

## PRESS RELEASE

**LCC Opens Nominations for the 2010 National Literacy Awards**

The Department of Education through its Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) opens nominations for the 2010 National Literacy Awards. The NLA, held every two years, is a major activity of LCC to recognize individuals, institutions, and local government units with outstanding literacy programs in their communities. It is also in line with the United Nations' Literacy Decade goal of reducing the adult illiteracy rate by 50 percent by 2015.

The NLA aims to make literacy universal in the country by creating public awareness and encouraging the development and replication of innovative, creative, and indigenous literacy programs in the community.

First launched in 1994, the NLA has since become the highlight of the literacy conference held annually in conjunction with the celebration of Literacy Week.

"For twelve years now we have noted an increasing number of awardees as well as institutions and individuals who want to involve themselves in literacy development," said Education Secretary Mona Valisno.

The LGU of Agoo, La Union led by Mayor Sandra Y. Eriguel became an awardee for its literacy program in its 49 villages with 10,050 households who have unschooled adults and out-of-school street children. Eriguel, a practising dermatologist and non-government organization worker, deployed 49 barangay literacy council coordinators in the whole municipality which made literacy advancement possible.

Another past NLA awardee is the local government of Tubungan, Iloilo led by Mayor Victor T. Tabaquirao. Tubungan introduced its Community Learning Center Project which is a center for recreational indoor games and reading.

Tubungan also put up the Barangay Aid on Literacy, a traveling library for indigenous people (IP) and the underprivileged; the AKLAT program (Ang Kaalaman sa Literasiya ay Tagumpay) which produced local literacy documents including the History of Tubungan; the SAGIP Agriculture, a training program for farmers which includes Coco Coir and Flower Production; SAGIP Health (medical missions, feeding programs); and SAGIP Livelihood Development, a skills development program for out-of-school youths, rebel returnees, and the unemployed.

Both Tubungan, Iloilo and Agoo, La Union are Hall of Fame awardees having won the award three times. Recognition was also accorded to Agoo, La Union for winning the Confucius Award of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes, 2009 in Paris, France.

The NLA Awards has two main categories – *Outstanding Literacy Program* and *Outstanding Local Government Unit*. The outstanding literacy program award is given to a literacy program implemented by a non-government or civic organization or academic institution, which has evident positive impact on the learners and the community. Through the program, the transformation of

learners to be productive and more responsible community members is achieved.

The outstanding local government unit (LGU) award on the other hand, is given to a local government unit which has developed policies, programs, and projects conducive to literacy development and which program has made a positive impact on the barangays and the quality of life of the people.

Winners for each category will be awarded cash prizes, and trophies courtesy of LCC. The first place winner will likewise receive a presidential trophy. The awarding ceremony will be held during the Literacy Conference in September.

Nominees are required to submit documents of their entries including an executive summary of not more than five pages of the nominated program or LGU, and three copies of the nominee's folio/entry of not more than 50 pages including photographs not to exceed 20 pieces. Video documentation is not encouraged.

Submission of all Regional nominees to the Literacy Coordinating Council Secretariat should not be later than May 6, 2010.

Programs or LGUs which have won first place for three times are also qualified to the Hall of Fame award and will have the chance to be recommended by LCC to international literacy nominations.

For inquiries, please contact Dr. Normal L. Salcedo, LCC Secretariat Head, at Rm. 414, Mabini Bldg., DepEd, Meralco Ave., or call 631-0567, 635-9996, and 0920-3274-230, or log on to <http://lcc.deped.gov.ph>.

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