

## CRM NET FIRMS UP

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE HEADS ELECTED

The officers and committee heads of the Coastal Resources Management Network (CRM Net) has finally been selected and approved.

They were elected during the Steering Committee's first formal meeting in CASA San Miguel, San Antonio, Zambales on May 04, 2000. Part of the meeting's agenda were Program Formulation and Membership matters (see *POSTSCRIPT*).

Elected into office were:

Chairperson: Elmer Ferrer, VC for Luzon: Allan Vera (SIKAT), VC for

Visayas: Marge Dela Cruz (GDFI), VC for Mindanao: Fermin Flores, Jr. (LAFCCOD) and VC for Palawan: Gerthie Mayo- Anda (ELAC).

Meanwhile, the committees and their respective heads are: Sheila Vergara for Research and Publications, Jay Batongbacal for Information Management, Allan Vera for Membership Gerthie Mayo-Anda for Finance and Nora Gamolo for Communications.

Several themes, which could be the primary focus for future lecture series and roundtable discussions, were also

identified. Beyond the general interest in sustainable livelihood and gender mainstreaming, topics on values formation, governance, coastal ecotourism and information management were suggested.

The members of the SC are: Elmer Ferrer (CBCRM-RC), Rio Magpayo (NFR), Jay Batongbacal (PHILMAR), Allan Vera (SIKAT), Ruperto Alerozza (SAMMACA), Gerthie Mayo-Anda (ELAC), Marge Dela Cruz (GDFI), Boy Homicillada (PROCESS), Fermin Flores (LAFCCOD), Nonoy Panorel (PIPULI), Rev. Fr. Romeo Dompur (BIDEF).

#### POSTSCRIPT:

\* The increase in the number of Steering Committee members (from 5 to 11) was amended into the Covenant after the CRM Net Assembly elected 11 members into the SC last February.

\* A post for a vice-chairperson for Palawan was added due to the high number of natural resources management initiatives in this geographic area.

\* Membership fee was pegged @P300 for individuals and P500 for institutions. Help sustain the CRM Net. Send your check payments to the CBCRM Resource Center Office (pls. see address below).

#### By the way .....

You might want to put your own cent's worth on the featured articles in this newsletter. You are most welcome. Contributions from your side are also encouraged.

Please send your comments, suggestions or contributions to [cbcrm\\_rc1@pacific.net.ph](mailto:cbcrm_rc1@pacific.net.ph).



CRM Net Members present during the Oxfam Partners' Meeting in San Antonio, Zambales (clockwise: F. Flores -LAFCCOD, L. dela Cruz, P. Serrano, F. Perez – OXFAM-GB, F. Manalo – OTRADEV, L. S. Jumarito – PIPULI Foundation, A. Vera-SIKAT, U. Alerozza SAMMACA, E. Ferrer-CBCRM-RC, and J. Galit -ELAC.)

Join the CRM/ICM Network Egroup !

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or write to [cbcrm\\_rc1@pacific.net.ph](mailto:cbcrm_rc1@pacific.net.ph)

# Of Gray Lit & Economic Dev

“GRAY LITERATURE: Are you a manufacturer?”, asks a teaser for the Roundtable Discussion on Research Methodologies. This and the relationship of a country's research performance and its economic growth were the main topics discussed by Dr. Flor Lacanilao, Chief Scientist of the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas – World Wildlife Fund-Philippines during the RTD last April 27.

## GRAY LITERATURE DEFINED

Gray literature is “Information produced without pre-publication review or non-refereed materials.” Examples are conference proceedings and in-house publications, which are popular among developing countries. According to Dr. Lacanilao, the reason for the proliferation of gray literature may be because of the sense of urgency or the immediate need to produce (journal publication takes years before getting approved). Nevertheless, he still stressed the need to review materials and publish it in recognized journals like the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) journal to verify its contentions or findings.

## SO WHO SHOULD REVIEW?

Foremost of the issues raised was the question on who SHOULD do the reviewing? The ISI journal, for example, has an editorial board composed of people to whom the researches may be submitted for review.

It was strongly argued, however, that reviewing research results should not be left alone with so-called experts. People who actually live in the research area should also be consulted when it comes to the veracity of data.

Some participants further opine that knowledge does not belong to experts only. In fact, there are incidences when information coming from gray literature is more correct than which comes from “white” literature or peer-reviewed materials.

Then there's the element of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Some researchers may not want to submit their works for review because of dangers of intellectual piracy.

## THE CHALLENGE THEREFORE ...

The challenge, therefore, lies in providing an alternative or a parallel system of review for the materials produced, which may be classified as gray literature. Facilities exist like the proceedings indices, which are popular among developing countries. These indices may also be utilized to validate and promote research findings.

## POOR RESEARCH PERFORMANCE LEADS TO POOR ECONOMIC GROWTH (?)

Another interesting and highly debated topic was the relationship of a country's research performance to its economic development. Dr. Lacanilao cited a research that relates economic growth to the amount of research and development activities in a country. The more R&D, particularly in the fields of science and technology, the higher the chance for a country's economic growth.

But this may not be altogether true. It was pointed out that some researches may be dependent on the agenda of the funders. These are the researches that do not consider the actual needs of the people and generate products that do not really help alleviate poverty and promote economic growth (i.e. Viagra).

Most of all, (and this was generally accepted by the participants) economic development is largely due to an interlinking of different factors, such as power relations, and not just upon a country's research performance.

*endnote ...*

The RTD on Research Methodologies was an exciting meeting of the minds between social and natural/ biological scientists. It was sponsored by the CBCRM as part of its contingent learning activities dedicated towards fulfilling the center's mission of promoting standards of good practice in CBCRM.