<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBR</td>
<td>Community-Based Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFI</td>
<td>Culion Foundation, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHR</td>
<td>Commission on Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSWD</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOLE</td>
<td>Department of Labor and Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA/GO</td>
<td>Government Agency/Government Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information Education Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDT</td>
<td>Multi-Drug Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCDA</td>
<td>National Council on Disability Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>NLCP</td>
<td>National Leprosy Control Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAL</td>
<td>Persons Affected by Leprosy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLM</td>
<td>Philippine Leprosy Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>PWD</td>
<td>Person with Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEC</td>
<td>Securities and Exchange Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMHF</td>
<td>Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESDA</td>
<td>Technical Education and Skills Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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</table>
Introduction

Leprosy (also known as Hansen’s Disease) is a chronic, infectious disease involving the skin and nerves of infected individuals. Pale patches on the skin are usually the first sign of the disease—they are painless and do not itch, so are often ignored by the patient.

In the past, nerve damage and other complications occurred as the disease progressed. The numbness and lack of feeling in the limbs often led to festering wounds on the hands and feet, and then to the characteristic deformities of the face and limbs. In many communities this led to stigma towards those affected and their families, causing them to be shunned and even excluded from everyday life.

Clinical advancements today contributed mainly in the elimination of leprosy, particularly in the Philippines, as a public health problem. Detection and cure activities are now focused to a few pockets of areas around the country, proof of the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP)’s success. As the post-elimination phase starts, a concentration on its social and cultural issues is being targeted.

Social stigma and discrimination among persons affected by leprosy still persist within communities, and these affect reintegration efforts and livelihood capabilities. With this persistent problem, a need for social transformation and advocacy was identified.

Empowerment among people affected by leprosy began to escalate. Patient groups begin to rise one by one, creating opportunities for work and giving a fight for their rights. But, as their numbers may grow, tiny voices scattered across the country was still not loud enough to create change. A need for a united voice was then identified. This lead to the organization of the coalition, named the Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines (CLAP).

“We refuse to allow others to define ourselves our humanity, by a disease”

“We strongly believe that persons with leprosy and person affected by leprosy have the right to live a normal, happy and productive life if given an equal opportunity to develop our potentials as persons of worth and partners in development”

“It wasn’t that she necessarily wanted to “socialize” at the bonfire, but she wanted to broadcast to the general population that her antisocial behavior was a personal choice not a sentence to social leprosy.”
Executive Summary

On August 22 to 23, 2013, the First Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines (CLAP) Congress was held at Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila. The said event served as the declaration of independence of CLAP. The Congress was organized to introduce CLAP to the media and to its partner organizations. It also became an inspirational event for its members as different speakers shared insights on various topics.

To be a legal organization, CLAP had to be registered to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The members deliberated and finalized the necessary registration requisites during the Congress. Furthermore, a declaration of commitment was expressed by all members to the coalition.

The two-day congress was indeed a very fruitful endeavor, filled with exchanges of issues, strategies, and solutions. Issues of social stigma and discrimination; and what should be the proper term for people affected with leprosy were brought up and addressed during the event. Social stigma has a big impact to the lives of people affected by leprosy considering the debilitating effects of the disease. The delegates strongly believe that CLAP can be an instrument of change to the society’s view on leprosy with the help of media.

“With commitment, We conquer”

By proper dissemination of correct information, the issue of social stigma and discrimination; and the elimination of leprosy in the Philippines can be deemed possible. Because all member communities will be represented by CLAP, there is a greater chance that issues like this will be heard. Thus, Dr. Cunanan is pushing CLAP to be at the forefront of the public health issues. NLCP’s Dr. Gajete said that, “you are the missing piece.” The members of CLAP are essential and can be partners with NLCP in monitoring and reaching out to people affected by leprosy, new cases and their families. They are the best persons to do this because they understand and know this disease better and can facilitate this program better than any other persons. The partners and stakeholders believe that for CLAP to flourish, the members are the key. CLAP members should persevere and commit to serve.

Certain topics like PhilHealth, sources for funding and trainings like TESDA were discussed for CLAP to be sustainable. The members were enrolled to PhilHealth and FSSI discussed how they could submit proposals for grants. Questions regarding TESDA were raised and cleared.

In the end, CLAP has the burden of responsibility of making things happen for the Coalition. But the desire of the CLAP members to make a change can be seen during the Congress. The testimonies of CLAP members Ms. Quisai and Ms. Bawik, inspired them that they can succeed and reach their dreams if they try and help one another. Chairman Guia ended the event, exactly quoting Ms. Coco Quisumbing, “with commitment, we conquer.”
Background

The Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines (CLAP) was organized on March 9, 2012 at the Bayview Plaza Hotel during the National Stakeholders Assembly, an event that gathered fifteen (15) people’s organization from all over the country, government and non-government agencies and other leprosy interest groups.

As a newly formed organization, CLAP needed organizational development and capacity building through the generous support of Leprosy and Human Dignity Southeast Asia and Nippon Foundation with technical assistance from Culion Foundation, Inc. The CLAP officers and Board of Trustees underwent series of trainings and workshops conducted within a year. Along with these activities, steps were taken to acquire legal personality by registering CLAP with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Believing that CLAP is ready to manage its own affairs, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation committed to support the first year operation of CLAP and the launching of CLAP through a CLAP Congress as this was included in the Annual Plan crafted by the CLAP Board.

The Congress aims to unify the efforts of respective people’s organization. Through the discussions and presentations presented during the congress, the CLAP officers and members were able to deliberate on the main thrusts of the organization, which are the following: 1) Education, 2) Preservation of Leprosy History, 3) Human Rights and Media Advocacy, 4) Public Health – Sustaining Quality Leprosy Services and Further Reducing Leprosy Burden, and 5) Social Entrepreneurship.

Education

Focusing on TESDA courses was strongly recommended during the congress because these courses will generate jobs in local, national and foreign markets. With this in mind, the Committee of Education of CLAP was tasked to start making program mechanics with the assistance of advisers and consultants.

Preservation of Leprosy History

CLAP will not just be the recipient of preserving the memories of their struggle but also partners in the preservation process and in the development of museum display and preservation of artifacts and archives in the sanitarium.

Human Rights & Media Advocacy

CLAP and its PO affiliates have big potential in advocating for the elimination of leprosy-related stigma and discrimination. Through the collaboration and partnership with media, promotion of human rights of people affected by leprosy will be augmented.

Public Health

There is a need to develop a framework and a proposal identifying key issues and operational details specially identifying roles of the people affected by leprosy as well as the role of public health structure and system in welcoming and accepting them as partners in providing health care not just a mere recipient of health care.

Social Entrepreneurship

It was recognized that people affected by leprosy and their families should be given equal opportunities for income generation and livelihood, and access to financial assistance for family- or individual-based enterprise.
A Glimpse at the Birth of CLAP

By Dr. Ma. Corazon S. Ariosa

In June 2010, the World Health Organization conducted a historic Global Patients’ Organization meeting in Manila to formalize the “Guidelines for Strengthening the Participation of Persons Affected by Leprosy”. In that meeting, the involvement of persons affected by leprosy and their families in key activities of leprosy was recognized as well as the importance of including these individuals for whom the services are designed. The significant contributions people who have experienced leprosy have done to the country and their respective communities were also highlighted. Accordingly, these individuals who have had the disease may be considered experts and through partnership with health units, there will be shared responsibility and shared decision-making between provider and receiver of care. In response to this call, the Department of Health - National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) acted immediately by revising its vision statement. Hence, the current vision now includes, “the active involvement of the primary stakeholders”. Along this line other efforts and actions to strengthen involvement of people affected by leprosy, were initiated, like the integration of leprosy to the general health services and efforts directed to those with disabilities were also pursued. Meanwhile, the eight Sanitaria Chiefs spearheaded the organizing of patient organizations in their respective leprosaria and involved them in hospital and community services.

On March 7 to 9, 2012, through the initiative of Dr. Arturo C. Cunanan and the support of the Department of Health-NLCP, the Chiefs of Sanitaria and Culion Foundation, Inc., the First Stakeholders Workshop was organized and held at the Bayview Plaza Hotel. The activity was funded by Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation. The historical event in Bayview will not be forgotten and the central theme was: “Getting together is the beginning. Working together is a success. Staying together is progress”. Through partnership with the stakeholders present we will enable these individuals to support the delivery of leprosy services.

Culion Foundation, Inc. is so glad and honored to present to you a glimpse of CLAP. Remember, “Getting together is the beginning”—and that was the birth of the Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines (CLAP). Today, in the Congress we will work together for the ultimate goal that individuals affected by leprosy will have equal access to quality services and being respected in their roles as contributing member of society. Hence, “Working together is success”. Lastly, “Staying together is progress”. Guided by CLAP’s vision and mission, stay together and be united as one voice.

Presenting to you the member organizations: Bukal ng Buhay, The Association of Culion Hans Financing Incorporated (ACHI) headed by Mr. Rosello; The Cooperative for Better Living; The Bicol Sanitarium Association of Persons with Disabilities, Inc.; Grupo ng mga Rehistradong Pasyente na may Mahusay na Oryentasyon, Inc.; Cotabato Sanitarium Hansenites Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Holy Family Association of Women for Economic Development; Philippine General Hospital Hansen’s Club, IDEA Philippines; Interactive Society Leprosy Association of Muslim Central Mindanao; Misamis Occidental Hansens Club; Negative Barrio Welfare Homes Association, Inc.; Star Dolls Cooperative; Persons Affected by leprosy Organization in Mindanao area; Sulu Sanitarium Pedicab Driver Cooperative, Inc.; Sulu Sanitarium Negative Women cooperative.

“Getting together is the beginning. Working together is a success. Staying together is progress”
COALITION OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES (CLAP)

VISION

Empowered to live a life of freedom, dignity, and self-reliance, and an active partner of development

MISSION

The Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines (CLAP), an organization founded and led by competent officers and workforce, committed to provide transparent and quality service, utilizing modern resources and technology, is genuinely dedicated to implement initiatives that affect change; thus, realizing the dreams and aspirations of Persons Affected by Leprosy (PALs). The benevolence of the health providers and other stakeholders further strengthen the sustainability and empowerment of its members to become agents of change toward a Leprosy-Free Philippines. To God be the Glory!
CLAP OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Seminiana Bawik — Cotabato
Mr. Andrew Baylin — Manila
Mr. Celerino Estrella — Tala, Caloocan City
Ms. Lolita Fernandez — Caloocan City
Mr. Bernardo Flores — Iloilo
Mr. Hilarion Guia — Culion, Palawan
Mr. Francisco Onde — Cebu
Ms. Rosie Panganiban — Cebu
Ms. Ittiha Quisai — Jolo, Sulu
Mr. Virgilio Rito — Bicol
Mr. Cresenciano Rosello — Culion, Palawan
Mr. Antonio Verallo — Ozamiz City
Mr. Biting Yusop — Zamboanga

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. Hilarion Guia
Vice Chairman: Mr. Francisco Onde
Secretary: Ms. Itthiya Quisai
Treasurer: Ms. Lolita Fernandez
Auditor: Mr. Virgilio Rito

COMMITTEES

Policy Advocacy Committee: Mr. Celerino Estrella
Membership and Education Committee: Mr. Cresenciano T. Rosello
   Members: Mr. Bernardo Flores and Mr. Biting Yusop
Programs and Projects Committee: Ms. Seminiana Bawik and Mr. Andrew Baylin
Linkages/Resource Mobilization Committee: Ms. Rosie Panganiban
1st CLAP Congress
DAY 1

1st CLAP CONGRESS

Coalition of Lawyers Advocated by the Filipinos

1st CLAP Congress

Promoting the Modernguided by Tradition and Liberty

Location: Shangri-La, Manila

August 22-25, 2013

Group Photo
# COALITION OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES

## 1ST CLAP CONGRESS PROGRAMME

**BAYLEAF HOTEL, INTRAMUROS, MANILA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:01 AM</td>
<td>Ecumenical Prayer</td>
<td>Mr. Humphrey Agcaoili&lt;br&gt;Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:16 AM</td>
<td>National Anthem</td>
<td>Lyceum Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:31 AM</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks</td>
<td>Dr. Alberto Romualdez, Jr.&lt;br&gt;President and Chairman, CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05 AM</td>
<td>State of the CLAP Address</td>
<td>Mr. Hilarion Guia&lt;br&gt;Chairman, CLAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>A Glimpse of the Birth of CLAP</td>
<td>Dr. Ma. Corazon Ariosa&lt;br&gt;Executive Director, CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:55 AM</td>
<td>Remaining Challenges of CLAP</td>
<td>Dr. Arturo Cunanan, Jr.&lt;br&gt;Chief, Culion Sanitarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>Press Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Group Photo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 NN</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>NLCP and CLAP            [CJ]</td>
<td>Dr. Francesca Gajete&lt;br&gt;Program Manager, DOH-NLCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:55 PM</td>
<td>Presentation, Approval, and Ratification of CLAP Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws</td>
<td>Mr. Hilarion Guia&lt;br&gt;Chairman, CLAP&lt;br&gt;Mr. Francisco Onde&lt;br&gt;Vice Chairman, CLAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>Conferment of Membership to CLAP</td>
<td>Mr. Cresenciano Rosello&lt;br&gt;Board Member, CLAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Presentation and Approval of the Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Ms. Lolita Fernandez&lt;br&gt;Treasurer, CLAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Workshop on the Realization of the Strategic Plan/Proposal Making and Workshop for Development Partners</td>
<td>Mr. Randy Pepito&lt;br&gt;Facilitator/Moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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*Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Calixto J. Trillanes, III*
The first day of the Congress opened despite the inclement weather. The commitment of the people working for leprosy control in the country was evident because of the good attendance despite the storm.

The opening ceremony was highlighted by the inspiring welcome message of Dr. Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr., President of Culion Foundation, Inc. and former Secretary of Health. He emphasized the significant role of the people affected by leprosy to end stigma and discrimination for leprosy patients, their contribution to leprosy prevention and control in the country and participation to Universal Health Care.

The Congress was formally opened by the Chairman of the Coalition, Mr. Hilarion Guia by a “State of the CLAP Address”. He presented with pride and dignity the significant milestones achieved by the organization starting from its vision and mission. He gave meaning to the acronym CLAP: Change, Legacy, Action, and Prayer. He challenged the membership of CLAP with the statement: “with unity and commitment, CLAP can conquer the social clutches and social injustices from legacy.”

To provide the audience a glimpse of the birth of CLAP, CFI Executive Director Dr. Ma. Corazon Ariosa shared a photo documentation of the members’ capacity building and organizational development activities/trainings as part of technical assistance conducted by Culion Foundation, Inc. Following her speech was the Chief of Culion Sanitarium, Dr. Arturo Cunanan, Jr., who is also dubbed as the “Conqueror of leprosy.” According to Dr. Cunanan, since CLAP is now autonomous and sustainable, the greatest challenge would be providing means and measures to reduce leprosy burden in the country — “with autonomy comes great accountability.” CLAP should now face issues on stigma and human rights, and be at the forefront in the issues of public health. As wake-up call, Dr. Cunanan said “you are not patients anymore.” CLAP as a starting organization, should be nourished to survive and bear fruit. Its partners’ responsibility is to help nurture, develop, and survive to reach its maturity or its full potential.
The highlight of the day was the launching of CLAP to the public through a press conference attended by television and print media, joined by the distinguished panel of public health & leprosy advocates, namely, DOH-National Leprosy Control Program (DOH-NLCP) Manager Dr. Francesca Gajete, CFI Chairman Dr. Alberto Romualdez, Culion Sanitarium Chief Dr. Arturo Cunanan, CLAP Chairman Mr. Hilarion Guia, and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation representative Ms. Nao Hoshino.

In the afternoon, Dr. Gajete shared and discussed, “Fostering Partnerships toward a World without Leprosy.” She stressed that people affected by leprosy is the “missing piece” in the services, control and elimination of leprosy. According to her, their expertise is beneficial in helping the organization and that “…prevention of disability does not require elaborate equipment or high technology but demands close cooperation between well-informed patients and well-trained staff.”

CLAP Chairman Mr. Guia and CLAP Vice President Mr. Francisco Onde then presented the CLAP Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws which were unanimously approved and ratified by the general membership. This was followed by the presentation of CLAP 3-year strategic plan, as facilitated by CLAP Treasurer Ms. Lolita Fernandez that was approved by the body. CLAP Board Member Mr. Cresenciano Rosello then led the conferment/confirmation of membership to CLAP.

As a final activity for the first day, a workshop on the realization of the Strategic Plan and Proposal-Making was facilitated by Mr. Randy Pepito. During the workshop, three issues have been selected. These issues were stigma, socio-economic development, and education, then it was discussed by groups using the logical framework approach and “froot analysis,” to be presented the following day.

“…prevention of disability does not require elaborate equipment or high technology but demands close cooperation between well-informed patients and well-trained staff.”
Highlights

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

PRAYER/INVOCATION
Highlights

Mr. Calixto J. Trillanes, III
Master of Ceremonies

Mr. Humphrey V. Agcaoili
sang the ecumenical prayer
Highlights

Lyceum Choir sang the Philippine National Anthem

State of the CLAP Address

Mr. Francisco Onde, CLAP Vice Chairman led the review of Articles of Incorporation & By-Laws
Highlights

CLAP Officers

Participants’ group photo

Mr. Justine Kenneth D. Abellera, CFI Project Officer, serenaded the delegates
Highlights

Dr. Cunanan and Dr. Gajete with Mr. Jae Jang of Sorok Uni and Dr. Dofitas of Philippine Leprosy Mission

Dr. Romero of TDFI handed over a donation to CLAP

Media representatives during the Press Conference

From left to right: Dr. Francesca C. Gajete, DOH-NLCP Manager; Dr. Alberto G. Romualdez, Jr. CFI President; Mr. Hilarion M. Guia, CLAP Chairman; Dr. Arturo C. Cunanan, Culion Sanitarium Chief and Ms. Hoshino Nao, SMHF Chief Program Officer
1st CLAP Congress

DAY 2
# 1st CLAP Congress Programme

## Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila

**August 23, 2013, Friday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Officer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Ecumenical Prayer</td>
<td>Mr. Elrey Sinnung &amp; Ms. Jam Dajao Project Officers, CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Recap of the Previous Day</td>
<td>Mr. Virgilio Rito Auditor, CLAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Living a Dignified Life</td>
<td>Bro. Arun Gogna International Lay Preacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Empowerment &amp; Shared Responsibility</td>
<td>Hon. Cecilia Rachel “Coco” Quisumbing Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>Photo Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:20 AM</td>
<td>The Role of Print and Broadcast Media</td>
<td>Ms. Floramel Joy Songsong Consultant, DOH-MRU Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Certificate of Appreciation</td>
<td>Mr. Elrey Sinnung &amp; Ms. Jam Dajao Project Officers, CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50 AM</td>
<td>Song Number</td>
<td>Mr. Elrey Sinnung &amp; Ms. Jam Dajao Project Officers, CFI</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 NN</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Success Stories of People Affected by Leprosy</td>
<td>Ms. Itthaya Quisai Secretary, CLAP Ms. Seminiana Bawik Board Member, CLAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Video Presentation of the Highlights of CLAP Congress</td>
<td>Director’s Cut Digital Video Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05 PM</td>
<td>Social Entrepreneurship and Financial Assistance</td>
<td>Ms. Miriam Arnel Azurin Manager, FSSI Advocacy &amp; Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Output of Workshop</td>
<td>Mr. Randy Pepito Facilitator/Moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Video Presentation of Management of Leprosy in Japan</td>
<td>Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:10 PM</td>
<td>Continuation of Plenary Output of Workshop</td>
<td>Mr. Randy Pepito Facilitator/Moderator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Renewal/Pledge of Support</td>
<td>Ms. Kay Yamaguchi Trustee, SMHF Ms. Nao Hoshino Chief Programme Officer, SMHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 PM</td>
<td>Certificate of Appreciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Pledge of Commitment</td>
<td>Dr. Francesca Gajete Program Manager, DOH-NLCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:20 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
<td>Mr. Francisco Onde Vice-Chair, CLAP</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2nd Day Summary

FI Project officers Mr. Elrey Sinnung and Ms. Jam Dajao led the ecumenical prayer for the second day. A short review of the previous day’s activities was provided by CLAP Auditor Mr. Virgilio Rito.

As the first activity of the second day, an International Lay Preacher, Brother Arun Gogna, shared a very inspirational message on living a dignified life. According to him, “let love be our highest goal”. He believes that everything should be invested in love. To give her message on empowerment and shared responsibility, Hon. Cecilia Rachel “Coco” Quisumbing, the Commissioner for Commission on Human Rights followed, with her speech on how people affected by leprosy should fight for equal opportunities and their dreams because these are worth fighting for.

DOH media relations unit Communications Consultant, Ms. Floramel Joy Songsong then discussed the role of print media and how it could be a tool to inform and educate the masses about leprosy. She stressed that for a message to get across, people should remember three things: master the message; know the audience; and choose the medium. She then concludes that leprosy stigma can be eliminated through accurate information, coupled with responsible handling, and using the appropriate medium. Subsequently, two success stories were shared by Ms. Itthaya Quisai and Ms. Seminiana Bawik. They served as inspirations, emphasizing that by believing in the Lord and working hard to achieve their dreams, they have overcome their greatest trial in life—having leprosy. Next, to share her knowledge on social entrepreneurship and financial assistance, Ms. Miriam Azurin of the Foundation for a Sustainable Society (FSSI) introduced her organization and its undertakings on social improvement through social entrepreneurship, thus, creating a sustainable society.

The three groups then presented their logical framework/FROOT analyses. The three topics were: Quality Life through Education; Limited job opportunities that resulted to unemployment which leads to low income; and Self-Stigma and Discrimination among Negative Smear HD in Mindanao Central Sanitarium (MCS). As a final activity of the event, a statement of renewal of pledges of support as an expression of commitment for continuing support by Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation was given by Ms. Nao Hoshino. Also, a pledge of commitment by all participating CLAP members and leprosy-interest groups was led by Dr. Gajete. The event ended with CLAP Vice Chairman Mr. Francisco Onde’s words of gratitude to all participants and organizers.

“People with leprosy should fight for equal opportunities and their dreams because THESE ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR”
Highlights

Opening Prayer performed by Mr. Elrey Sinnung and Ms. Joan Aubrey Marie Dajao, CFI Project Officers

Participants enjoying an unfreezing activity

Spiritual Exercise
Highlights

Hon. Cecilia Quisumbing during her talk on Empowerment and Shared Responsibility

Dr. Arturo Cunanan during the open forum regarding The Role of Print and Broadcast Media in the Elimination of Leprosy Stigma

Participants during a group activity
Highlights

Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Bro. Arun Gogna, Resource Person on Living a Dignified Life

Certificate of Appreciation was given to Hon. Cecilia Rachel Quisumbing, Resource Person on Empowerment and Shared Responsibility

Certificate of Appreciation handed to Ms. Floramel Joy Songsong, Resource Person on The Role of Print and Broadcast Media

Awarding of Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Miriam Azurin of FSSI, Resource Person on Social Entrepreneurship and Financial Assistance
Profile of Speakers

Dr. Alberto Romualdez, Jr.
CFI President and Chairman

Dr. Romualdez received his degree on Doctor of Medicine from the University of the Philippines and a degree on Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from the Ateneo de Manila University. He is also a fellow on Tumor Immunology at the University of Connecticut and Membrane Biophysics at the Harvard Medical School in the U.S.A. A former UP College of Medicine Dean and former DOH Secretary, he is currently one of the most prominent figures in the thrust towards Universal Health Care in the Philippines.

Dr. Ma. Corazon Ariosa
CFI Executive Director

Dr. Ma. Corazon Ariosa is currently the Executive Director of Culion Foundation, Inc. She is an outstanding graduate of the College of Medicine, Far Eastern University. She also took her Master of Public Health at the UP College of Public Health, Manila. She is a former Provincial Health Officer and Chief of Hospital. As PHO, she received distinguished performance recognition in the preparation of the Province-wide Investment Plan for Health (PIPH) and garnered National Awards in the search for Barangay with Best Sanitation Practices in the year 2008 and 2009.

Dr. Arturo Cunanan
Culion Sanitarium Chief

Currently the Director of the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital and Head of the Culion Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation Program, Dr. Cunanan is considered a legend in the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in Culion. He spearheaded the establishment of the Culion Museum and Archives. He also coordinates scholarships and other support projects of the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation in Culion. As the adviser and coordinator of the Association of Culion Hansenites, Inc., he assists in the fund sourcing and management of livelihood projects of people affected with leprosy.
Profile of Speakers

Dr. Francesca Gajete
DOH-NLCP Manager

Dr. Gajete is the manager of the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) of the Department of Health-National Center for Disease and Control. The program envisions empowering primary stakeholders in leprosy towards a leprosy-free Philippines. The NLCP focuses on quality-assured epidemiological data collection, evidence-based care, and operational researches from year 2011 to 2016.

Bro. Arun Gogna
International Lay Preacher

Arun Gogna is a much sought-after national and international lay preacher. He started to preach when he was sixteen years old and though he has a Bachelor’s Degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from De La Salle University, he has chosen preaching to be his life mission. He is a former Theology professor at the De La Salle University of St. Benilde where he has taught for ten years. He acquired his Master’s in Theology Degree from Don Bosco Center of Studies, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. He is the founder of Creative House Inc., an organization specializing in retreats, recollections, and values formation seminar for companies, schools, universities and organizations. He has been a spiritual adviser to various organizations and communities, and a lecturer to schools and universities. He is a recording artist with two Christian platinum albums namely Ikaw Lamang and Big in God’s Eyes. He is the author of the best-selling books Happy Secrets to an Obedient Life, Enjoy God’s Best for your Life, Today is Your Day, together with his latest parenting book Lasting Gifts You Can Give Your Children. He is a regular columnist of the number one Catholic inspirational magazine in the Philippines, Kerygma, and its sister publication, Fish.

Hon. Cecilia Rachel “Coco” Quisumbing
Commission on human Rights, Commissioner

Over the past two decades, she has leveraged her backgrounds in Journalism, Law and International Affairs into a wide array of work, with an emphasis on social and development issues, human rights, and human security. Immediately prior to being appointed as Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, she was Executive Director of the Presidential Human Rights Committee, with a rank of Undersecretary. As such, she led the preparations for the Universal Periodic Review and launched the Preparatory Workshop towards a Consultative Process for the Formulation of the 2nd National Human Rights Action Plan and Program for the Philippines. While taking up Masters in International Affairs at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, she co-developed a course on human rights and communications. Currently, she is also a lecturer at the San Beda School of Law. Though best known as an anchorman for CNBC-Asia, she has also worked as an advocate and project manager for organizations such as WHO (HIV/AIDS), UNHCR (voluntary repatriation), ADB (water), the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines (human rights), and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.
**Profile of Speakers**

**Ms. Floramel Joy Songsong**  
*DOH-MRU Communications Consultant*

Ms. Songsong, a graduate of the University of the Philippines with the Master's Degree in Public Administration (Organizational Studies), is currently the Communications Consultant of the Office of the Secretary/ Media Relations Unit Head of the Department of Health. Her fields of specialization are corporate communications, media relations, radio programming and new presentation and resource development, fund raising and promotion. She received an award for Best Public Service Program from the 14th KBP Golden Dove Awards year October 2005. She also attended a Health Program Production Training Scholarship at the International Institute for Journalism at Berlin, Germany in 2005.

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**Mr. Norand “Randy” Pepito**  
*Facilitator/Moderator*

A Christian development work professional-practitioner since 1987, Randy has held various leadership positions for faith-based institutions, and international development organizations (The Leprosy Mission, Inc., and American Leprosy Mission) serving as a regional coordinator and liaison for program/project monitoring and evaluation. He has also been a country representative to the World Health Organization for Leprosy for several years. Currently, he is the Executive Director of Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. His trainings include Results-Based Management (Asian Institute of Management); Evaluation (Malaysia & India); Epidemiology and Health Services Researches (Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands); Early Childhood Care & Development, Community Organizing & Participatory Action Research, Development Supervision and Entrepreneurship (University of the Philippines); Strategic Advocacy for Health NGO’s and Civic Organizations (Ateneo School of Government); and Counseling.

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**Ms. Miriam Azurin**  
*FSSI Advocacy & Communications Manager*

Ms. Miriam Azurin, Advocacy & Communications Manager represented the Foundation for a Sustainable Society. FSSI is a growing community of enterprises with a mission to be a sustainable resource institution committed to social investments that facilitate the entry and the participation of the poor Filipino communities for the development of just and local economies. FSSI helps social enterprises and communities through: financial services and grants to social enterprises with triple bottom lines; support enhancements for entrepreneurial capacities; and advocacy and dialogue among policymakers and communities following the key development thrusts. They act as a facilitator, partner, advocate, and implementer.
1st CLAP Congress

ANNEXES
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF THE
COALITION OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (CLAP)

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:
The undersigned incorporators, all of legal age and majority of whom are residents of the Philippines, have this day voluntarily agreed to form a non-stock and non-profit coalition under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

THAT WE HEREBY CERTIFY:

FIRST: The name of the said coalition shall be:

COALITION OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (CLAP)

SECOND: The purposes for which such coalition is incorporated are:

1. To establish a strong coalition duly recognized by the Government and other institutions.
2. To lobby for equal opportunities and policy advocacy regarding the rights of Persons Affected by Leprosy (PALs).
3. To establish effective relationship with the different government agencies and NGOs who are working towards policy development and advocacy, protecting the rights and welfare of PALs.
4. To create products and services which can provide work for PALs and be a venue for livelihood opportunities so as to improve the quality of life.
5. To strengthen relationships among the coalition member organizations and all other agencies.
6. To enhance and sustain public awareness on leprosy through advocacy in cooperation with various entities.
7. To receive grants, donations and contributions, financial aids, or loans from whatever source and conduct fund-raising activities, and eventually, acquire properties such as land and building, in carrying out the objectives of the coalition.
8. To conduct activities related to the coalition’s objectives as deemed necessary.
9. Generally, do all such things, transact such business, exercise such power, and authority as may be directly or indirectly necessary, incidental or expedient to carry out the purposes and objectives above specified.

THIRD: The place where the principal office of the coalition is to be established is at:

Vicente Kierulf Bldg. Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital, Culion, Palawan

FOURTH: The term for which the coalition is to exist is fifty (50) years from and after the date of issuance of the certificate of incorporation.
FIFTH: The names, citizenship, and residences of the incorporators of the coalition are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAWIK, SEMINIANA F.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>New Panay, Pigcawayan, Cotabato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESTRELLA, CELERINO C.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital (DJNRMH), Tala, Caloocan City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERNANDEZ, LOLITA R.</td>
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<td>B. 1 L. 13 Carissa Homes, Llano, Caloocan City</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUIA, HILARION M.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Upper Libis, Culion, Palawan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONDE, FRANCISCO D.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>1153 MJ Cuenco Ave., Cebu City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANGANIBAN, ROSIE A.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Eversley Child Sanitarium, Jagobiao, Mandaue City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUISAI, ITIHIAYA A.</td>
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<td>Sulu Sanitarium, Jolo, Sulu</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Filipino</td>
<td>B.S. San Pedro, Cabusao, Camarines Sur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSELLO, CRESCECIAO T.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Association of CulionHansenites Inc. Culion, Palawan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUSOP, BITING A.</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Muslim Village, MCS Compound, Pasobolong, Zamboanga City</td>
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</table>

SIXTH: There shall be ELEVEN (11) trustees of the coalition and that their names, citizenship, and residences are the forth:

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<td>Filipino</td>
<td>Muslim Village, MCS Compound, Pasobolong, Zamboanga City</td>
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SEVENTH: The coalition is a non-profit corporation and shall be maintained on donations and contributions, subject to the provisions of the Bureau of Internal Revenue’s Regulation No. 13-98 and from income and investments of such funds and properties as may be held by it from time to time. And that the amount of TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 20,000.00) shall be set aside for initial funding and maintenance of the coalition and further, the said amount will be under the custody of the Treasurer-Designate of the coalition.

EIGHT: No part of the income which the coalition may obtain as an incident to its operation shall be distributed as dividends to its members, trustees or officers subject to the provisions of the Corporation Code on dissolution. Any profit obtained by the coalition as a result of its operation, whenever necessary or proper shall be used for the furtherance of the purposes enumerated in Article II, subject to the provision of Title XI of the corporation code of the Philippines.

NINTH: A Trustee has been elected by the members as Treasurer of the coalition to act as such until his/her successor is duly elected and qualified in accordance with the by-laws; and that as such Treasurer, he/she has been authorized to receive for and in the name and for the benefit of the coalition all contributions or donations paid or given by the members.
TENTH: The Articles of Incorporation, or any provision thereof, may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the member organizations and by a majority vote of the Trustees at any regular or special meeting duly held for the purpose.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto signed this Articles of Incorporation, this 22nd day of August, 2013 in The Bayleaf Intramuros, Manila, Philippines.

SEMINIANA F. BAWIK
TIN 400-866-231

ROSE A. PANGANIBAN
TIN 412-174-536

CELERINO C. ESTRELLA
TIN 007-088-208

ITTIHAYA A. QUISAI
TIN 942-882-744

LOLITA R. FERNANDEZ
TIN 402-527-307

VIRGILIO A. RITO
TIN 005-529-135

BERNARDO R. FLORES
TIN 947-221-649

CRESENCIANO T. ROSELLO
TIN 147-757-465

HILARION M. GUIA
TIN 162-155-802

BITING A. YUSOP
TIN 227-773-649

FRANCISCO D. ONDE
TIN 135-445-799

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this __________________________ day of , 2013 in _______________ by the above-named persons who exhibited their TIN as stated above.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines
S.S.

BEFORE ME, a notary public in and for Philippines, this _____day of _________________, 2013, personally appeared: Names TIN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3. BAWIK, SEMINIANA F.</th>
<th>400-866-231</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ESTRELLA, CELERINO C.</td>
<td>162-919-824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>FERNANDEZ, LOLITA R.</td>
<td>402-527-307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>YUSOP, BITING A.</td>
<td>227-773-649</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All known to me and to me known to be the same persons who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation and they acknowledged to me that the same is their free and voluntary act and deed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on the date and at the place first above written.

Doc. No. __________.
Page No. __________.
Book No. __________.
Series of __________.

NOTARY PUBLIC until ____________________.
BY-LAWS
OF THE
COALITION OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (CLAP)

ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings – Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held once a year.

Section 2. Special Meetings – Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called by the Chairman, as the need arises. The notice should state briefly the purpose or purposes of the meeting.

Section 3. Annual General Assembly – The annual general assembly of the member organizations shall be held once a year, on the last Thursday of April, unless it falls on a non-working holiday, it shall commence on a Thursday preceding the aforesaid date. The Chairman shall render his annual report to the member organizations regarding the activities of the coalition. The election of the Board of Trustees shall also be held during the annual general assembly.

Section 4. Notices – The secretary shall serve the notices for the time, place, minutes of the previous meetings, and agenda of the regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees, and the annual general assembly of the member organizations, to be given either personally or by special delivery mail at least two (2) weeks before the date set for such events.

Section 5. Quorum – A quorum for any assembly/meeting of the member organizations/Board of Trustees shall consist of the majority (50% + 1) who will decide on any question/issue that may arise during the meeting, except those matters where the Corporation Code requires the affirmative vote of the greater proportion.

Section 6. Order of Business – The order of business at any meeting of the member organizations or the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

I Call to Order
II Proof of Due Notice
III Declaration of Presence of a Quorum
IV Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting
V Unfinished Business
VI Consideration of Reports
   a. Report of the Chairman
   b. Treasurer’s Report
VII Election of the Trustees for the Ensuing Year
VIII New Business
IX Other Matters
X Adjournment

Section 7. Voting – Each member organization shall be entitled to one vote. The member organization will delegate an official representative, preferably the head of this member organization, to vote and be voted upon as member of the Board of Trustees. Voting by proxy is not allowed, except when another representative is sent by the member organization through a written authorization, if the official representative is not available.
ARTICLE II. TRUSTEES

Section 1. Board of Trustees – The corporate powers of the coalition shall be exercised, its business conducted and its property controlled by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Qualifications – The trustees to be elected must be of legal age and head of the member organization represented.

Section 3. Disqualification of Trustees or Officers – No member convicted by final judgment of an offense punishable by imprisonment for a period exceeding six (6) years, or a violation of the Corporation Code of the Philippines committed within five (5) years prior to the date of his election or appointment, shall qualify as a trustee or officer.

Section 4. Term of Office of Trustees – The trustees shall hold office for two (2) years and/or until their successors have been duly elected.

Section 5. Termination – The Board of Trustees may terminate any member of the Board or any appointed officer through a unanimous vote, for valid reasons, such as:
   a. Loss of trust
   b. Criminal offense
   c. Absence without valid reason during Board Meetings and General Assembly

Section 6. Resignation – A member of the Board who wishes to resign should signify his/her intent through a letter of resignation addressed to the Board of Trustees. Acknowledgement from the Chairman in the name of the Board shall be made through a letter.

Section 7. Vacancy and Replacement – Vacancy in the Board of Trustees shall be filled through election during the annual general assembly. He/she shall serve only for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers – The officers, referred to as the Executive Committee of the coalition, shall be composed of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Auditor. They shall be elected by the Board of Trustees from among themselves.

Section 2. Regular Meetings – Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held twice a year.

Section 3. Term of Office of Officers – All officers of the coalition shall hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 4. Resignation as Officer – At any time a member of the Executive Committee resigns from his/her position as an officer, the Chairman may appoint his/her replacement with concurrence of the Executive Committee’s remaining officers.
ARTICLE IV. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairman – The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the coalition. He/she shall preside in all meetings of the members of the coalition and the Board of Trustees. He/she shall execute all resolutions of the Board of Trustees. He/she shall be charged with directing and overseeing the activities of the coalition. He/she shall submit to the Board as soon as possible after the close of the calendar year, and to the members at each annual meeting, a complete report of the activities and operations of the coalition for the calendar year under his term. He/she shall represent the coalition in all meetings and transactions with other entities. He/she shall sign contracts and any other legal documents entered into by the coalition.

Section 2. Vice-Chairman – The Vice-Chairman shall exercise all powers and perform all duties of the Chairman during the absence or incapacity of the latter and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Secretary – The Secretary shall give notices required by these by-laws and keep the minutes of all meetings of the General Assembly and of the Board of Trustees in a book kept for the purpose. He/she shall keep the seal of the coalition and affix such seal to any paper or instrument requiring the same. He/she shall have custody of the members’ registry and the correspondences, and files of the coalition. He/she shall also perform all such other duties and work as the Board of Trustees may, from time to time, assign to him/her.

Section 4. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds, receipts and disbursements of the coalition. He/she shall keep all moneys, record of properties, and other valuables of the coalition in such banks as the Board of Trustees may designate. He/she shall keep and have charge of the books of accounts. He/she shall also perform such other duties and functions as may, from time to time, be assigned to him/her by the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. Auditor – The Auditor shall work closely with the officers and members to review operations and report findings. He/she also ensures that the organization is adhering to rules, regulations, laws, codes of practice, guidelines and principles as they apply individually and collectively to all parts of the coalition.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERS

Section 1. Qualifications for Membership – The board shall determine the qualifications of an applicant for membership.

Section 2. Rights of Member Organizations – A member organization shall have the following rights, through its official representative:

a. Exercise the right to vote on all matters relating to the affairs of the coalition.
b. Be eligible to any elective or appointive office of the coalition.
c. Participate in all deliberations/meetings of the coalition.
d. Examine all the records or books of the coalition during business hours.

And, any member of an organization that is also a member organization of the coalition can avail of all its facilities and services.
Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Member Organizations – a member organization shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. Obey and comply with the by-laws, rules and regulations that may be promulgated by the coalition from time to time.
b. Through its official representative, attend to all meetings of the coalition.
c. Pay a membership fee of PHP 500.00 per organization and other assessments of the coalition.

ARTICLE VI. SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Suspension, expulsion and termination of membership, shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the coalition.

ARTICLE VII. FUNDS

Section 1. Funds – The funds of the coalition shall be derived from membership fees and special assessments of member organizations, gifts, grants, fund-raising events, and donations.

Section 2. Disbursements – Withdrawal from the funds of the coalition, whether by check or any instrument shall be signed by two signatories from the coalition: the Chairman, the Treasurer, or any person duly authorized by the Board of Trustees and one from the advisory council.

Section 3. Calendar Year – The calendar year of the coalition shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

ARTICLE VIII. CORPORATE SEAL

Section 1. Form – the corporate seal of the coalition shall be in such form and design as may be determined by the Board.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS OF THE BY-LAWS

Section 1. Amendments – These by-laws, or any provision thereof, may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the member organizations and by a majority vote of the Trustees at any regular or special meeting duly held for the purpose.

Adopted this 22nd day of August, 2013 in The Bayleaf Intramuros, Manila, Philippines by the affirmative vote of the undersigned Board of Trustees of the coalition in a special meeting duly held for the purpose.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Republic of the Philippines )
S.S. )

BEFORE ME, a notary public in and for Philippines, this _____ day of ________________, 2013, personally appeared: Names TIN

3. BAWIK, SEMINIANA F. 400-866-231
4. ESTRELLA, CELERINO C. 162-919-824
3. FERNANDEZ, LOLITA R. 402-527-307
4. FLORES, BERNARDO R. 947-221-649
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11. YUSOP, BITING A. 227-773-649

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IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on the date and at the place first above written.

Doc. No. __________.
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Series of __________.

NOTARY PUBLIC until ____________________

34
CONFERMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

BY THE POWER VESTED UPON ME, AS THE COMMITTEE HEAD FOR MEMBERSHIP, FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL COMPLIANCE WITH MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS STIPULATED IN THE CLAP ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS, I DO HEREBY CONFIRM YOU AS MEMBERS OF CLAP.

OATH OF CLAP MEMBERS

I, (STATE YOUR NAME), DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR, TO ABIDE BY THE INSTITUTED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS OF LEPROSY ADVOCATES OF THE PHILIPPINES; THAT AS A MEMBER, I WHOLEHEARTEDLY OFFER MY VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND COMMITMENT IN REALIZATION OF OUR VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS; THAT I SHALL PROJECT AS A ROLE-MODEL IN FOSTERING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS AFFECTED BY LEPROSY, AND PROMOTING ADVOCACY ON COUNTERACTING, THE HIDDEN BURDEN OF SOCIAL STIGMA.

THESE, I COMMIT BEFORE THIS CONGRESS. SO, HELP ME GOD.
NEWS Articles

Leprosy not a public health threat — DOH
By Sheila Crisostomo (The Philippine Star) / Updated August 23, 2013 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - The government has assured the public that leprosy is no longer a health threat after 800 new cases were monitored this year.

Francesca Gajete, Department of Health manager for the National Leprosy Control Program, said leprosy is now curable so patients need not be confined in a sanitarium to undergo treatment.

“The medicine is free and after just a day of treatment, you are no longer infectious... The most pressing problem is how to decrease the burden of the disease, particularly stigma and discrimination,” she said.

Some 2,012 leprosy cases were recorded in 2012 in Metro Manila, Cebu, Ilocos Sur, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu, she added.

When the National Leprosy Control Program was established in 1986, 38,570 leprosy patients were registered in the country, an annual prevalence rate of 7.2 per 10,000 Filipinos.

By the end of 1998, the Philippines was able to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem after achieving the elimination level of one case per 10,000.

Now pockets of cases are being seen in some municipalities, particularly in the Ilocos region, Central Visayas, and SOCCSKSARGEN.

PH urged to make leprosy history
By Philip C. Tubeza (Philippine Daily Inquirer) | 5:31 am | Friday, August 23rd, 2013

MANILA, Philippines—While leprosy is no longer a public health threat in the country, more than 1,000 Filipinos still get infected with the disease every year, a Department of Health (DOH) official said on Thursday.

Dr. Francesca Gajete, National Leprosy Control Program manager, said there were 2,012 leprosy cases reported last year in Ilocos Sur, Metro Manila, Cebu, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi. From January this year, 800 new cases have been reported.

Gajete urged Filipinos who suspect they have been infected with the chronic bacterial disease to immediately contact a government health worker or hospital.

“You don’t need to go to a sanitarium. You can be treated as an out-patient. The medicine is free and after just a day of treatment, you are no longer infectious,” Gajete said in a press conference in Manila.

She pointed out that leprosy can be cured after a six- to 12-month treatment.

Gajete said leprosy was “eliminated” as a public health problem in 1998 after the Philippines achieved its target of having less than one case per 10,000 population. The country had up to 38,200 persons with leprosy in the 1980s.

“Leprosy has been eliminated as a health problem but elimination does not mean new cases will not come up,” said Arturo Cunanan, head of the sanitarium in Culion, Palawan, which no longer has leprosy patients.

“It is a curable disease and the drugs are free and available at the nearest center. So, stigma has no place here as patients need not hide,” he added.
Former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez said it was easy to cure leprosy before because those infected sought treatment in sanitariums.

“Now, it’s more difficult because they no longer need to be confined. They are now in their communities but do not want to come out. That’s a complication and we should focus on that,” said Romualdez, who heads the Culion Foundation Inc., which supports approaches on the prevention of control of selected communicable and infectious diseases.

“People are encouraged to seek help and not to be ashamed because they can be treated. Leprosy is no longer a disease that is incurable. We hope to cure it before it becomes serious,” he added.

He said there was a need for early detection because most of the new patients who seek help from the DOH are already in the advanced stage of the disease.

To help get rid of the stigma associated with leprosy, a group called the Coalition of Leprosy Advocates of the Philippines composed of persons who were cured of leprosy was launched Thursday.

“In the whole Western Pacific Region, the Philippines is the one that consistently reports more than 1,000 new cases but this is also because our health workers and partners — like medical centers and dermatologists — do excellent reporting,” Gajete said.

She said leprosy’s incubation period lasts three to five years and the symptoms could appear 10 to 15 years after infection. Gajete said the symptoms include pale or reddish skin patches that are neither itchy nor painful.

“We have sustained our elimination levels of less than one case per 10,000 population in 1998. Our target is to control leprosy before it becomes a public health threat,” Gajete said.

The Old Scourge
Published: Saturday, August 24, 2013 00:00 | Written by: People’s Journal

We are the only predominantly Christian nation in Asia, but we must have been a terribly wicked people to deserve all the bad things of biblical proportions — floods, plagues or diseases, war, periodic if localized pestilence, near-famine or hunger, the whole shebang of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We have just been through the watery whip lash of Maring-Habagat that swept away billions of pesos worth of crops, public infrastructure, government facilities, commercial establishments, and private properties, not to mention precious — make that priceless — limbs and lives.

But blood, sweat, tears, and all, life goes on for us who survived what can pass for our version of The Flood. And so we ask again: What have we done so terribly evil to deserve the Old Testament punishment?

The answer is probably in what we have not done as a people—setting ourselves aright, squarely along the Tuwid na Daan.

“If righteousness exalts a nation,” as televangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva keeps on preaching, we have failed the moral test. We have not made the grade.

And so serial punishment is upon us. Why do we say this?

Because while the rest of the world have made an ancient scourge extinct, we are still suffering from health and social stigma of leprosy.

That’s right, and no less than the government acknowledges this.

In fact, while leprosy is no longer a public health threat in the country, more than 1,000 Filipinos still get infected with the disease every year, a Department of Health official said on Thursday.

Dr. Francesca Gajete, National Leprosy Control Program manager, said there were 2,012 leprosy cases reported last year in Ilocos Sur, Metro Manila, Cebu, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. From January this year, 800 new cases have been reported.

Gajete urged Filipinos who suspect they have been infected with the chronic bacterial disease to immediately contact a government health worker or hospital.
“You don’t need to go to a sanitarium. You can be treated as an out-patient. The medicine is free and after just a day of treatment, you are no longer infectious,” Gajete was quoted by a major broadsheet as saying in a press conference.

She pointed out that leprosy can be cured after a 6 - to 12-month treatment.

But get this: Gajete said leprosy was “eliminated” as a public health problem in 1998 after the country achieved its target of having less than one case per 10,000 population. The country had up to 38,200 persons with leprosy in the 1980s.

“Leprosy has been eliminated as a health problem, but elimination does not mean new cases will not come up,” said Arturo Cunanan, head of the sanitarium in Culion, Palawan, which no longer has leprosy patients.

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“We have sustained our elimination levels of less than one case per 10,000 population in 1998. Our target is to control leprosy before it becomes a public health threat,” Gajete said.

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