAO in Antique

By Amie Dava, Persons with Disabilities Affairs Officer, Antique

As stated in Republic Act 7277 or the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), PWD have the right to equal employment, education, rehabilitation, and equal opportunity in society.

An amendment to RA 7277 is the Republic Act 10070, an act which mandates that every province, city and municipality should implement and create a Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) to ensure programs and services for persons with disabilities.

Last February 25, 2011 Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) in the province of Antique was launched and welcomed by the people of Antique especially the PWD. It was inaugurated by Gov. Exequiel B. Javier, being the head of the province.

In the message of Gov. Javier, he allotted P1.2 million for the construction of a PWD center in the province. He further stated that the provincial government will extend its full support to PDAO.

In our two months of operation, PDAO facilitated numerous programs and activities in coordination with Handicap International-UMWAD Project such as the Human Rights Forum and other trainings in relation to disability concerns.

In addition, the PDAO attended capability building trainings, facilitated referrals of children with disabilities particularly to support their education, medical, employment and assistive devices. We actively started advocating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in every municipality, gathered data,

and reactivated and strengthened the Disabled People's Organization (DPO) in 18 municipalities.

Being the head of PDAO in Antique, I led the visit to municipalities and encouraged the local chief executive to implement and create PDAO in their respective areas as mandated by RA 10070. With this, programs and services for persons with disabilities will be fully implemented and no PWD should be left far behind.

The Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office would like to extend its deep gratitude to the people of the province of Antique including the persons with disabilities in 18 municipalities for the inspiration and drive to pursue and advocate our rights and privileges.

To Gov. Exequiel B. Javier, Vice Gov. Rosie Dimamay, 8 Sangguniang Panlalawigan members and PSWD Officer Mr.



Lazaro Petinglay for the full support of the creation of PDAO and its future activities. We also would like to thank our partner agencies, non-governmental organizations, Handicap International, Liliane Foundation and local stakeholders for the unending support to the programs and projects in relation to disability concerns.

With the creation of PDAO and its active PWD members, I am confident that PWD of Antique can now be part of and included as members and contributors of the province's and society's development.

from page 3

of the main concerns of CHR; thus, it made investigations on violations of human rights against PWD.

CHR is likewise concerned with PWD rights, in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which obligates them to provide legal assistance and access to education by assuring that educational institutions are barrier-free.

In the open forum, members of the panel were from the regional offices of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), CHR and PDAO-Antique.

They answered queries from the participants that ranged from non-granting of discounts in transportation, medicines, and basic commodities for the PWD and issues on hiring of PWD.

The said forum was attended by 106 participants that consisted of Disabled People's Organization officers, Community Based-Rehabilitation workers, government officials and representatives of the private sector.

The forum was held in coordination with HI-UMWAD Project, Province of Antique, through the PSWDO headed by Mr. Lazaro Petinglay; ADP-Antique, and the municipalities of Barbaza, San Jose, and Laua-an.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

Handicap International (HI) is an independent international aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster.

Working alongside persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups throughout the world, our action and testimony are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their dignity and their fundamental rights.

With a network of eight national associations (USA, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and UK), Handicap International, founded in 1982 and co-recipient of the Nobel Peace prize in 1997, has programs in 60 countries and acts in both emergency and development situations.

In the Philippines, the UMWAD Project aims to increase the capacities of Disabled People's Organizations so that they can become integral actors in local development. It is currently funded through the Australian Aid (AusAid) Human Rights Grant Scheme (HRGS) which provides grant funding to organizations involved in building the capacity of organizations in developing countries to promote and protect human rights in direct and tangible ways.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
(2ND QUARTER OF 2011)

April 13
Formulation of Disability Agenda (Iloilo)

April 14, 15 & 19
Good Practices Workshop, Phase 1 (Iloilo)

April 27
Formulation of Disability Agenda (Antique)

April 27-29
Good Practices Workshop, Phase 1 (Antique)

May 11-13
Good Practices Workshop, Phase 2 (Iloilo)

May 18, 26 & June 9
DPO Awareness (Iloilo)

June 15-17
Leadership Training (Antique)

June 21-30
Project Evaluation

Stronger UMWAD workforce seen for 2011

By Sheila Arroyo-Tipon

As the project continues to soar in the beginning of 2011, two newly hired personnel were added to the Handicap International-UMWAD Project Team.

Joebert Prio was hired as Driver/ Logistic Assistant last February 1, 2011 while Jude Ryan Seares joined the team last March 14, 2011 as the new Community Organizer for Advocacy and Communications.

Joebert Prio hails from Jaro, Iloilo City. He is a graduate of Associate in Marine Engineering at John B. Lacson Foundation Maritime University last 1989. Joebert worked as a delivery driver for Jaz Cola in 1994 where his driving skill was honed.

He subsequently worked as driver for the Philippine Ports Authority and Pryce Gases Inc. for 10 years that familiarized him with the road terrains of Antique and Iloilo.

Mr. Prio's last employment prior to Handicap International was in Prudential Insurance Company as cargo-checker, in line with his logistical functions.

Behind the smiling face of the former Mr. West Visayas State University (WVSU) title-holder, is competence that outshone the rest of the applicants for Community Organizer for Advocacy and Communications.



J. SEARES



J. PRIO

Jude Ryan Seares is a graduate of Bachelor in Broadcast Communications at West Visayas State University last 2009. He also obtained his Master's degree in Public Governance at WVSU last March 2011.

He previously worked with the Iloilo City Council as Media and Communications Officer and was involved with advocacies on the elderly, youth and women.

"I have been engaged in different kinds of work but there was no self-fulfillment. I have realized that this kind of road is what God wants me to take. As I embark on this craft, I firmly believe that with a golden heart for service, I can surpass the challenges, and my career in HI would definitely be a life changing experience - a dream come true!"

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