



## Philippine Vice-President Binay meets his BSU scholars

After taking a 30-minute brisk walk to and fro the main University thoroughfare in the company of BSU officials led by the VP for Administration Alfredo C. Tipayno, having a hearty breakfast at the La Trinidad Public Market, and taking his showers at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay arrived at the Administrative Conference Room (AdCoR) in the morning of March 17 to meet, greet, and interact with his initial 10 scholars enrolled at the BSU Main Campus as well as the next Batch of Scholars enrolled at the Buguias (5) and Bokod (5) Campuses.



Philippine Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay with his scholars, La Trinidad Mayor Gregorio T. Abalos, CHED-CAR Director Luisa S. Valencia, and BSU VP for Academic Affairs, Percyveranda A. Lubrica. (Inset) The Vice-President addressing BSU students, faculty and staff at the BSU Admin. Conference Room on March 17, 2012.//SIFernando

Incidentally, all the state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the country are recipients of the VP Binay National Scholarship Program. Beneficiaries of this initial gesture are 10 scholars from each SUC.

*"Ang edukasyon po ay napakalapit sa aking puso dahil unang-una, hindi ko siguro narating ang kinaroroonan ko ngayon kung hindi ako nakapag-aral,"* he shared with all humility. So as he went further in his message, he encourages his scholars to value their chance at education, appreciate and love their parents who unwaveringly support them no matter what, and remain vigilant and well-informed of what is happening around them especially in government.

The 10 scholars enrolled at the Main Campus are taking up Agricultural Engineering (BSAE), Agriculture (BSA), Secondary and Elementary Education (BSE and BEE), Nursing (BSN), Environmental Science (BSES), Information Technology (BSIT), Library and Information Science (BSLIS), and Forestry (BSF). The next 10 Batch, 5 are enrolled at Bokod Campus taking up Industrial Education and Industrial Technology (BSIE and BSIT) while the other 5 at Buguias campus are taking up Elementary and Secondary Education (BSEE and BSE).



As he promised two years ago when he visited the University, Vice-President Binay has now returned fulfilling his words to donate five personal computer units! He also pledged his future support for resources to enhance the University's budget for Capital Outlay meant for the construction of more student dormitories.

The Vice-President arrived with his party composed of Former Senator "Manong Ernie" Ernesto Maceda, Mr. Joey De Venecia, Ms. Anne Binay (the VP's daughter), OVP Asec. Rosalie R. Licauco, and the VP's better half, Madame Elenita Binay who came with a number of lady friends.

Philippine Vice-President...continued on page 6



**BSU****Vision**

A Premier State University in Southeast Asia

**Mission**

To imbue people with excellence and social consciousness who actively generate and promote environment-friendly technologies that improve the quality of life.

**Goals and Objectives**

1. To provide quality education that produces well-rounded individuals;
2. To provide quality and responsive R and E services in sub-tropical agenda;
3. To strengthen and enhance institutional revenue-generating capability towards self-reliance;
4. To establish competent and effective services geared towards efficiency and economy;
5. To strengthen and expand harmonious and synergistic University-Community relationship; and
6. To inspire and boost the moral of the BSU constituents for greater performance;



*Shamag, an Ibaloi term that means news, is the official publication of Benguet State University. It functions as the University's mouthpiece for its accomplishments and is likewise a communication tool among BSU constituents. It started as the MSAC Newsletter in the 1970s to meet one of the requirements of then, the Department of Education, for a college to be elevated into a university. Later it became the BSU Newsletter and eventually renamed to Shamag in 2001.*

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Contributions will be acknowledged but the editors reserve the right to determine articles to be published based on adherence to topic guideline, time, and space limitations. Anonymous contributions will not be considered.

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*Announcements***2012 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees**

Participate in the 2012 Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees under the following categories:

A. Awards for Outstanding Work Performance under 2 sub-categories: *Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Award* and *CSC or Pag-asa Award*-conferred on individual or group for exceptional performance or extraordinary contributions in the form of suggestion, innovation, invention, or superior accomplishment;

B. Outstanding Public Officials and Employees or *Dangal ng Bayan Award* – conferred on individual with exemplary conduct and ethical performance.

**INCENTIVES AND AWARDS**

---for the *Lingkod Bayan* and *Dangal ng Bayan* categories include, among others, PhP200,000.00 cash reward and an automatic promotion to the next higher position.

---Pag-asa, PhP100,000.00 cash reward

Any individual or organization with knowledge of the work performance or exemplary behavior of a government official or employee or group may nominate and submit to the agency PRAISE Committee, which shall endorse the nominations to the CSC Field/Regional Office before the deadline on April 30, 2012.

Nomination forms are available at the CSC-Benguet Field Office or can be downloaded from the CSC website.

**Filing of SALN Forms**

All government officials and employees are required to file their Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Networth (SALN) as of December 31, 2011. Deadline for submission to the respective agency Human Resource Management Officers (HRMOs) is on or before April 30, 2012. Agencies were given copies of the revised forms or these can be downloaded from the CSC website.

**(SGD) CORNELIA M. RILLERA**  
Director II,  
CSC-Benguet

## BSU Veggie-enriched instant noodles for disaster relief goods in CAR

by Violeta B. Salda

Last March 8, 2012, the University signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Social Welfare Development-Cordillera Administrative Region (DSWD-CAR) for the purchase of veggie-enriched instant noodles to be included in the *disaster relief goods* and *food for work* items.

The MOA signing was executed by the University President Ben D. Ladilad and DSWD

Regional Director Leonardo C. Reynoso and witnessed by the OIC-Assist. Regional Director Isabel Sy Nillas, DSWD Accountant Rina Claire L. Reyes, Ms. Lany Lizel Diaz, VP for R&E Julia A. Solimen, UPAO Director Gilda B. Jacalan, and BVPC Project Manager Violeta B. Salda.

As explained by Director Reynoso, DSWD maintains stocks of family food packs for disaster and emergency incidences to augment the budget of local

government units. As a DSWD in-house policy, assistance for disaster victims shall come in family packs containing food and non-food items consisting of canned goods, rice, 3 & 1 instant coffee, and instant noodles. When the Region is blessed with fair weather and pleasant circumstances, these food packs are turned over two months before expiry dates to local government units for "food for work" activities subject to proposals or resolutions submitted.

**BSU Veggie-enriched...**  
continued on page 4



BSU President Ben D. Ladilad and DSWD Regional Director Leonardo C. Reynoso sign the MOA between BSU and DSWD-CAR witnessed by OIC-Assistant Regional Director Isabel Sy Nillas, Accountant Rina Claire L. Reyes, Ms. Lany Lizel Diaz, VP for R&E Julia A. Solimen, UPAO Director Gilda B. Jacalan, and BVPC/Project Manager Violeta B. Salda.

## BSU received award during the Silver Anniversary of AACCUP

by Kenneth Laruan

The Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) celebrated its Silver Anniversary last February 20-22, 2012 at the Manila Hotel. This 3-day event was conducted as its annual national convention.

The celebration was attended by 548 participants from 103 member-institutions. In the Opening Ceremony, Senator Loren B. Legarda, the Kenote Speaker, stressed that "Institutional Accreditation by the

agency is a major innovation that would further encourage SUCs to focus not only on improving their programs but also the whole learning institution." Further, in the latter part of her speech, she mentioned that her office is initiating a partnership with SUCs in CAR in researching and documenting indigenous knowledge in agriculture, socio-cultural aspects, education, and agroforestry. Through these advocates, Sen. Legarda shows her impeccable support to SUCs in CAR, which is vital in accreditation

procedure.

The silver anniversary was highlighted with the following activities: signing of Memorandum of Agreement between AACCUP and the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) on cooperation in the field of quality assurance; launching of AACCUP's first book "Quality Assurance: Concepts, Structures, and Practices"; national paper presentations on program and institutional accreditation practices, issues, and trends in

**BSU received...**  
continued on page 7

## VLIR donates PCs for BSU and Tinoc high school students

Under the Close the Gap (CTG) Programme for Outreach Initiatives involving BSU and VLIR (Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad), 209 multimedia Personal Computer (PC) units were acquired for the use of the BSU Information Technology Department-CAS and the Tinoc National High School in Tinoc, Ifugao.

Out of the 209 PCs, the BSU IT Department will receive more than half of the PCs and the rest is for TNHS. The computer's system units are refurbished high quality Dell brand with new accessories that includes mouse, keyboard, and headset.

Mr. Paul Garcia Jr., head of the ICT Division under the University Planning and Development Office said that the PCs will also improve the computer-student ratio in BSU.

For this 2-year project, VLIR paid for the acquisition of the equipment including transportation from Europe to the Philippines spending a total amount of PhP 1.9 M. The PCs are expected to be usable for 4-5 years.

The CTG programme aims to contribute to the sustainability of BSU completed ICT related projects, enhance BSU's outreach activities, and encourage BSU to design innovative linkages beyond their institutions that could serve the university as well as the external partners concerned.

Thus, through the ICT-Division's project titled, "Empowering TNHS through ICT in Education", the national high school will receive some of the PCs and on-site training courses particularly on Ubuntu Operating System, Open Office applications, file management, basic troubleshooting and repair, networking, and other related computer applications as required. These training activities will be facilitated with the assistance of BSU IT students and BSU ICT division staff.

Tinoc National High School was chosen as a beneficiary of the project because it did not make it on the list of beneficiaries for the ICT

for Education (ICT4E) of the Department of Education. The goal of ICT4E is to transform the teaching-learning landscape through the computerization of all DepEd workflows at the national, regional, and district levels.

This collaborative project aims to assist in fulfilling the goal of the government particularly to TNHS promoting "100 percent information fluency and computer literacy among students, teachers, staffs and the members of the community".//JSTabangcura

### BSU Veggie-enriched... from page 3

The veggie-enriched noodles are made from wheat flour, eggs, salt, vegetables, and binding gel with dehydrated vegetable seasonings (onions, carrots, pechay, and cabbage) and compounded flavorings composed of beef/chicken/pork/shrimp powder, modified starch, iodized salt, ground pepper, refined sugar, turmeric powders, ginger, garlic, and mushrooms.

The six-piece family pack of noodles comes with noodle variants of squash-, malunggay-, and carrot-enriched noodles at 55g per pack. Veggie enrichment adds nutritional value to favorite food products thereby helping in reducing malnutrition problems.

Technology commercialization and incubation of veggie-enriched noodles, veggie breads and cookies, veggie siomai, veggie powders, and starches are development results of researches spearheaded by Dr. Salda. The project was initially funded in 2008 by the Presidential Management Staff under the Social Project Fund through former President Gloria Arroyo and supplemented by the Department of Agriculture in 2009.

The early implementation of the project was shepherded by Presidential Management Staff (PMS), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social  
**BSU Veggie-enriched...continued on page 6**



University Planning and Development Office-ICT Division head, Mr. Paul Garcia, shows the Dell CPUs donated by the VLIR through the CTG Programme.



# Storytelling caravan of Benguet folktales

by Joeference Yangyang

*Tinongdan, Itogon-* From the elder's mouth to improved folk media, communities now have the chance to hear their time-honored folk stories.

The Department of Development Communication (DDC)-College of Agriculture (CA) of the Benguet State University (BSU) launched a storytelling caravan based on the folktales published in the book "*Ul-ulit Danun/Dad-at ed Nabaon* (Stories of Old: A Collection of Benguet Folktales)" at Barangay Tinongdan last February 23- 25. The activity was funded by the BSU-Center for Culture and Arts (BSU-CCA) headed by Dr. Maria Luz D. Fang-asan.

Through an inter-agency cooperation with the Local Government Unit of Itogon, Barangay Tinongdan, SDS Computers and Researchmate, Inc., the team composed of BS Development Communication students piloted the storytelling caravan in Sitios Domolpos and Lusod, both far-flung communities of Barangay Tinongdan, Itogon.

*Ul-ulit Danun/Dad-at ed Nabaon* is the Benguet Edition of Stories of Alapu Project of the Development Communication Society (DCS) of Benguet State University. This project started in 2005 as an information education communication campaign of cultural stories among school children. It won DCS the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations in the Philippines in 2005.

Consequently, a total of 700 books will be turned- over to the Benguet Division of the Department of Education (DepEd) before the end of the month. The publications contain folk stories that have been collected, validated, and processed in the recent years through continuous immersion in different communities of the research team of the Stories of Alapu Project.

Today's edition titled *Ul-ulit Danun/Dad-at ed Nabaon* (Stories of Old: A Collection of Benguet Folktales)

is published by DCS through the sponsorship of the Kabanguetan-Toronto, Canada. Technical support was provided by the BSU-DDC, Researchmate, Inc., and BSU- Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD). To ensure fund generation, the Shelter, Education, Ecology, Disease Prevention Service (SEEDS), Inc. will market the book to intended enthusiasts.

Last February 13 and 20, copies of the book were turned over to LGU-Itogon in addition to the 20 copies distributed in Domolpos and Lusod.

Stories of Alapu was conceptualized by the DCS in 2003 to record the folk stories that are slowly forgotten because of the seemingly disinterestedness of the youth in knowing the folk stories of their own community vis-à-vis the death of storytellers.

The project advocates believe that folk stories are important because they inculcate community values, ideas, beliefs, personal experiences, and meaningful and relevant life-

lessons of the indigenous peoples. Retelling them is part of a rich oral tradition that binds the community together.

## Storytelling and Folk Media

The storytelling caravan is a campaign strategy that aims to bridge the widening gap between the elders and the children in a community through innovative communication strategies.

According to the campaign Project Coordinator Igrelyn P. Pinos-an, the activity aims to come up with an efficient storytelling framework, which could be used for the succeeding similar activities around Benguet.

Moreover, Betty Listino, the Project Leader of the Stories of Alapu Benguet Edition, said that folk media is maximized in storytelling to revitalize a rich oral culture. In addition, the storytelling caravan serves as a channel to return to the communities the stories that have been gathered from them.

**Storytelling...continued on page 6**



Elementary school children with copies of the *Stories of Alapu, Benguet Edition* during a turn-over ceremony on March 19, 2012 at the Department of Education-Benguet.//JST



Philippine Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay with BSU faculty and staff during his visit to the University on March 17, 2012. // Sheryl I. Fernando

#### Philippine Vice-President...from page 1

Among the other distinguished guests include the CHED-CAR Director Luisa Valencia, Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan, and La Trinidad Mayor Gregorio Abalos. BSU officials led by the Officer-In-Charge, VP for Academic Affairs Percyveranda A. Lubrica, warmly welcomed the Philippine Vice-President and his dynamic entourage. // Jen Sabado-Tabangcura

#### BSU Veggie-enriched...from page 4

Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Government Units of Benguet, National Food Authority (NFA), Private Food Companies (Nissin Monde, RFM), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) for product promotion and technology diffusion to Regions 1 and 2 including some municipalities of Benguet //

#### Storytelling...from page 5

During the pilot campaign, the team performed two folk stories through narrative and participative stage plays. One is *Tiktik and the Apesang Rock*, a legend from Kabayan and *Akie and the Maja*, an Iowak tribes' own folktale narrated in Ibaloi, a language used by the people of Domolpos and Lusod.

#### Impressions and Lessons

Both communities responded through spontaneous story-sharing after the stage show and turn-over of the donated books.

"Spontaneity is an important ingredient of orality and stories are and should be shared in this manner," asserts Listino.

She opines that to have an effective communication project, it is important to involve the community in all its affairs.

"What we've seen is not just a community integrated program but an event that motivated the people to move on their own," she stressed.

On the other hand, Rainel Lee Aquino, the book artist, observed that the community has its own effort in safeguarding and validating their stories especially if

presented by others.

Pablito Denneng of Domolpos realized that folktales can be shared to the whole community especially the youth through other means, deviating from traditional way of storytelling.

"The community share folk stories during community gatherings and special occasions", he said. "But we have the outright tendency to forget these folklores because we are more than busy working in our fields than contemplating on such stories."

He also agreed that the folktales can be recorded and transformed into a material that is acceptable by the community. "Unfortunately, we cannot do this on our own," he admitted.

This is what made the Domolpos Elementary School PTA president Roy Langag posed the challenge to his community folks: support each other in sending their children to school. "It is our responsibility as a community to help each other in providing adequate education to our people especially our children," he proclaimed.

He emphasized that although he is ever-grateful to the BSU team, he is convinced that the people in his community must enhance their capability so that they themselves can sustain and pass on to the future generations the lessons they want to instill through their stories.

However, Denneng is still worried that the stories, even if recorded and processed into different forms, are not just the absolute solution for the protection of the folk stories. "What we also need is to continue propagating them in language closest to our hearts, our mother tongue. While we try to save the existing folktales, we shall also strive to maintain the integrity of the very language we are borne with."

Domolpos is one, if not the only remaining intact Iowak community today. The threat of extinction is not only true to their folktales but also to the whole indigenous culture of the tribe. This is manifested in their present use

Storytelling...continued on page 7



**Storytelling...from page 6**

of Ibaloi, a language which they have now embraced.

**Complementary Institutional Efforts**

Republic Act 8371 otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 mandates all government agencies to recognize and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples within the framework of national unity and development.

Along this provision, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued DepEd Order No. 62 in 2011 entitled National Indigenous Peoples Education Policy Framework to serve as an instrument for promoting shared accountability, continuous dialogue, engagement, and partnership. It will likewise serve as the clearinghouse for all education-related transactions including the production of learning modules and the issuance of indigenized curriculum, among others. Stanley Anongos of the Social Sciences Department-College of Arts and Sciences of Benguet State University believes that a tribe's mother tongue is a language not only of the heart but also of the intellect itself. He agrees that the use of mother tongue in education could enhance student's capability for logical and robust reasoning.

Agnes Manzano, Teacher II in Domolpos Community School, said that the indigenization of the curriculum is helpful in teaching her pupils. After witnessing the team's performance, she realized that teaching should not only be limited in the use of indigenous language as the medium for instruction but also its application in retelling stories in selected subjects like Values Education.

"What is great here is that values education will be localized such that I am encouraged to use the communities' own stories as one of the mechanisms in instilling values," she stressed.

The teacher availed herself of one of the 10 story collection book provided as a gift of the team to the community and also requested for the props used during the stage performance. "I have to understand this script so that I could employ the strategy for future educational purposes," she claimed.

Moreover, Mayette Leon, a fourth-year student of Tinongdan Memorial National High School who hails from Lusod recognizes that popular culture is a contributing factor in the youth's depreciation of their indigenous culture especially folk stories.

"What I have known in school is actually the story of Thumbelina during my elementary days. As I grow older, I am interested more on western stories. I am actually reading to my siblings a story titled "The Princess and the Pauper," she confessed.

But she and her friend Girel Abansi got interested in community folk stories after witnessing the campaign. "We should protect our own culture first before assimilating another. We should care for our folk stories because they share

values," Abansi agreed.

James Kidange, a staff from Itogon-LGU who joined the team during the pilot campaign, nodded his agreement saying that the LGU will continue its support in this kind of activities. He likewise encouraged the communities to continue sharing their stories and even challenged them to include other aspect of their culture such as music, chants, and songs. "We shall, within ourselves, push through with the documentation of these elements of our culture as these are important not only in instilling individual and community values but also in encouraging and guarding our self-determination."

This is in line with the LGU program in reconstructing political history through Municipal Ordinance/Order No. 008, S. 2002.

**BSU received...from page 3**

quality education; presentation of AACCUPs "25 years of accreditation"; recognition ceremony of deserving front liners championing the realization of AACCUP programs; and panel presentation of research studies on accreditation in the country.

BSU received an institutional award for being the first SUC that had the most number of programs with Level III reaccredited status in 2011. The award was received by no less than Dr. Ben D. Ladilad, the incumbent BSU President.

In addition, Dr. Tessie M. Merestela and three former BSU faculty members namely: Dr. Feliciano G. Calora Jr., Dr. Florence C. Cawaon, and Dr. Esther R. Hufana were given Crystal Service Award for their 15-19 years commendable service to AACCUP.//



AACCUP Crystal Service Awardee, Dr. Tessie M. Merestela with AACCUP Board of Trustees member, Dr. Lorenzo E. Lapitan Jr. and other awardees during the 25th AACCUP Annual National Conference and Silver Anniversary Celebration held on February 20-22, 2012 at the Manila Hotel.



## BSU at the Strawberry Festival

The University joined La Trinidad's Annual Strawberry Festival by joining the civic parade on March 18 and by accomodating some of the activities such as the Lantern parade held at the University Oval.



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