

**Philippines National Commission for UNESCO:  
Continuing Partnerships and Collaborations with Multi-Stakeholders for the  
Promotion of UNESCO Programs and Projects**

The Philippines National Commission for UNESCO or PH NatCom marked the year 2015 with stronger partnerships and collaborations with multi-stakeholders to implement projects and activities across UNESCO's priority areas – advancing efforts in awareness-raising initiatives, cultural heritage preservation, youth empowerment, environment conservation, promotion of sustainable development and lifelong learning, and celebration of UNESCO's 70<sup>th</sup> year.

PH NatCom acts as the primary enabling agency in maximizing Philippine engagement with UNESCO and in advancing UNESCO programs in the Philippines. It aims to (1) serve as an advisory/consultative and liaison body that would associate/bridge or link the work and programs of relevant bodies/agencies in the Philippine government with UNESCO's own work in educational, scientific and cultural matters and concerns; (2) ensure that UNESCO's mandates and programmes are promoted and implemented in the Philippines through close partnerships at the national and local levels, UNESCO Secretariat at the Headquarters and in the field, and other NatComs ; and (3) bring the Philippines' experiences and perspectives in crafting and refinement of UNESCO policies and programs.

Among PH NatCom's accomplishments for 2015 are the following:

**Inter-Committee Activity**

Participation of the Philippine Delegation to the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference. (November 2-18, 2015) All the five Sector Committees of PH NATCOM have representation in the UNESCO General Conference. The Philippine Delegation for the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference was led by Secretary Sonny B. Coloma, PH NatCom Vice-Chairperson of the PH NatCom, representing Secretary Albert del Rosario, PH NatCom Chairperson. The Philippine Delegation also includes H.E. Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro (PH Permanent Delegate to UNESCO), Secretary Patricia B. Licuanan (Chair, Education Committee, PH NATCOM and Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education), Secretary Armin A. Luistro FSC (Vice-Chair, Education Committee, PH NATCOM) and Secretary, Department of Education), Engineer Reynaldo P. Vea (Chair, Science & Technology Committee, PH NATCOM), Architect Michael F. Manalo (Chair, Culture Committee, PH NATCOM), Mr. Eric B. Zerrudo (Vice-Chair, Culture Committee, PH NATCOM), Commissioner Cynthia Rose B. Bautista (Chair, Social & Human Sciences Committee, PH NATCOM), Ramon P. Tuazon (Member, Communication & Information Committee, PH NATCOM), First Secretary Jesus Enrique G. Garcia II (PH Permanent Delegation to UNESCO), Assistant Secretary Cecile P. Javillonar (PCOO), OIC Lindsay A. Barrientos (PH NATCOM), Mr. Gay Alfred A. Blanco (Programme Officer for Science & Technology, PH NATCOM), Mr. Rex A. Ubac, Jr. (Programme Officer for Education, PH NATCOM), Mr. Adriann J. Caldozo (Programme Officer for Culture, PH NATCOM),

Ms. Josefina V. Escueta (Technical and administrative support, PH NATCOM), Ms. Shiela Bermundo-Bengtlers, (PH Permanent Delegation to UNESCO), and Dr. Lucio Sia, interim Executive Director, SEA-CLLSD.

The Chair and the Vice Chair/Member of each committee of the Philippines National Commission (PH NATCOM) attended their respective sessions to ensure that the Philippines is represented in the discussion and deliberations. They were provided technical support by the rest of members of the delegation who prepared necessary documents and interventions. In plenary sessions that ran simultaneously with the Committee sessions and other side events, PH NATCOM members and the Office of the Permanent Delegate ensured presence all throughout the sessions.

Other than the Committee Sessions, among the activities in the GenCon where there was strong presence of the Philippine Delegation are the following:

1. Second Interregional Forum of National Commission for UNESCO,
2. Special High Level Meeting on the Education 2030 Framework for Action,
3. General Policy Debate,
4. Launching of the UNESCO Science Report 2015, and
5. Plenary, Side Events, Socials, Informal Meetings.

### **Committee Programs/Projects/Activities**

Science and Technology (S&T) Committee. This Committee has put emphasis on commitments, memberships, seats and active involvement in critical International Sessions and Programmes, that address science and technology, environmental as well as marine sciences concerns, issues and threats. These were anchored on the UNESCO framework that emphasizes the relationship between sustainability, human societies and the biosphere/ecosystem. The Committee also promotes and supports projects/activities/advocacies that utilize appropriate and efficient systems and technologies. The Committee supported UNESCO programmes to which the Philippines is committed to and are also considered as priority concerns of the country.

Major projects/activities include:

1. Monitoring of and technical assistance to Biosphere Reserves in the Philippines: Puerto Galera and Palawan,
2. Technical review of Camarines Sur and Albay nomination dossiers as Biosphere Reserves,
3. Technical support for the submission to the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Committee of Albay nomination dossier for the Man and Biosphere Programme,
4. Conduct of literature review, field research and dialogues with local communities in Mount Malindang Range Natural Park proposed as UNESCO Biosphere reserve,

5. Participation in various International Oceanographic Commission meetings and activities,
6. Participation in the UNESCO International conferences/seminars,
7. Participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> SeaBRnet Meeting in Malang, Indonesia, and
8. Facilitating systems improvement (PH NatCom's administrative and technical concerns).

Social and Human Sciences Committee. Its main thrust is the advancement of “social inclusion” in the process of economic growth and social transformation to favor the increasing realization of social justice and equality, including basic rights and human freedoms. It deals with the development of physical and intellectual capabilities to enhance international understanding and peace.

Major projects/activities include:

1. Convening of the National Summit on Youth in Anti-Doping in Sports in partnership with the Philippine Sports Commission;
2. Implementation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Karunungan Festival;
3. Publication/studies to highlight sustainable practices in Ifugao; and
4. Participation in the UNESCO Gender and Media Research 2015.

Culture Committee. This Committee facilitates initiatives to promote and preserve cultural and natural tangible heritage, intangible heritage, and the diversity of cultural expressions. This include (a) identification, protection, and conservation of sites with Outstanding Universal Values through the World Heritage Programme; (b) identification, and continued transmission of cultural traditions and indigenous knowledge to the next generations; and (c) fostering of cultural diversity and creative expressions.

Major projects/activities include:

1. Preparatory activities for the participation to the 39<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee Session which reviewed State of Conservation Reports of the World Heritage Site and examined 36 properties nominated for inscription to the World Heritage List,
2. Participation and engagement in the 39<sup>th</sup> World Heritage Committee Session in Bonn, Germany,
3. Implementation of the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade Route project funded by DFA,
4. Participation in the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of States Parties of the World Heritage Convention in Paris, France,
5. First Site Initiation Workshop of UNESCO project: the Power of Culture in Banaue, Ifugao, and
6. Technical support for the nomination of Binanog and Sugidanon ICH Nominations.

Education Committee. This Committee promotes inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. It supports the operationalization and implementation of the UNESCO Post-2015 Education agenda. It also promoted advocacy and cooperation education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship education (GCED), which includes peace and human rights education as well as intercultural education and education for international understanding. The Committee also forges partnerships for stronger capacity of institutions to offer quality education and lifelong learning for all.

Major projects/activities include:

1. Participation in the World Education Forum in Incheon, South Korea;
2. Consolidation and submission of technical inputs and reports of PH Education agencies for UNESCO Education Sector;
3. Convening of the Annual Conference on Giftedness and High Ability;
4. Implementation of Workshop on Establishing Community Museums in Visayas; and
5. Participation and support to the Annual Assembly of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines in partnership with the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines.

Communication and Information Committee. This Committee pursues initiatives and partnerships to develop a well-informed and enlightened citizenry who can participate meaningfully in democratic institution building. It also seeks to raise awareness on UNESCO's Memory of the World (MOW) program, especially the importance of preservation and transmission of documentary heritage.

Major projects/activities include:

1. Conduct of awareness Raising Seminar Series on Philippine Documentary Heritage in Iloilo, Cebu and Ayala,
2. Conduct of First National Conference on Digital Heritage in Manila, and
3. Launch of the Communication Museum at the Philippine Information Agency.

Activities and Projects that support and mainstream Gender and Development as well as the causes of the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities

**1. Participation in the UNESCO Gender and Media Research in June 2015.** The research aimed to address the state of gender equality throughout the media in people's participation in the media (in access to media, including access to training in media skills; and in equal employment of women and men in media), and through the media (in media content).

National Commissions for UNESCO were requested to respond to the questions through coordination with relevant ministries of government, other government institutions, organizations/institutions supported by government, civil society groups,

technical experts, etc. For the Philippines PH NatCom involved the following in the research: Philippine Commission for Women, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, Miriam College, the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication, and Commission on Higher Education.

**2. Participation in the Regional Community Learning Centre (CLC) Conference: The role of CLC for Inter-generational Learning Focusing on the Elderly.** Among the outcomes of the Conference are as follows: (1) identification of policies, strategies and action plans that can be adopted by participating countries for the benefit of the elderly, (2) better exchange of information and good practices concerning population dynamics, community learning centres and lifelong learning opportunities for Asia's aging population, (3) more potential areas identified for collaboration and support in the Asia region, and (4) expanded partnerships and reinforced networks (UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Centres, ASEAN +3 Ministries of Education involved in non-formal education and lifelong learning).

**3. Advocacy on Access to Information and Knowledge by Persons with Disability.** During the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference, the Philippines National Commission has put forward its advocacy on Access to Information and Knowledge by Persons with Disability, through the intervention of Commissioner Ramon Tuazon of the Communication and Information Committee shared that PWDs are most vulnerable and helpless during disasters because of their limited physical capacities. Also, the number of persons with disabilities has been increasing over the years because of the growing frequency and magnitude of calamities happening, especially in the Asia Pacific region. Hence, a recommendation was submitted to have an additional dimension, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the context of natural and man-made disasters in undertakings pertaining to access to information and knowledge.

**4. Printing and dissemination of copies of the magazine publication entitled "Learning Possibilities in an Aging Asia"** from the Ageing in the Asia Pacific Conference for distribution in the SEA-CLLSD network. The publication examines how lifelong learning policies and programs contribute to "active aging" (remaining intellectually and physically active in one's senior years) and to the sustainability of demographically changed Asian societies in the not too distant future.

#### Programs for the Youth/UNESCO Clubs/ASPNetwork

In line with UNESCO's celebration of its 70<sup>th</sup> year in 2015, the PH NatCom responded to the call for mainstreaming youth participation in its programs and projects, in recognition of their potential as prime movers of society along UNESCO's main thrusts. Hundreds of young athletes engaged in nationwide campaign for anti-doping in sports, resulting to over 200 commitment pledges for a sporting environment of fair play and healthy living. In the International Assembly of Youth for UNESCO held in partnership with the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines, 350 youth participants were mobilized to interact in dialogues and activities tackling the ASEAN Integration and

Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, about 200 youth benefitted from conferences supported by the Commission, including the Conference on Global Citizenship Education (GCED). The Commission endorsed representatives to the First Youth Regional Forum for World Heritage in Asia (Cambodia) and the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum (Paris), where they emerged as the voices of over 20 million Filipino youth. To celebrate the International Youth Day and in time for the Visit of the UN Youth Envoy to the Philippines, the Commission published “We Are All Connected,” a collection of poetry and visual art depicting young perspectives on “connection in a highly-digitized world.”

PH NATCOM also participated actively in the mentorship of youth organizations for the 2015 Ten Accomplished Youth Organization Awards spearheaded by the TAYO Foundation, Senator Bam Aquino and the National Youth Commission.

### Promotion of Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development

Spearheaded by Ad Interim Executive Director for 2015, Dr. Lucio Sia, SEA-CLLSD major programs/activities include:

1. Facilitation of compliance to the remaining requirements for the establishment of SEA-CLLSD in compliance with an Agreement signed by UNESCO and the Government of the Philippines,
2. Participation in the Second Governing Board Meeting of the UNESCO/MGIEP (February 2015),
3. Awareness and Commitment Campaign on Anti-Doping in Philippine Sports: Regional Anti-Doping Summit organized with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Provincial Government of Davao del Norte held in Tagum City (10 February 2015),
4. Visit to the Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Mintal, Davao City (11 February 2015),
5. Regional Seminar of the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators (Region IV), Tagaytay (12 February 2015),
6. ICT Project coordination meeting with UNESCO Bangkok, the Department of Education and CHED (17 February 2015),
7. Regional Community Learning Centre Conference: The Role of Community Learning Centres for Intergenerational Learning Focusing on the Elderly, Chiang Mai, Thailand, (24-28 February 2015),
8. National Summit: Awareness and Commitment Campaign on Anti-Doping in Philippine Sports (4 March 2015),
9. Working Group meeting with National Commission staff and SEA CLLSD board members and specialists (25 March 2015),
10. Mission to Bangkok - Connecting Youth, Bioethics and Global Citizenship Education in Southeast Asia (6-8 May 2015),
11. Hosting of the UNESCO Centres in Education Meeting, Bayleaf Hotel, Manila (25-27 May 2015),

12. Inception Meeting for the « Implementing the Paris OER Declaration Project, UNESCO HQ, Bonvin Building, Paris, France (24-25 June 2015),
13. Planning Meeting in Paris, France for the Open Education Resource (OER) Policy Workshop to be held in Manila (23 June 2015),
14. Planning Meeting with the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA on the World Bank SABER Study to be conducted in the Philippines, Paris, France (29-30 June 2015),
15. 1st National Workshop on Supporting Competency-based Teacher Training Reforms to Facilitate ICT-Pedagogy Integration, SEAMEO Innotech, Quezon City (21-22 July 2015),
16. Seminar on Using Water Education to Strengthen Community Efforts Towards Sustainable Development (27-31 July 2015),
17. Training of Certified Trainers on Adult Education, Cairo Egypt (9-12 August 2015),
18. ICOM-Philippines 2015 Bacolod Conference, Museums for Sustainable Development (18-21 August 2015),
19. Re-thinking Education Through Imagining Future Scenarios, Bangkok, Thailand (31 August-6 September 2015),
20. OER Policy, CHED, Quezon City (23-25 September 2015),
21. World Teachers' Day Celebrations with Metro Bank Foundation (5 October 2015),
22. ICT-CFT National Consultation Workshop (26-30 October 2015), and
23. Participation in Education Commission Session, General Conference, Paris France (3-6 November 2015).

### Publications

Support to and implementation of projects relative to publication of materials and studies that promote UNESCO's and the Philippines' advocacies and programs/projects/activities were also undertaken in 2015. Among these publications are the following:

1. PH NATCOM Promotional Brochure on Programs and Thrusts,
2. UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Toolkit,
3. Booklet on the collection of Poems and Photograph and Visual Artworks,
4. Handbook on the Philippine' Engagement in UNESCO Standard-Setting Instrument,
5. Magazine on True and Clean Sporting Environment in South East Asia,
6. Event Programmes, and
7. Newsletter for UNESCO Clubs.

Other PH NATCOM projects/activities include:

1. Processing of 552 request for endorsement for customs duties exemption under the UNESCO Florence Agreement,
2. Conduct of Workshop on Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Site,
3. Conduct of formal dialogues during visits in the Philippine of Head of International Partner Agencies, Nepal National Commission's Dr. Kamleshwar Kumar Sinha, UNESCO Jakarta's Dr. Shahbaz Khan, and UNESCO-UNEVOC's Dr. Shymadal Majumdar, and
4. Membership in the Steering Committee for the project of the Department of Tourism of the Philippine to determine the multi-hazard vulnerability of built heritage in the two Islands and in the historic centre.

**PH NATCOM PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES FOR 2015**

<b>NAME OF DELEGATE/ PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>ORGANIZER</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE (2015) AND PLACE</b>
Dr. Virginia A. Miralao Secretary-General PH National Commission for UNESCO	UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development	Second Governing Board Meeting of Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development	15-19 February New Delhi, India
Dr. Lucio Sia Executive Director South East Asia Centre of Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development	UNESCO Bangkok	Regional Community Learning Centre Conference: The Role of CLS for Intergenerational Learning Focusing on the Elderly	24-28 February Chiang Mai, Thailand
Mr. Jesus Lorenzo Mateo Assistant Secretary for Planning and Development Department of Education  Mr. Roger Masapol Officer-in-Charge, Planning and Programming Division Department of Education	UNESCO Bangkok	Regional Launch of 2015 EFA Global Monitoring Report	04 May Bangkok, Thailand



NAME OF DELEGATE/ PARTICIPANT	ORGANIZER	EVENT	DATE (2015) AND PLACE
<p>Mr. Elvin Evan Uy Assistant Secretary for Programs Department of Education</p> <p>Ms. Lindsay A. Barrientos Officer-in-Charge PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Mr. Rex Ubac, Jr. Development Management Officer III PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Ms. Pilar Mesina UNIO, Department of Foreign Affairs</p>	UNESCO	World Education Forum	18-22 May Incheon, Rep. of Korea
<p>Mr. Denis B. Habawel Governor, Province of Ifugao</p> <p>Ms. Mariflor D. Capuyan Project Development Coordinator, Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office</p> <p>Mr. Federico Odulio National Commission for Culture and Arts</p> <p>Mr. Jed Elroy Rendor Intramuros Administration Department of Tourism</p>	UNESCO Jakarta and Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO	Sub-Regional Workshop for Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage Sites	25-27 May Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia
Dr. Ana Maria Theresa Labrador Director III, National Museum	UNESCO	Intergovernmental Experts Meeting for the Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collection	27-28 May

NAME OF DELEGATE/ PARTICIPANT	ORGANIZER	EVENT	DATE (2015) AND PLACE
Dr. Gil Jacinto Professor, Marine Science Institute University of the Philippines	UNESCO	28 <sup>th</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly and IOC Science Day	17-25 June Paris, France.
<p>Arch. Michael Manalo Chair, Culture Committee Mr. Eric B. Zerrudo Vice-Chair, Culture Committee PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Dr. Miguel Fortes Professor, UP Marine Science Institute and Expert for World Heritage</p> <p>Mr. Adriann Caldozo Development Management Officer II PH National Commission for UNESCO</p>	UNESCO	39 <sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee	28 June – 8 July Bonn, Germany
<p>Mr. Miguel Lizada Ateneo de Manila University</p> <p>Mr. Ariel Almoite Reedley International School</p> <p>Ms. Joana Rizza Bagano Programme Officer PH National Commission for UNESCO</p>	UNESCO Bangkok	Asia-Pacific Conference on Global Citizenship Education	27-29 July Bangkok, Thailand
Col. Pablo M. Lorenzo Philippine Defence Attache	UNESCO, Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO and International Red Cross	ASEAN Regional Seminar on the UNESCO 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of the Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	1-3 September Vihear, Cambodia

NAME OF DELEGATE/ PARTICIPANT	ORGANIZER	EVENT	DATE (2015) AND PLACE
<p>Ms. Royce Lyssah Malabonga</p> <p>Ms. Rogie Aquino Head, Soles4Souls Project Community Service Advocacy Program</p>	UNESCO	9 <sup>th</sup> UNESCO Youth Forum	26-28 October Paris, France
<p>Mr. Gay Alfred A. Blanco Development Management Officer III PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Mr. Jesus Bream Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development</p>	UNESCO Jakarta in collaboration with Indonesian MAB National Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> Southeast Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (SeaBRnet) Meeting,	28-30 October Malang, Indonesia
<p>Dr. Alejandro Pineda Head, Doping Control Unit Atty. Guillermo Iroy Jr. Executive Director Philippine Sports Commission</p>	UNESCO	Fifth Session of the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport	29-30 October Paris, France
<p>Eric Zerrudo Vice-Chair, Culture Committee PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Dr. Soledad Natalia M. Dalisay Chair, Department of Anthropology University of the Philippines</p>	UNESCO Bangkok	Regional Symposium on the Development of Post- Graduate Degrees Focusing on Intangible Cultural Heritage	02-03 November Bangkok, Thailand
<p>Prof. Ramon R. Tuazon Member, Communication and Information Committee PH National Commission for UNESCO</p>	UNESCO Bangkok and South China Normal University	Regional Seminar for UNESCO Resource Distribution and Training Centre	11-13 November Guangzhou, China

<b>NAME OF DELEGATE/ PARTICIPANT</b>	<b>ORGANIZER</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE (2015) AND PLACE</b>
<p>Mr. Eric B. Zerrudo Vice-Chair, Culture Committee PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Ms. Lindsay A. Barrientos Officer-in-Charge, PH National Commission for UNESCO</p> <p>Mr. Adriann B. Caldozo Development Management Officer II, PH National Commission for UNESCO</p>	UNESCO	Twentieth Session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	18-20 November Paris, France
<p>Mr. Jesus Mateo Assistant Secretary Department of Education</p>	UNESCO Bangkok	Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030	25-27 November Bangkok, Thailand
<p>Mr. Jefferson Chua Programme Assistant PH National Commission for UNESCO</p>	Cambodia National Commission for UNESCO, APSARA National Authority and UNESCO	First World Heritage Youth Forum in Asia	25 November - 03 December Siem Reap, Cambodia
<p>Mr. Jeremy Barns Director, National Museum</p>	UNESCO and ThinkCity	UNESCO Regional Conference on Harmonizing Actions to Reduce Risks for Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific	07-09 December Penang, Malaysia
<p>Mr. Angel Bautista Acting Director III, Cultural Properties Division, National Museum</p>	UNESCO	Building Capacities on the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects: Prevention, Cooperation, Restitution	15-17 December Hanoi, Vietnam