

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**NEWSLETTER**

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# GOVERNMENT SYNERGY FOR LIBRARY ADVANCEMENT: NLP's Collaborative Endeavors with BIR and BARMM

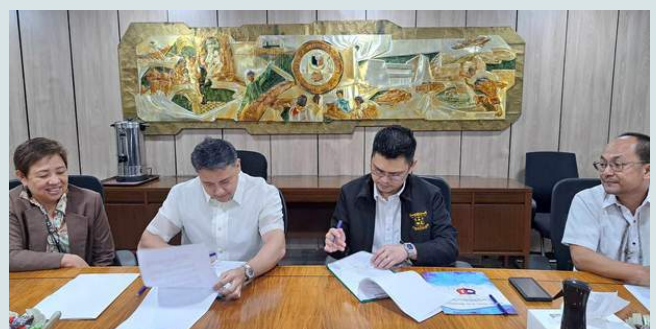


NLP-BIR MOA signing for the adoption and implementation of Koha Library Software in BIR Library attended by (from left) BIR Deputy Commissioner for Information Systems Ma. Rosario Charo G. Enriquez-Curiba, Deputy Commissioner for Resource Management Teresita M. Angeles, Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr., LP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, and Chief of the Information Technology Division, Mr. Leonardo P. Bernabe, Jr.

**In a resounding testament to inter-agency collaboration, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has orchestrated two pioneering initiatives aimed at transforming library services across government sectors. The first, a landmark collaboration with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and second, an exploratory meeting to improve library services in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). These collaborative endeavors underscore the NLP's commitment in propelling advancements in library services nationwide.**

*NLP and BIR Collaborate on Koha Library Software Implementation*

The NLP and BIR joined forces on August 7, 2023, signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the adoption and implementation of the Koha Library Software in the BIR Library. This collaboration marks a pivotal moment in enhancing access to information and streamlining library operations within the BIR.



BIR Commissioner Lumagui and NLP Director Adriano sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Koha Library Software, recognized for its fully featured and scalable capabilities, is a free and open-source system being utilized in the management of NLP's library resources. This strategic partnership between NLP and BIR reflects a shared commitment to harnessing innovative solutions for the betterment of library services.

The MOA signing ceremony took place at the Conference Room of the Office of the Commissioner in the BIR National Office Building and was attended by key figures from both organizations. Among the attendees were BIR Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui, Jr., Deputy Commissioner for Operations Maridur V. Rosario, Deputy Commissioner for Legal Marissa O. Cabreros, Deputy Commissioner for Information Systems Ma. Rosario Charo G. Enriquez-Curiba, and Deputy Commissioner for Resource Management Teresita M. Angeles, along with other BIR staff. The event also saw the presence of NLP's top management, including NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, and Chief of the Information Technology Division, Mr. Leonardo P. Bernabe, Jr.



Top management of both NLP and BIR participated in the MOA signing ceremony.

The primary objective of the agreement is to establish the general terms and conditions that will govern the successful implementation of Koha in the BIR Library. Both parties are committed to ensuring a seamless process and have outlined orientations to familiarize stakeholders with the functionalities of the system.

This collaborative initiative sets a precedent for other institutions looking to enhance their library management systems. By embracing the Koha Library Software, the BIR is poised to benefit from a more efficient, user-friendly, and adaptable platform, ultimately contributing to the optimization of their library

resources.

*Exploratory Meeting Aims to Enhance Library Services in BARMM*

In a move towards bolstering the literary landscape in BARMM, an exploratory meeting took place on November 15, 2023, at the Director's Office of the NLP Building. Director Adriano welcomed key figures committed to advancing library services in the region.



Presidential Adviser on Muslim Affairs Hon. Almarim C. Tillah, United World Foundation, Inc. President Princess Merriam Kiram, and Executive Assistant III Hamza E. Tillah had a meeting with NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano on advancing library services in BARMM.



Among the distinguished attendees were Hon. Almarim C. Tillah, Presidential Adviser on Muslim Affairs; Princess Merriam Kiram, President of United World Foundation, Inc.; and Hamza E. Tillah, Executive Assistant III. The gathering aimed to foster collaborative initiatives geared towards fortifying the existing public libraries in BARMM and fostering the creation of additional libraries across the region.

The attendees deliberated on strategies to enhance the accessibility and quality of library services in BARMM, recognizing the pivotal role libraries play in education, research, and community development.

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## NLP CELEBRATES CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: A Chronicle of Collaborative Endeavors



The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the NLP and the National Library and Archives of Iran was renewed on December 6, 2023. In the photo are (from left) Asia and Oceania Section OIC Wilbur Calo, Reference Division Chief Dolores D. Carungui, NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Iranian Embassy Cultural Counselor Abdolmajid Abolghasemi, and Dr. Bahman Samadi.

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has been fostering cultural connections through a series of collaborative initiatives that transcend borders and celebrate diversity. This compilation highlights four remarkable events that showcase the NLP's commitment to promoting literature, cross-cultural exchange, and global understanding.

### *NLP and Confucius Institute Collaborate for Chinese Bookshelf Expansion*

The NLP, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute at Angeles University Foundation, recently hosted the turn-over ceremony for additional library materials for the Chinese Bookshelf. This event, held at the 2nd floor

lobby of the NLP Building on September 14, 2023, marked a momentous occasion in promoting cross-cultural exchange.



The turn-over of additional library materials for the Chinese Bookshelf to the NLP was facilitated by the Confucius Institute at Angeles University Foundation.

The NLP gratefully received a partial donation of Chinese books and publications from the Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of Mr. Zhao Shuai, Director of the Overseas Development Department; Engr. Jose Macapagal Jr., Vice President for Administration of Angeles University Foundation; and the Directors of the Confucius Institute.

NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano expressed his gratitude in a recorded message, emphasizing the significance of Filipino and Chinese collaboration in expanding knowledge and fostering mutual understanding. The unveiling of the Chinese Bookshelf was led by Ms. Dolores D. Carungui, Chief Librarian of the Reference Division, and attended by heads of other divisions, including Ms. Melody M. Madrid of the Collection Development Division, Ms. Maricel M. Urena of the Research and Publications Division, and Ms. Jennifer B. Dimasaca of the Bibliographic Services Division, along with other dedicated NLP staff.



Key officials of the Angeles University Foundation, Confucius Institute and the NLP participated in the ceremony.

According to Director Zhao Shuai, this generous donation opens avenues for Filipinos to delve into the rich realms of Chinese literature, science, art, and history, transcending boundaries and connecting people from diverse backgrounds. The ceremony culminated in a captivating Chinese Exhibition, showcasing the arts and writings of China.

This initiative builds upon China's commendable 2012 donation of a vast book collection to the NLP, forming the China Book Room. The objective remains the same: to promote Chinese culture and literature while fostering partnerships and cultural exchange between nations. With this year's addition of 200 volumes to the Chinese Bookshelf, the NLP, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute, continues to serve as a hub for cross-cultural interaction, making these valuable

resources accessible to the public.

*Successful 'Meet the Mentor' Book Talk with Renowned K-Novelist*

Last October 10, 2023, the NLP Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium buzzed with excitement as the highly anticipated book signing and 'meet the author' event unfolded. Organized by the Korean Cultural Center (KCC) in the Philippines, the 'Meet the Mentor: K-Literature Event' was a success, offering participants an enriching experience with the acclaimed mystery thriller novelist, Ms. Jeong Youjeong.



Korean novelist Ms. Jeong Youjeong joyfully interacted with the participants during the book talk.

Spearheaded by KCC under the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, the event was held in collaboration with the NLP. KCC Director Kim Myeongjin, along with Events / Public Relations Officer Ms. Seonji Jang, orchestrated the event.

The highlight of the event was a captivating discussion with Ms. Jeong Youjeong, internationally renowned for her bestsellers 'The Good Son' and 'Seven Years of Darkness.' Members of the KCC Book Club, Library and Information Science students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and other guests delved into the writing process, inspiration, and character development with the esteemed author. Hosting the program was the award-winning fiction writer, editor, and publisher, Ms. Jessica Zafra.



The organizers and participants of the Meet the Mentor K-Novelist Book Talk.

Expressing NLP's support, Assistant Director

Edgardo B. Quiros emphasized the library's commitment to promoting literature, cultural diversity, exchange of ideas, and inspiring creativity. The 'Meet the Mentor: K-Novelist Book Talk' series continued its literary journey, with events held at the Rizal Library of Ateneo de Manila University and Fully Booked in BGC High Street on October 10 and 11, 2023, respectively.

*Austrian Embassy and NLP Collaborate for Children's Reading Event*

In a heartwarming collaboration, the Austrian Embassy in Manila, in partnership with the NLP, joined forces to celebrate National Children's Month and National Reading Month. The event, held at the NLP Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium, was made possible through the support of the Goethe-Institut Philippinen, Para Sa Sining, and McDonald's Philippines.



Austrian Ambassador H.E. Johann Brieger and Madame Roswitha Brieger interacted with the participants during the event.

The interactive gathering aimed to promote and nurture children's love for reading, providing a fun, enjoyable, and educational environment for them to explore age-appropriate books. Children under the care of ECPAT Philippines, Voice of the Free - VF Foundation, Inc., and Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. had the opportunity to tour the library, engage in reading and story-telling activities, learn about Austria and basic German phrases, and delight in a puppet show presented by the NLP Kuwentistas. The event saw the presence of H.E. Ambassador Johann Brieger and Madame Roswitha Brieger, together with NLP Assistant Director Quiros, who delivered his message of support to the event.

This collaborative effort not only celebrated the joy of reading but also created a memorable experience for children from

various organizations, fostering a love for literature in a supportive and engaging setting.



Participants had fun with the storytelling and puppet show of the NLP Kuwentistas.

*NLP Renews Collaboration with Iran*

In a significant step towards fostering cultural relations, Cultural Counselor Abdolmajid Abolghasemi and Dr. Bahman Samadi of the Cultural Section of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran - Manila paid a courtesy visit to the NLP on August 14, 2023. During their visit, they engaged in a fruitful meeting with Director Adriano, Assistant Director Quiros, and Ms. Carungui, with the objective of continuing and strengthening the cultural relationship between the NLP and the Embassy.



Representatives of the Iranian Embassy - Cultural Section paid a courtesy visit to the NLP on August 14, 2023.

Moreover, on December 6, 2023, both institutions took a significant step by renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation between the NLP and the National Library and Archives of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The virtual signing ceremony, attended by Director Adriano and counterparts from Iran, particularly the Head of Iran's National Library, Mr. Alireza Mokhtarpour, Deputies Dr. Esmat Momeni and Dr. Seyed Hadi Mousavi, Deputy of Development and Resource Management Mohammad Abbasi, and Mithra Hajian from the Public Relations and Administration and International Affairs, marked a commitment to ongoing collaboration.

The signing event witnessed the presence of Cultural Counselor Abolghasemi, Dr. Samadi, Ms. Carungui, and Mr. Wilbur Calo, OIC of Asia and Oceania Section of the Reference Division.



NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano signs the MoU on Cooperation during the virtual signing ceremony.

The renewal of the MoU opens new doors for expanding and enriching the cultural and diplomatic relationships between the Philippines and Iran. It is anticipated that these events will not only deepen the existing ties but also pave the way for future opportunities to expand cultural relationships with other stakeholders.

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## NLP'S VISIONARY INITIATIVES TRANSFORMING PUBLIC LIBRARIES NATIONWIDE



Speakers, organizers, and participants of the second part of "Empowering Public Libraries through NLP's Products and Services," held on September 11-12, 2023 in Zamboanga City.

Through a series of pioneering activities, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and its Public Libraries Division (PLD) are catalyzing a major development in public library services across the nation. From comprehensive training sessions enhancing the basics of library services to empowering affiliated libraries through product-focused training and innovative webinars promoting equitable services, the NLP is at the forefront of fostering community development and knowledge dissemination.

### *NLP Enhances Public Library Services Nationwide Through Training Series*

In a dedicated effort to raise the quality of public library services across the Philippines, the NLP successfully conducted Series 4 and 5 of the Training-Series on Delivering the Basics of Quality Public Library Service, facilitated by

the PLD during the second half of 2023.



Negros Occidental Governor Hon. Eugenio Jose "Bong" V. Lacson delivers the Welcome Remarks for the Series 4 of the "Training-Series on Delivering the Basics of Quality Public Library Service."

Series 4 took place on July 11, 2023, at Sugarland Hotel, Bacolod City, with the esteemed presence of Hon. Eugenio Jose "Bong" V. Lacson, Governor of the Provincial Government of Negros Occidental, and NLP's Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros delivering the Welcome Remarks and Opening Message respectively. The program aimed to fortify

public library services, covering crucial areas such as mission and vision, collection development, services, facilities, administration, and financial resources.

Following the training, PLD staff engaged in a validation activity of the 2015 Revised Standards for Philippine Public Libraries (RSPPL) from July 12-14, 2023, in various public libraries in the Province of Negros Occidental. The activity included courtesy calls with Local Chief Executives and members of the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs).



NLP Asst. Director Edgardo B. Quiros led one of the onsite validation activities of the public libraries in the Province of Quezon.

Series 5, held on July 25, 2023, at Mallberry Suites Business Hotel, partnered with the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental through the Misamis Oriental Provincial Library. The event, attended by public librarians, Officers-in-Charge, and staff from Misamis Oriental and nearby areas, delved into discussions on services based on the 2015 RSPPL. Notable speakers, including Ms. Richel Pajara, Provincial Librarian, Mr. Clint Kenneth Yañez, Provincial Budget Officer, and Ms. Remedios Janier, Director of Library and Audio-Visual Services of the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines-Cagayan de Oro Campus, shared their expertise. The event was graced by Hon. Gerardo “Boboy” Sabal III, Committee Chairman on Education, Culture and Arts, and Mr. Cesar Gilbert Adriano, NLP Director IV.



Series 5 of the “Training-Series on Delivering the Basics of Quality Public Library Service” was held in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental on July 25, 2023.

In addition, PLD staff conducted a validation activity of the 2015 RSPPL in selected affiliated public libraries in the Province of Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City on July 26-27, 2023. The visits also included courtesy calls with Local Chief Executives and LGU representatives, with the distribution of "Impact Stories of Philippine Public Libraries (Books 1-3)" to visited LGUs.

*NLP Conducts Training Series to Empower Public Libraries*

The NLP recently concluded a comprehensive three-part training series aimed at empowering affiliated public libraries nationwide. Titled "Empowering Public Libraries through NLP's Products and Services," the training sessions featured NLP staff as resource speakers, sharing insights into the diverse functions of their respective divisions.



Organizers and participants of the 1st training session of “Empowering Public Libraries through NLP’s Products and Services” held in Ormoc City, Leyte on August 29-30, 2023.

The objectives of the training series were threefold: first, to train affiliated public libraries on integrating NLP services within their facilities; second, to monitor newly established, inactive, and long-unvisited public libraries; and third, to advocate for the establishment and affiliation of public libraries in LGUs lacking such essential community resources.



Speakers during the 2nd training session held in Zamboanga City on September 11-12, 2023.

Covering a range of crucial topics, the training



sessions delved into various services of the NLP, including legal deposit and mechanical processing, cataloging and classification, numbering systems, social media engagement, reference services, electronic resources, preservation practices, inventory, digitization tips, library affiliation and monitoring, and book allocation program.

The first part of the series took place successfully in Ormoc City, Leyte, on August 29–30, 2023, followed by a second session in Zamboanga City on September 11–12, 2023. The concluding leg occurred in Legazpi City, Albay, on October 23–24, 2023.



Participants of the 3rd training session held in Legazpi City, Albay on October 23-24, 2023.

The NLP's commitment goes beyond mere training; it aims to empower communities and foster individual growth and development through the dissemination of information. The NLP's dedication to this cause ensures that public libraries play a central role in shaping a brighter future for the Philippines.

*Webinars for Equitable Public Library Service*

The NLP continues to spearhead initiatives fostering community engagement, knowledge sharing, and innovation. From November 15–17, 2023, PLD organized a series of webinars via Zoom and Facebook Live under the title "Ang Inyong Pampublikong Aklatan... Sharing Ideas, Innovations, and Inspirations."

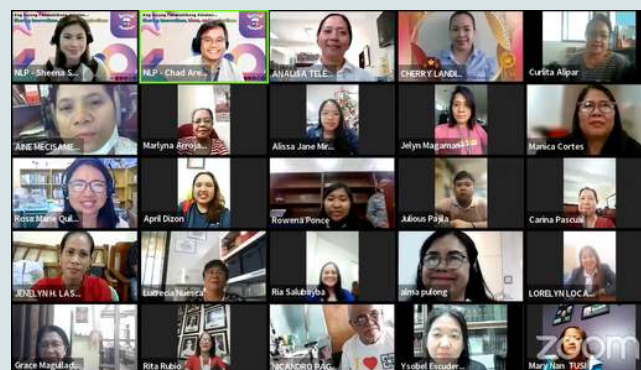
Conducted from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, the free webinar aimed at promoting and advocating plans, programs, and activities (PPAs) implemented by public libraries. These efforts are geared towards providing equitable library services to diverse communities.

Distinguished 2023 Gawad Pampublikong Aklatan (GPA) awardees served as resource speakers, enriching the learning sessions. The three-day event covered various categories, addressing the Best PPA for Local Culture and

Historical Preservation and Conservation on November 15, Best PPA for Indigenous Groups on November 16, and Best PPA for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) on November 17.



Additionally, on December 15, 2023, the PLD convened an online meeting session with newly-established and soon-to-be-established public libraries, alongside their respective local government officials. Held via Zoom, the meeting aimed to guide participants through the affiliation process with the NLP.



Some of the participants of "Ang Inyong Pampublikong Aklatan... Sharing Ideas, Innovations, and Inspirations" on November 15-17, 2023.

These proactive measures by the NLP and PLD underscore a commitment to building stronger, more inclusive public library services, thereby fostering community development and knowledge dissemination. As the NLP continues to leverage both onsite and digital platforms for outreach, the impact on public libraries and their communities is poised for significant growth in the coming years.

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## NLP DRIVES INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH DIVERSE TRAINING INITIATIVES



The training session entitled "Basic Workshop on Handling Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)" was conducted on July 19, 2023 in observance of the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week.

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has undertaken a series of transformative training initiatives, solidifying its commitment to diverse facets of its community. From promoting inclusivity through disability awareness to empowering staff with social media expertise, and conducting workshops on preservation and eResources, the NLP stands at the forefront of fostering a dynamic and accessible environment for its patrons and employees alike. These initiatives underscore the NLP's dedication to evolving in the ever-changing landscape of information dissemination.

### *NLP Promotes PWD Inclusivity Through a Workshop*

The NLP actively participated in the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) Week, underscoring its commitment to

inclusivity. The week-long observance, spanning from July 17–23, 2023, witnessed NLP employees taking part in a transformative training session titled "Basic Workshop on Handling Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)."



Led by representatives from the National

Council on Disability Affairs, Ms. Myrta P. Sedenio and Ms. Virginia S. Rabino, the workshop also facilitated an insightful discussion on various laws and policies related to disabilities. Participants gained a broader perspective, enhancing their awareness of the diverse needs and rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Ms. Virginia S. Rabino facilitated an insightful discussion about disabilities.

Through this proactive engagement, the NLP aims to contribute significantly to the promotion of a more inclusive community. By fostering awareness and equipping employees with practical skills, the NLP aims to create an environment where the library becomes a welcoming space for all, and addressing the unique needs of Persons with Disabilities.

*NLP Empowers Staff with In-House Social Media Training*

The NLP took a forward step towards enhancing its online presence with an In-House Training on August 24, 2023. The session aimed to further develop the skills of selected staff in managing and creating compelling online promotions for the dissemination of NLP services across various social media platforms. Social media focal persons from different NLP divisions actively participated in the training.



Ms. Maria Graciella F. Musa discussed about the principles of video production.

Ms. Maria Graciella F. Musa, Administrative Officer V of the Cultural and Public Affairs Division at the National Parks Development

Committee, led the session as the main speaker. Her discussion focused on the principles of video production. Accompanying her, Mr. Paul Dumagan and Mr. Marviluz Gocoyo covered the basics of photography, Mr. Johnny Pagaling demonstrated proper audio/sound system management, and Mr. Michael James Reyno shared insights on video editing and technical administration of online events organized by the NLP.

Facilitated by the Research and Publications Division, the training sessions were not only informative but also interactive. The discussions were followed by a workshop, providing participants with a hands-on opportunity to apply the newly acquired knowledge.



Mr. Johnny Pagaling demonstrated how to operate NLP's sound system.

This initiative underscores the NLP's commitment to ensuring that its services are effectively disseminated through various online channels. As the NLP continues to evolve in the digital landscape, this training empowers its staff to create engaging and impactful content.

*NLP Conducts Preservation Workshop with Senate Personnel*

The Filipiniana Division of the NLP hosted a comprehensive "Training-Workshop on Basic Preservation and Conservation of Paper Based Collections" for the dedicated personnel of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Legislative Library Service, Legislative Records and Archives Service of the Senate of the Philippines.

The training-workshop, held on September 22, 2023, delved into the NLP's preventive conservation practices. Participants gained valuable insights into the significance of managing and preserving library collections, equipping them with essential skills for the

preservation of paper-based materials.



The organizers and participants of the "Training-Workshop on Basic Preservation and Conservation of Paper Based Collections."

The initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of safeguarding historical and cultural artifacts, reinforcing the Senate Library's commitment to preserving the nation's rich legislative heritage. The hands-on workshop enabled participants to identify and recognize potential preservation challenges while providing them with practical tools to enhance their preservation skills.



Mr. Carlito T. Cartago demonstrated basic cleaning and maintenance of library materials.

This initiative reflects the NLP's commitment to preserving the country's valuable cultural and historical resources. The NLP remains dedicated to empowering libraries and institutions with the necessary tools to safeguard our shared heritage for future generations.

*NLP eResources Day Conducted in Various Libraries in the Metro*

The Reference Division of the NLP has successfully conducted a series of engaging "NLP eResources Day" activities across various public libraries in Metro Manila. The initiative aimed to inform and empower participants about the wealth of electronic resources available through NLP's eResources Portal.

The activities took place at key locations, including the Quezon City Public Library (July

13), Manila City Library (July 20), Valenzuela City Library (September 21), Caloocan City Public Library (October 20), Quezon City Public Library (November 13), Marikina City Library (November 16), Makati City Library (November 17), and the Pasig City Library and Learning Resource Center (November 22, 2023).

The NLP eResources Day provided participants with valuable insights into the diverse range of electronic resources accessible through the NLP's dedicated portal. Attendees learned about the portal's features and capabilities, empowering them to make the most of these resources for research, learning, and personal enrichment.



As part of the NLP's commitment to fostering digital literacy and accessibility, the initiative is set to continue in more public libraries in the future. The NLP continues in providing communities with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the digital landscape and access a wealth of information at their fingertips.

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# NLP KUWENTISTAS SPREADING JOY AND LEARNING ACROSS THE NATION



The NLP Kuwentistas facilitated different activities for children and teachers during the three-day "Halina at Magbasa Caravan" in the City of San Fernando, La Union on October 4-6, 2023.

**The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) continues to make significant strides in promoting reading and learning as the NLP Kuwentistas embark on a mission to various corners of the country, leaving an indelible mark on young minds. The Children's Section of the Reference Division is dedicated to developing the imagination and instilling good Filipino manners in children through a series of engaging activities.**

The journey began with a meaningful impact at the pilot launch of the "Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program" at Rizal High School in Pasig City on August 2, 2023. In collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Education (DepEd), this initiative aims to enhance early literacy and reading skills among Filipino children. The event, graced by Philippine Vice-President and DepEd

Secretary Sara Z. Duterte and DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian, featured captivating storytelling and puppet show activities by the NLP Kuwentistas, imparting not only entertainment but also the values of reading and essential Filipino traits.



The NLP Kuwentistas amused student participants of "Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program" in Pasig City.

Next on the itinerary was a Corporate Social Responsibility activity hosted by Ascott, Somerset, and Citadines. The NLP Kuwentistas held a delightful storytelling and puppet show

session with the kids from Gawad Kalinga (GK) Molave in Brgy. Payatas and GK Pioneer Build in Batasan Hills, Quezon City on August 30, 2023. Both organizers and participants reveled in the joyous activity.



Storytelling and puppet show sessions were conducted in Quezon City on August 30, 2023.

The journey continued to the City of San Fernando, La Union (CSFLU), where the NLP Kuwentistas made their presence felt during the three-day "Halina at Magbasa Caravan" on October 4-6, 2023. Organized by the DepEd Schools Division of CSFLU in partnership with the City Library of San Fernando and the NLP, the caravan aimed at fostering children's love for reading and learning. The NLP Kuwentistas conducted read aloud/storytelling activities, puppet shows, and arts and crafts sessions, leaving learners and teachers alike brimming with joy. Ms. Michael "Aiko" C. Nagas, OIC City Librarian, expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the City Government of San Fernando, La Union, highlighting the NLP Kuwentistas' invaluable contribution to the event's success.



The NLP Kuwentistas were in San Fernando, La Union on October 4-6, 2023 to conduct activities for children.

In a vibrant celebration of International Children's Day and National Book Week, the NLP Kuwentistas graced Antipolo City on November 15, 2023. Participating in the event titled "Read, Reread, Relive! A day of book showers and fun activities!" hosted by the City Government of Antipolo and the Antipolo City Library at Robinsons Place Antipolo, the NLP Kuwentistas brought the joy of storytelling and

puppetry to children, parents, and teachers. The presence of mascots Dok Jun and Andeng added to the excitement, with Ms. Cora Braga and the Antipolo City Library staff expressing gratitude for the engaging contribution by the NLP.



NLP Kuwentistas participated in the event "Read, Reread, Relive!" in Antipolo City on November 15, 2023.

Lastly, the NLP Kuwentistas were part of the group that visited Malay, Aklan, from November 22 to 24, 2023, in celebration of the Library and Information Services Month (LISM). As a part of the "Lakbay-Kaalaman LISM Outreach Program," in collaboration with the LISM Organizing Committee, Learning Resource Management Section, District of Malay, Schools Division of Aklan, and the Local Government Unit of Malay Municipality, the NLP Kuwentistas orchestrated storytelling and puppet show sessions on the last day for the students and teachers of Balabag Elementary School. This activity not only fostered a love for literature but also contributed to the overall enrichment of Library and Information Services Month in Malay, Aklan.



Students in Balabag Elementary School, Malay, Aklan had a fun day of storytelling and puppet show.

**The NLP Kuwentistas continue to be torchbearers of education and joy, making a positive impact on communities across the nation and touching the hearts of young learners.**

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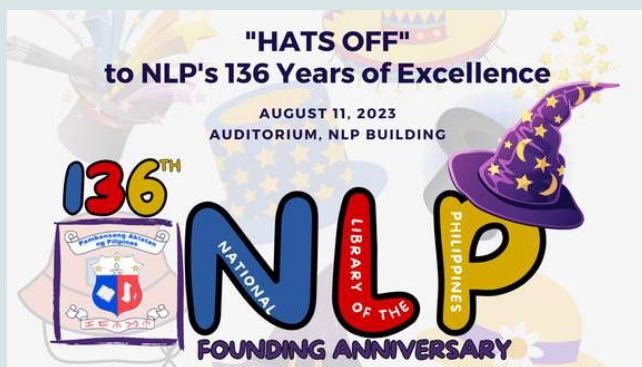
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## "HATS OFF" TO NLP'S 136 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) marked its 136th Founding Anniversary with a memorable celebration, honoring its rich history and the exceptional contributions of its dedicated employees. The theme "HATS OFF" to NLP's 136 Years of Excellence set the tone for a memorable program organized by the NLP Anniversary Committee.



### *Historical Journey of the National Library*

The roots of the National Library trace back to the establishment of the Museo-Biblioteca de Filipinas on August 12, 1887, under a royal decree of Queen Maria Cristina of Spain. Over the years, it underwent transformations and faced challenges, including severe damage during World War II. Officially renamed as the National Library of the Philippines in 2010, it has served as the guardian of Filipino wisdom, history, and culture since its inception.

### *Anniversary Celebration Highlights*

The anniversary celebration on August 11, 2023, held at the Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium of the NLP Building, was a day filled with joy and appreciation. The event commenced with a mass, followed by the recognition of outstanding NLP employees and divisions for their significant

contributions.

Ms. Fe B. Basagre, Chief of the Finance and Administrative Division, and Ms. Cherry V. Melquiades, President of The National Library Employees' Association, led the organization of the celebration. Undersecretary Joseph B. Encabo, Chairman of the Cooperative Development Authority, graced the occasion with his presence, delivering a special message to the NLP staff. Special performances were prepared by different groups of NLP staff, making the celebration even more exciting.



Undersecretary Joseph B. Encabo delivered his heartfelt greeting and appreciation to NLP.

### *Recognition of Outstanding Employees*

Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, and Ms. Michelle A. Flor, Head of the Human Resource Management Section, presented awards to deserving employees and units in various categories.

The Tagumpay Awards recognized exemplary efforts from #BSM organized by the Bibliographic Services, Catalog Division, and Copyright Division; CCT-IERT Committee; NEFLI-Cohort 2 organized by Public Libraries Division; Iisang Pasko: Pagdiriwang ng Pagkakaisa sa Sektor ng Sining at Kultura

Team; and the 2022 Library and Information Services Month Committee.



Dir. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Asst. Dir. Edgardo B. Quiros gave the opening and closing remarks, respectively.

The Shout Out Awards acknowledged outstanding contributions, with the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property (PRECUP) Team and the Philippine Presidential Library Committee receiving honors in the Group Category. Individual Category awards went to Jeeffa U. Acmat, Marie Joy H. Bestoir, Gio Karlo J. Fuelles, and Eruel A. Olvina.

The Greatest Number of Positive Feedback and Customer Satisfaction Award honored excellent provision of services, which were given to the Bibliographic Services Division (BSD) and Romnick Henric Henry M. Gayanillo, respectively. BSD also received the Best Organizational Unit award.



NEFLI-Cohort 2 and the LISM Committee are among those who were recognized in the Tagumpay Award.



Employees who are committed to their work were also recognized, with Roque P. Bismanos, Jr., James Rommel A. Maborang, Hilarion A. Macalalag, and Meljun P. Magarso receiving

the Best Administrative Support Staff; Chad Aren E. Diaz, Maria Loreta M. Go, Cherry V. Melquiades, Roselle D. San Pedro, Xenia B. Romero, and Jennifer B. Dimasaca accepting the Extra Mile Award; Marcopolo J. Casarigo being awarded the Perfect Attendance Award; and Anlhet C. Buenaventura being recognized for the Cleanliness Award.



NLP employees prepared performances that featured popular songs from different decades.

The recipients of this year's Gawad ng Pangulo ng NLP Award were Maricris L. Abancia, Marie Joy H. Bestoir, Romnick Henric Henry M. Gayanillo, and Joel P. Lascano, while Rica Jane S. Marcelo was recognized as a Hall of Famer for the award. Finally, the NLP Achievement Award was given to Blesila P. Velasco.

*Longstanding Dedication Recognized*

A series of awards celebrated loyalty and service milestones, with employees recognized for their 10, 15, 20, 25, and even 40 years of dedicated service. Retiring employees Ms. Remelyn S. Agloco, Librarian II; Ms. Shirley P. Baligod, Administrative Aide III; and Roger D. Battulayan, Administrative Aide I, received a heartfelt tribute for their invaluable contributions to the NLP.



Students in Balabag Elementary School, Malay, Aklan had a fun day of storytelling and puppet show.

The National Library of the Philippines expressed gratitude and congratulations to all the awardees for their unwavering dedication and outstanding service. The celebration not only honored the organization's past but also looked forward to a future filled with continued excellence and commitment to preserving Filipino heritage.



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# KOLEKSYON NG PAMBANSANG AKLATAN, BIDA SA PHILIPPINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2023



Kabilang sa mga itinampok ng Pambansang Aklatan ng Pilipinas sa Philippine Book Festival sa Davao noong Agosto 18-20, 2023 ay ang facsimile ng *Noli Me Tangere* at *El Filibusterismo* ni Dr. Jose Rizal.

Masayang nakilahok ang Pambansang Aklatan ng Pilipinas sa pinakamalaking 'traveling book festival' sa buong bansa, ang Philippine Book Festival (PBF), na ginanap noong Agosto 18 hanggang 20, 2023 sa SMX Convention Center Davao, SM Lanang. Ang tatlong araw na selebrasyon ay matagumpay na isinagawa sa pangunguna ng National Book Development Board upang itampok ang sari-saring aklat na Pilipino, at suportahan ang mga lokal manunulat, mangguguhit, at manlilimbag. Kabilang ang Pambansang Aklatan sa mga naimbitahan upang magtayo ng isang eksibit at itanghal ang ilan sa mga natatangi nitong koleksyon.

Nagbukas ang PBF sa isang programa na dinaluhan ng Pilipinong manunulat at mangguguhit, mga alagad ng sining at literatura, mga manlilimbag, at iba pang masugid na sumusuporta sa mga



Binisita ng maraming Davaoeño ang eksibit ng Pambansang Aklatan sa Philippine Book Festival sa SM Lanang.

publikasyong Pilipino. Dumalo din sa okasyon ang mga kinatawan ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, kabilang ang Bise Presidente ng Pilipinas at Kailihim ng Kagawaran ng Edukasyon, Sara Z. Duterte, na nagsilbing espesyal na panauhin at nagbigay-diin sa kahalagahan ng mga aklat sa pagsulong ng literasi at edukasyon. Binigyang-pugay din niya ang sektor ng publikasyon, kasama na ang mga lokal na manunulat, mangguguhit, at

manlilimbag. Ayon pa sa Bise Presidente, mahalaga ang mga aklat na isinulat at nilikha ng mga manunulat at manlilimbag na Pilipino na nagbibigay ng inspirasyon sa sektor ng edukasyon, lalo na sa pagsusulong ng MATATAG Curriculum.



Pinangunahan ni Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano ang paglahok ng mga kawani ng Pambansang Aklatan sa PBF.

Lumahok din ang ilang kawani ng Pambansang Aklatan sa pangunguna ni Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano. Tampok sa Book Nook Exhibit ng PBF ang mga natatangi nitong aklat ng bahagi ng mayamang panitikan, kasaysayan at kulturang Pilipino. Kinagiliwan ng maraming Davaoños ang mga itinampok ng Pambansang Aklatan, kabilang na ang facsimile ng *Noli Me Tangere* at *El Filibusterismo* ni Dr. Jose Rizal, ilan sa mga sipi ng *Philippine Incunabula*, iba't ibang Pilipino komiks, orihinal na sipi ng nobelang "Ninay" ni Pedro Paterno, sipi ng "Banaag at Sikat" ni Lope K. Santos, at marami pang iba.



Kinagiliwan ng mga bumisita ang iba't ibang aklat at komiks na itinampok sa eksibit.

Abangan ang iba pang selebrasyon ng PBF sa hinaharap. Maaaring bisitahin ang [www.philippinebookfest.com](http://www.philippinebookfest.com) para sa kumpletong detalye. Patuloy nating ipagdiwang at itanghal ang galing ng mga literaturang Pilipino!

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## OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIANS HONORED AT THE 5TH GAWAD PAMPUBLIKONG AKLATAN



Ms. Easter Wahayna-Pablo of the Baguio City Public Library was awarded First Place for the Leadership Award (Professional Category) during the Gawad Pampublikong Aklatan on August 25, 2023.

More than seventy extraordinary librarians, library staff, public libraries, and public servants were celebrated at the fifth annual Gawad Pampublikong Aklatan on August 25, 2023. Formerly known as Gawad Parangal sa Natatanging Propesyunal na Tagapangasiwa at Tagapaglingkod ng Pampublikong Aklatan, the prestigious event recognized individuals and institutions for their exceptional contributions to public libraries in the Philippines.



(Left) Director Adriano welcomed the participants and congratulated the awardees. (Right) The GPA plaque given to awardees.



NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and TAF country representative Sam Chittick.

The awarding ceremony, held at the Epifanio

delos Santos Auditorium of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), was spearheaded by NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros. Organized and facilitated by the Public Libraries Division in collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF), the event was attended by distinguished guests, including Hon. Jose A. Torres Jr., Director-General of the Philippines Information Agency, who served as the keynote speaker and guest of honor. Sam

Chittick, TAF country representative, and Reynald Ocampo, TAF Program Officer, were also present in the event.



Distinguished guests participated in the GPA Awarding Ceremony.

Various Local Government Unit (LGU) officials accompanied the awardees, showcasing their consistent support for affiliated public libraries. Among the notable guests were Chairperson Arthur P. Casanova of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino; Hon. Yolanda C. Granda and Hon. Lourdes T. David of the Professional Regulation Commission - Board for Librarians; Professor Salvacion M. Arlante, Hon. Lilia F. Echiverri, and Hon. Nora Fe Alajar of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - National Committee on Libraries and Information Services; Mr. Rene Manlangit of the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.; Ms. Lucila R. Raquino of the Association of Librarians in the Public Sector.



Ms. Lucila R. Raquino of the Quezon City Public Library received Loyalty Award for her 40 years in service.

The Gawad Pampublikong Aklatan is the highest and most prestigious award given to all library professionals, library staff and public libraries who have significant contributions in the development and service to their community. It continues to be a beacon of recognition for those dedicated to enriching the literary landscape and fostering knowledge in communities across the Philippines.



Ms. Cynthia F. Anday of Alabat Municipal Library received First Place for the Leadership Award (Non-Librarian Category).

Since its inception in 2019, the NLP, in partnership with TAF, have jointly ventured this project to: 1) Encourage all affiliated public libraries with NLP to continue their exemplary contributions in their community; 2) Recognize public librarians or individuals who have gone above and beyond their work in the community through their dedication, commitment, and hard work as a manifestation of their outstanding public service contributions; and, 3) Create stronger partnerships between the NLP, and other stakeholders for the development of the public libraries in the country.

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# NLP ENHANCES DISASTER PREPAREDNESS THROUGH NSED



NLP employees and patrons participated in the 3rd and 4th quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill in September 7 and November 9, 2023.

**In a continued commitment to safety, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) actively participated in the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) held on September 7, 2023, at 2:00 PM for the 3rd Quarter and on November 9, 2023, at 9:00 AM for the 4th Quarter.**

Spearheaded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through its Office of Civil Defense, and in partnership with various national and local agencies, the drill aimed to fortify the mechanism for national and regional coordination during disasters. It also sought to enhance the interoperability of key players while intensifying local communities' preparedness for earthquakes. The overarching goal was to strengthen the commitment of local government units in building safe communities. This initiative aligns with NDRRMC Memorandum No. 006, s. 2023, emphasizing the "Resumption of Face-to-Face Conduct of National Simultaneous Earthquake Drills."

The NLP management and staff actively participated in the drill, recognizing its significance in championing preparedness and response to various disasters and calamities. The activity, facilitated by the NLP Continuity Core Team and Incident/Emergency Response Team, underscores the institution's dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of its personnel and visitors.



Employees and patrons gather at a safe spot outside the building.

By actively engaging in such initiatives, the NLP not only reinforces its own disaster preparedness but also contributes to the broader national effort to create resilient communities capable of effectively responding to unforeseen challenges.

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# NLP EMPOWERS WORKFORCE THROUGH 2023 CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT



NLP staff participated in its annual Capacity Building event on July 6-7, 2023 at the Forest Crest Nature Hotel and Resort, Nasugbu, Batangas.

**The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) conducted its annual Capacity Building event on July 6-7, 2023, at the Forest Crest Nature Hotel and Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas. Organized and facilitated by The National Library of the Philippines Employees Association (TNLEA) under the leadership of its President, Ms. Cherry V. Melquiades, the event received full support from NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros. The NLP management believes that the benefits of this activity will be reflected in enhanced performance, improved efficiency, and increased innovation among its employees.**

Conducting a capacity-building activity for employees of a national cultural agency is a strategic investment in the organization's growth and success. Recognizing the importance of continuous learning and professional development, the NLP Capacity

Building 2023 aimed to strengthen the NLP workforce through a series of knowledge dissemination activities. The event covered a range of topics and activities designed to enhance employee skills, efficiency, and innovation.



The resource speakers and organizers of the parallel sessions conducted during the NLP Capacity Building.

The two-day program included a Gender and Development Forum, addressing "Orientation on SOGIESC: Understanding Individual Differences for an Inclusive Workplace." Additionally, parallel sessions were conducted

for different groups of personnel, focusing on core and organizational competencies:

- For reader services personnel, a lecture on Managing Information Services (Inter-library Loan and Document Delivery Services) by Mr. John Christopherson L.T. Fredeluces from the University Library Diliman - University of the Philippines.
- For technical services personnel, a presentation on NLP Databases for Indexing and KOHA Updates and New Features by in-house speakers Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros and Ms. Maricris Abancia of the Information Technology Division.
- For finance and administrative services personnel, a seminar on Audit Rules on Procurement and Inventory Management by Ms. Miriam M. Villanueva from the Commission on Audit.
- For job order personnel, a discussion on Competencies of Job Order Personnel by Ms. Michelle A. Flor, Head of the NLP Human Resources Management Section.

recognized outstanding employees and announced winners of the team-building activities. The night concluded with a lively dance and Zumba performance, transforming the grand hall into a vibrant dance floor.



One of the games involve an obstacle course which was navigated carefully by the participants.

**The success of the NLP Capacity Building 2023 reflects NLP's commitment to investing in its employees' growth, skills, and collaborative spirit, ultimately contributing to the organization's overall success and resilience.**



Team building activities started with a Zumba dance session for warm-up.

The afternoon and night sessions were dedicated to team-building and fellowship activities, providing opportunities for employees to interact and strengthen their bonds, fostering a positive work environment. NLP employees were divided into three groups for the team-building activities, which were facilitated by the resort staff. During the Fellowship Night, the organizing committee



NLP actively participate in various games for the team building activity.

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# OPERATIONAL PLANNING SETS COURSE FOR 2024 AND 2025



The NLP conducted an Operational Planning activity on September 6-8, 2023 in Subic, Zambales.

Breaking down the major goals included in its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, the National Library of the Philippines conducted an Operational Planning activity on September 6-8, 2023, in Subic Zambales. The three-day activity was facilitated by the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Committee chaired by Ms. Jennifer B. Dimasaca.

For 2024-2025, NLP top management, headed by Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, along with the division chiefs and section heads, participated in the planning activity. NLP prepared for Operational Planning for 2024-2025, where they meticulously reviewed data, financial projections, and past performances of the agency. Director Adriano identified the six thrusts of NLP for 2024-2025: (1) Conservation and Preservation program; (2) Reorganization Plan; (3) ICT enhancement; (4) Continuous improvement of building and library spaces; (5) Compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements; and (6) Promotion of NLP services. The event conducted extensive deliberations, strategy

sessions, and visionary directives, gearing up for the challenges and opportunities of the coming fiscal year and serving as a launchpad for the library's next fiscal year's endeavors.



NLP top management, division chiefs, and section heads participated in the operational planning activity.



All division representatives interacted and had a productive discussion of the target accomplishments and concerns through the planning sessions. Divided into three groups: Reader Services, Technical Services, and Public



Libraries, the groups exchanged ideas on the perennial issues of NLP processes and services, such as streamlining, acquiring Filipiana collections, feedback mechanisms, the procurement process, utilization of databases, conduct of training, and agency backlogs. Action plans were drafted, aiming towards the attainment of all the programs and activities of NLP for its stakeholders.



Division representatives were divided into groups for a more in depth discussions.

“Let us ensure that the plans we develop will not only end up as new ideas but must have a positive impact on changing the conditions of our people for the better,” said Director Adriano as he encouraged everyone to contribute to the attainment of the NLP goals.

As the event concluded, NLP charted a sustainable path that would not only secure necessary funding but also ensure that NLP will fully realize its mandate as a cultural agency and a national library serving the evolving needs of the community.

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# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PROJECT L.A.R.A.



The Ceremonial Turn-Over of Library Resources was held on November 10, 2023 at the Baler Sports Complex, led by NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Congressman Rommel Angara, Mayor Rhett Angara, and other partners.

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) continued conducting a series of transformative endeavors through its groundbreaking initiative, the Project L.A.R.A. (Library Affiliation and Resource Allocation). Sponsored by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara, the project has played a pivotal role in enhancing educational opportunities, fostering collaboration, and expanding access to valuable resources in communities across the country. From the affiliation of a community library to the virtual orientation on electronic resources, and finally, the historic turn-over ceremony, these initiatives stand as pillars in the collective pursuit of knowledge enrichment and cultural preservation.

*Senate President Edgardo J. Angara Community Library Affiliates with NLP*

The Senate President Edgardo J. Angara Community Library in the Municipality of Tibiao, Antique, has been officially affiliated with the NLP on September 22, 2023. The momentous occasion was marked by the

presence of Municipal Mayor Klemens "Weng Weng" G. Bandoja, who represented the municipality and its library during the affiliation ceremony.



Tibiao Mayor Klemens "Weng Weng" G. Bandoja received the initial allocation of library resources on behalf of the municipality.

During the event, the community library was proudly presented with the Certificate of Affiliation. As a gesture of support and commitment, it also received an initial allocation of over 300 books and various other educational materials. This allocation is also part of Project L.A.R.A., contributing to the expansion of their collection and enhancing educational opportunities for the community.

In a parallel effort, the delegation embarked

on a comprehensive monitoring and affiliation activity across the Province of Antique. The primary objective of this initiative was to assess the current state of various municipal libraries and promote collaborative efforts among public libraries nationwide.



A delegation from NLP conducted monitoring visit in Antique Provincial Library and Local Archives.

Distinguished visits were made to several notable libraries in the Province of Antique, including the Antique Provincial Library & Local Archives, the Evelio B. Javier Memorial Library of San Jose de Buenavista, the Leocadio Alonsagay Dioso Memorial Public Library of Pandan, and the Sibalom Municipal Library. These visits facilitated discussions, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of ideas to further strengthen the network of public libraries in the region.

*NLP Expands Access to e-Resources through Project LARA*

On September 28, 2023, the NLP organized the Orientation on Subscribed Electronic Resources which took place via Zoom online meeting and drew the participation of recipients under Project L.A.R.A. This initiative, facilitated by the Collection Development Division and Public Libraries Division, strives to strengthen the capabilities of affiliated libraries by providing them access to a wide array of electronic resources.



The Project LARA team conducted an online eResources Orientation on September 28, 2023.

The event witnessed representatives from distinguished publishers, including LibTech Source, Inc. (for ProQuest Ebook Central), Britannica (for Britannica Library), and Thinc Office, Corp. (for MyLegalWHIZ). These reputable companies played a pivotal role in enlightening participants about the subscribed databases, emphasizing their potential impact on library services and knowledge dissemination.

During the virtual orientation, insightful presentations were delivered, offering in-depth insights into the functionalities and benefits of the electronic resources now available to the affiliated libraries. Attendees gained a comprehensive understanding of the tools at their disposal, enhancing their capacity to serve the community and disseminate knowledge effectively.

*Turn-Over of Library Resources in Baler*

A historic moment unfolded on November 10, 2023 at the Baler Sports Complex as the Project L.A.R.A. Ceremonial Turn-Over of Library Resources took place, together with the signing of deeds of donation and property transfer reports. Led by Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, the ceremony brought together stakeholders, community members, and the Project L.A.R.A. team. Esteemed guests, including Honorable Rommel Rico T. Angara and Honorable Rhett Ronan T. Angara, joined local leaders, librarians, officers-in-charge, NLP employees, and other dignitaries in celebrating the successful affiliation with public libraries in Aurora, Tibiao (Antique), and Negros Occidental.



The participants of the Project LARA Ceremonial Turnover of Library Resources.

Director Adriano expressed deep gratitude to Senator Sonny Angara for sponsoring the project, acknowledging the vital role played by supporters, including Congressman Rommel Angara, Mayor Rhett Angara, and various partners.

The resources provided through Project

L.A.R.A. were highlighted for their potential to enrich the lives of diverse audiences, from children to senior citizens. Comprehensive training programs for librarians focused on Mechanical Processing of Books, Accessing Library E-resources, and Cataloging.



NLP Director Adriano observes as local library representatives sign the Deed of Donations and Property Transfer Reports.

Preserving local histories and culture emerged as a significant aspect of the project, with recipient libraries leading initiatives dedicated to this cultural preservation.

The signing of the Deed of Donations and Property Transfer Reports formalized a partnership beyond the transfer of physical resources, pledging collaborative efforts to empower communities through knowledge and education.

Director Adriano emphasized the responsibility that comes with knowledge abundance, urging the audience to nurture and protect these resources for future generations.

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# SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF THE 11TH CCYAL IN LAGUNA

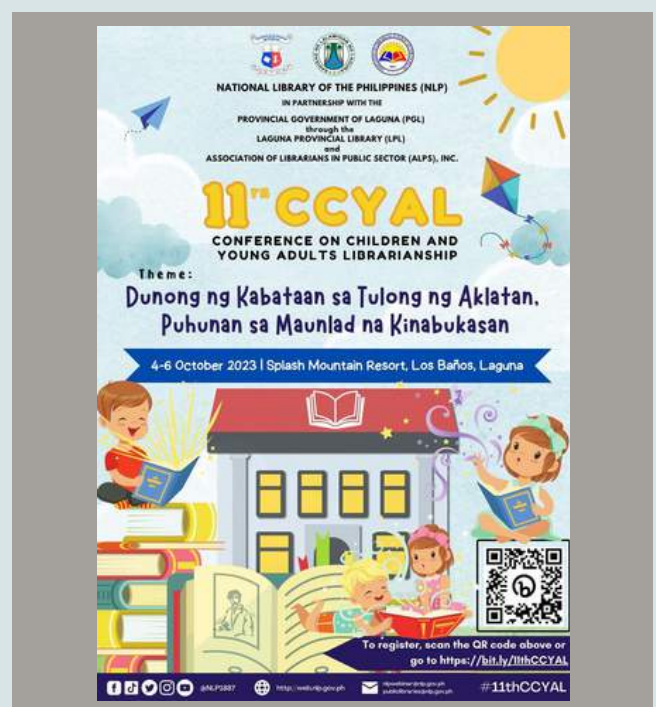


All the organizers and participants of the 11th Conference on Children and Young Adults Librarianship conducted on October 4-6, 2023 at Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños, Laguna.

The 11th Conference on Children and Young Adults Librarianship (CCYAL), organized by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and the Provincial Government of Laguna through the Laguna Provincial Library, in partnership with the Association of Librarians in the Public Sector, was successfully conducted on October 4-6, 2023, at Splash Mountain Resort, Los Baños, Laguna. The three-day event brought together professionals, educators, and enthusiasts from the library and education sectors.

Themed "Dunong ng Kabataan sa Tulong ng Aklatan, Puhunan sa Maunlad na Kinabukasan," the conference featured plenary sessions exploring innovative approaches to promote reading habits among young audiences.

Participants were welcomed by the message of the Governor of the Province of Laguna, Honorable Ramil L. Hernandez, represented by Ms. Justina P. Garcia, Librarian IV of Laguna Provincial Library. This was followed by the inspirational message of NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano. The conference concluded



with the keynote message delivered by Congresswoman of the 2nd District of Laguna, Honorable Ruth M. Hernandez.

The 11th CCYAL provided a stimulating platform for learning, networking, and knowledge exchange with presentations from

a pool of experts in the field. The aim was to explore the latest trends, challenges, and best practices in serving the needs of children and young adults through library services. Plenary Sessions explored innovative ways to encourage reading habits among children and young adults, such as storytelling, book clubs, and digital resources.



The resource speakers of the plenary sessions.

The six plenary sessions covered a diverse range of topics: (1) Justina P. Garcia discussed about effective library programs for children and young adults; (2) Brian Aljer B. Coballes about library safe space for children and young adults; (3) Rochelle S. Silverio about family-based program in public library; (4) Djalma M. Menes about oral storytelling for young adults; (5) Rosena V. Roman about children’s library service as previous awardee; and (6) Alistair Troy B. Lacsamana about "Sama-Samang Basahan ang mga Bata".

The conference facilitated valuable opportunities for networking and interaction among attendees, allowing them to share experiences and best practices, fostering collaborations and partnerships to enhance library services for young users.



Ms. Kathlyn G. Tangcay of Philippine Science High School won 1st Place for Children and Young Adult Librarian of the Year (School Librarian Category).

An eagerly anticipated event, the Fellowship Night with the theme K-Pop was also conducted with the purpose of gathering and fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among participants, encouraging meaningful interactions, and strengthening bonds.

The concluding day featured the ceremonial turnover to the Pangasinan Provincial Library as the next co-host of the 12th CCYAL in 2024.

Highlighting the dedication and excellence in librarianship, the conference also presented awards to outstanding children’s and young adult librarians of the year and exemplary children’s library services. The winners were recognized in two categories: Public Library and School Library (Private/Public).



San Carlos City Public Library and Tech4Ed Center bagged 1st Place for Exemplary Children’s Library Service Award in Public Libraries.

The conference underscored the commitment of librarians and institutions to the development and enrichment of children and young adults through dynamic and innovative library services. The event’s success is a testament to the dedication of those involved in shaping a brighter and more literate future for the youth.

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# PAGDIRIWANG NG BUWAN NG MGA KATUTUBONG PILIPINO

Bilang pagbibigay-halaga sa kultura ng mga katutubo sa Pilipinas, ang Pambansang Aklatan ng Pilipinas ay nakilahok sa pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng mga Katutubong Pilipino na isinasagawa tuwing buwan ng Oktubre. Sa temang "Buhay na Dunong: Pagkamalikhain at Kalikasan," ipinapamalas ng pagdiriwang ang kanilang angking pagkamalikhain ng mga katutubo upang lalo pang pagyamanin at mapabuti ang mga buhay na pamana ng bansa.

Ang pagdiriwang ay nagsimula sa Arroceros Forest Park, sa pangunguna ng Lokal na Pamahalaan ng Lungsod ng Maynila at iba't-ibang ahensyang pangkultura, kasaysayan, at turismo. Ang pambungad ng programa ay dinaluhan ng mga kawani ng Pambansang Aklatan.



Mga kawani ng NLP kasama ang Kalinga Budong Dance Troupe at si G. Alonzon Saclag, Pambansang Manlilikha ng Bayan para sa Performing Arts.

Isa sa mga tampok ng pagdiriwang ang Cultural Fair sa likod ng Metropolitan Theatre, kung saan nagkaruon ang mga katutubo ng pagkakataong ipakita ang kanilang mga produkto at iba pang likha. Ito ay upang bigyan ng pagkakataon ang publiko na masusing makilala at maunawaan ang yaman ng kultura ng mga katutubo.



Mga kawani ng NLP kasama ang Tribo ng mga T'Boli.

Parte din ng koleksyon ng Pambansang Aklatan ang Henry Otley Beyer Ethnographic Collection kung saan maaaring mabasa ang pamumuhay, kasaysayan, tradisyon, kasanayan, at paniniwala ng mga katutubo. Maaaring makita at mabasa ang buong koleksyon sa pamamagitan ng pagbisita sa Tekno-Aklatan.

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# NLP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



The participants of the 29th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania in Doha, Qatar on November 1-2, 2023, including Ms. Dolores D. Carungui, Chief of the Reference Division, who represented NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano.

**In the ever-evolving landscape of global libraries, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) actively participated in two significant international conferences, showcasing its commitment to fostering collaboration and staying abreast of the latest developments in the field. From Brussels to Doha, these gatherings provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, insights, and strategies that will shape the future of library services worldwide.**

*NLP Joins 48th Meeting of Directors of ISSN National Centres*

Representing the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Bibliographic Services Division Chief Jennifer B. Dimasaca participated in the 48th Meeting of the Directors of ISSN National Centres, hosted in Brussels, Belgium. The event, held from October 23–26, 2023, was made possible through the kind invitation

extended by Koninklijke Bibliotheek/ Bibliotheque royale (KBR) and the International Standard Serial Number International Centre (ISSN IC).



(From right) NLP Dir. Cesar Gilbert Adriano, Dir. Sophie Vandepontseele of the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), Ms. Jennifer Dimasaca of NLP, Ms. Nadège Isbergue of KBR, and Dir. Gaëlle Bequet of ISSN International Centre.

The gathering commenced with opening messages from Sophie Vandepontseele, Director of Contemporary Collections at KBR,



and Gaelle Bequet, Director of the ISSN International Center, officially inaugurating the event. A unique warm-up exercise allowed participants to introduce themselves while sharing insights into the traditional dishes and culinary traditions of their respective nations.

Reports from Belgium, Tunisia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal, Ukraine, and the ISSN IC followed, addressing critical concerns related to the ISSN system. Representatives from 37 member countries engaged in discussions during the Directors Meeting.

The subsequent days were dedicated to ISSN+ workshops, exploring new features of the database. Key features of the enhanced system include search capabilities for bibliographic records, assignment forms, title and publisher browsing, a list of title word abbreviations, data extraction in various formats, help pages, dashboards, and announcements. MARC21 fields 023, 856, and 857 were also discussed, as well as the benefits of automated ISSN-L administration, facilitating the federation of print and electronic versions of the same resource and the creation of distinct record groups.



Ms. Jennifer Dimasaca with Mr. Pierre Godefroy, Head of Information Systems Department of ISSN International Centre, during the conduct of ISSN+ workshops.

Throughout the meeting, directors emphasized the critical role of the ISSN system in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of serial publications. Discussions also revolved around promoting the use of ISSN for all types of publications, including electronic journals and online serials. They also exchanged valuable insights on the latest trends and best practices related to ISSN, covering areas such as ISSN linked data, implementation in library systems, and its role in scholarly communication. They collectively explored strategies to enhance the visibility and accessibility of ISSN data.

The meeting concluded with a visit to the Koninklijke Bibliotheek/Bibliothèque royale (KBR) reading room, legal deposit, and the Musée Magritte Museum, marking the successful culmination of the four-day event.

Confident in the positive impact of shared insights and recommendations, the directors expressed gratitude for the valuable contributions made during the meeting. They affirmed their commitment to advancing the ISSN system and its services to publishers, libraries, and other stakeholders, ensuring its continued relevance in the dynamic landscape of global publications.

#### *NLP Participates in the 29th CDNLAO in Qatar*

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, was represented by the Reference Division Chief Dolores D. Carungui, at the 29th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO). Hosted by Qatar National Library in Doha, Qatar, the conference took place on November 1-2, 2023.



Ms. Dolores D. Carungui and Jordanian National Library Dir. Gen., Dr. Nidal Ibrahim Al-Ahmad, participated in the 29th CDNLAO.

The CDNLAO conference serves as an annual gathering for directors and representatives from national libraries across Asia and Oceania. It aims to foster discussions on shared library issues and promote resource and information sharing within the Asia Pacific region. The conference focuses on objectives such as exchanging information, promoting cooperation for library development, assisting libraries in less developed countries, and understanding the state of the art of library development in the region.

This exclusive event welcomed 55 participants from various member countries, including Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palestine, Philippines,

Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

The theme for this year's conference was "Collect and Engage: National Libraries and their Collections." Presentations covered topics such as collecting content representative of communities (both physical and digital), preserving and making collections accessible, and activating or engaging communities with the nation's collection. These discussions allowed participants to gain insights into different approaches and practices related to these themes and provided a platform for national libraries to share their structures, functions, programs, services, and initiatives.



Ms. Dolores D. Carungui with Executive Director Huism Tan of Qatar National Library.

The conference proved to be a fruitful endeavor, providing a venue to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new relationships for the enhancement of each country's library programs and services. The NLP looks forward to future collaborative programs and potential projects arising from discussions with directors and representatives. The agency's consistent attendance at CDNLAO conferences underscores its dedication to supporting the global efforts of the library sector, with a keen interest in benefiting library beneficiaries in the Philippines and beyond.

**These international engagements underscore the NLP's commitment to a global library community. By actively participating in these conferences, the NLP not only contributes valuable insights but also strengthens bonds that will shape the future of libraries worldwide.**

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# LISM CELEBRATION IN NOVEMBER 2023

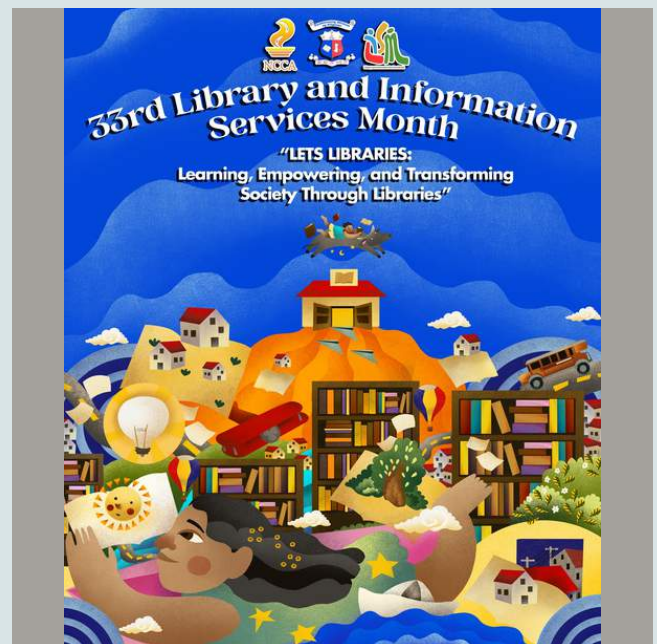


The Opening Ceremony of the 33rd Library and Information Services Month was held on November 6, 2023 at the NLP Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium, which was attended by esteemed guests.

A series of events and activities were conducted throughout November 2023 as part of the nationwide celebration of Library and Information Services Month (LISM) to promote the significance of libraries in our communities. Spearheaded by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), the month-long celebration aimed to highlight the crucial role of libraries in fostering knowledge, promoting sustainability, and adapting to technological advancements.

The overarching theme, "LETS Libraries: Learning, Empowering, and Transforming Society through Libraries," encapsulated the core principles of libraries and their transformative impact on individuals and society as a whole. The activities were designed to promote sustainability, which is becoming increasingly prevalent in libraries concerning research and information dissemination, and also emphasized the continuing role of libraries and librarians in the evolution of technology. The festivities were officially inaugurated with a virtual launch and press conferences organized by NLP and The Philippine Information Agency on

September 18 and October 27, 2023, respectively.



## *LISM Opening Program*

The celebration kicked off with the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the launch of an exhibit featuring Filipino literary collections and award-winning children's books. NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, LISM Honorary Vice

Chairperson Maricel M. Urena, and Overall Chairperson of LISM 2023 Ms. Melanie A. Ramirez presided over the event, in partnership with the Vibal Publishing Group represented by its Marketing Head, Ms. Rio B. Lim.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony and the launch of an exhibit featuring Filipino literary collections and award-winning children's books.

Honorable President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. stated in his written message during the Opening Ceremonies on November 6 at the Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium that the public must "offer a resounding tribute to our libraries and their commitment to the relentless pursuit of preserving our shared knowledge and culture." Indeed, with the expanded participation and support of the public and special libraries in the country, library organizations, and the education sector, all the activities were successfully initiated to the targeted audience and stakeholders of libraries.

IFLA President Ms. Vicky McDonald served as the keynote speaker who delivered an inspiring message sharing how libraries in their community promote learning and empower society. She also shared some of the best practices of IFLA in terms of empowering and strengthening libraries' participation in community development. As one of the objectives of the LISM celebration, many of what was presented by Ms. McDonald aroused the participants to create the same programs in their libraries.

On the other hand, the full participation of the selected public libraries in the Philippines was also evident during the simultaneous LISM Opening participated by the Butuan Public Library, Cebu City Public Library, Urdueta City Public Library, and Parañaque City Public Library. These libraries were also regular partners of NLP in its various activities, including the LISM. The first-ever

simultaneous opening ceremony was made possible through the coordination and support of these local partners. Through this, LISM was highly promoted to the community and the public.



NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano delivered the welcome remarks for the 33rd LISM Opening Ceremony.

According to NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, "the 33rd LISM theme calls forth to a more dynamic participation in propagating the invaluable contributions of libraries and information services in enriching our lives, promoting education, and contributing to the development of the community." The Director also asked to embrace the spirit of "LET'S Libraries," in championing learning, empowerment, and societal transformation through the invaluable institutions that are – our libraries.

#### *Series of Seminars*

The seminar series titled, "LET'S Talk: Discussion on Financial Literacy and Record Management," is an extensive discussion on applying different financial skills effectively presented by Ms. Lizette O. Antonio, Bank Officer IV of the Economic and Financial Learning Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Head Office Manila. Aside from the topic of managing finances, Ms. Eimee Rhea C. Lagrama, Deputy University Librarian I and Head of the University Archives Division of the University Library of UP Diliman shared vital information about Records Management.

To reach a broader group of audiences, NLP partnered with the Vibal Foundation for the conduct of the first Asian Festival of Children's Content in the Philippines on November 15-17, 2023, at the Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium and Function Rooms for a series of lectures, workshops, and exhibits. AFCC Circle Philippines is organized by Vibal Foundation, in partnership with the National Book

Development Board, Singapore Book Council, National Library of the Philippines, International Board on Books for Young People-Philippines, and the Filipinas Heritage Library. This conference was made possible with the participation of delegates and some of the region's best publishers, educators, and storytellers.



Open forum with the resource speakers during the First Asian Festival of Children's Content in the Philippines.

*Outreach Program in Malay, Aklan*

In collaboration with the Department of Education - Schools Division of Aklan, through the Learning Resource Management Section (LRMS) of the District of Malay, in partnership with the Local Government of Malay, selected members of the National Library of the Philippines Library and Information Services Month Committee led the Lakbay-Kaalaman: LISM Outreach Program on November 23-24 at Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan.



Members of LISM Organizing Committee with Mr. Eduardo Sancho, Municipal Administrator of Malay, Aklan.

NLP Staff, headed by Maricel M. Urena, Chief of the Research and Publications Division and the Honorary Vice Chairperson of the LISM; Melanie A. Ramirez, LISM Overall Chairperson; Flordeliza Quinones, Librarian IV of the Reference Division and LISM Chairperson of the Secretariat; Rhodora E. Valdez, Librarian IV of Public Libraries and Outreach Program Chairperson, with the other members of the

committee, made a courtesy call at Malay Local Government Official with the designated official Mr. Eduardo Sancho, Executive Assistant V, Municipal Administrator of Malay upon their arrival on November 22, 2023.

The Outreach Program aimed to conduct a general orientation about the LISM activities and present the programs and services of the National Library of the Philippines. With this information sharing, the participants who are composed of the District Coordinators, librarians, designated librarians, supply officers (division-wide), public school district supervisor, and school heads of Malay District were provided with the essential information in preparing their learning resources to be utilized by students and their library patrons. The Lakbay-Kaalaman also targeted the Kindergarten students of the Balabag Elementary School who are beneficiaries of the Storytelling activity and Puppet Show organized by the NLP Kuwentistas with Jose Tomasito N. Fernando or "Kuya Tom" and Jeeffa U. Acmat or "Ate Jeeffa." And finally, the main objective of the outreach program is to give support to the establishment of Public Libraries in Malay, Aklan, who are currently working on the process of its cityhood. Through the members of the Public Libraries Division and Chairperson of the LISM Outreach Sub-Committee, Rhodora E. Valdez, with Michael James Reyno, presented the process and services of public library affiliation to NLP.



LISM Committee members gave short presentations regarding NLP services to the LRMS coordinators.

On November 23, 2023, LISM Committee had a short presentation at Hue Hotel, Boracay Island, with the representatives and designated LRMS coordinators of the different districts of Aklan. A short program kick-off the activity with the attendance and warm welcome of the Malay officials, including LRMS Education Program Supervisor of Aklan, Mr. Mhanie Q. Tolentino; Public Schools

District Supervisor, Mr. Jessie S. Flores; and Mr. Neil Flores Executive Assistant of LGU Malay representing the Municipal Mayor Honorable Floribar S. Bautista.

On the second day of the outreach November 24, 2023, the NLP Kuwentistas performed a Storytelling Activity and Puppet Show, showcasing some of the favorite Children's stories to the Kindergarten students of Balabag Elementary School headed by their School Principal I, Dr. Aicelle P. Regalado. The children also watched the featured film from the Goethe Institut, one of the LISM partners of NLP teaching the students about the impact of consuming cow products in the environment and increasing the risk of Global Warming.



NLP Kuwentistas conducted storytelling and puppet show with the students of Balabag Elementary School.

Overall, the two-day outreach activities at Malay Aklan are a huge success based on the reception and good feedback from many of the participants. Likewise, it was a fun and productive activity for the LISM Team who extended the activities even to other parts of the country.

### *Joint Awarding and Closing Ceremonies*

The grand finale of the celebration took place on November 29, 2023, at the NLP Epifanio Delos Santos Auditorium. The Joint Awarding and Closing Ceremonies of the 33rd LISM and 89th National Book Week (NBW) featured Ms. Charisse Aquino-Tugade, Executive Director of the National Book Development Board, who delivered an inspirational message and emphasized the role of librarians in transformative learning.

Officials of various libraries and library associations acknowledged the successful implementation of programs throughout November, recognizing the community's efforts and the institutions involved in

planning and executing the diverse range of LISM and NBW activities.



NBDB Executive Director Charisse Aquino--Tugade was the featured speaker during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.

The Library and Information Services Month 2023 left an unforgettable mark, emphasizing the vital role of libraries in fostering learning, empowerment, and societal transformation. The collaborative efforts of various organizations and the enthusiastic participation of the public showcased the enduring importance of libraries in shaping our communities.

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## NLP JOINS STAND AGAINST VAW IN 2023 CAMPAIGN

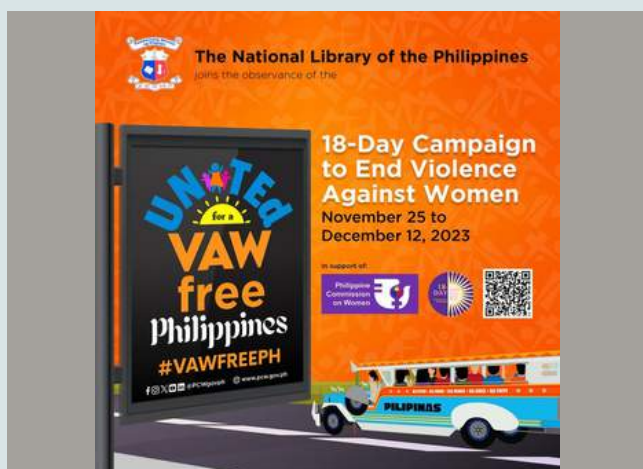


NLP employees wore their Orange Advocacy T-Shirts in support of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, held from November 25 to December 12, 2023.

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) proudly participated in the impactful observance of the 2023 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW), led by the Philippine Commission on Women and held from November 25 to December 12, 2023.

a society free from the scourge of violence.

Demonstrating their unwavering support for a VAW-free Philippines, the dedicated staff of the NLP donned Orange Advocacy T-Shirts, symbolizing their commitment to this crucial cause.



Aligned with the recurring theme from 2022 to 2027, "UNiTEd for a VAW-free Philippines," the campaign is rooted in the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence Against Women Campaign (UNiTE Campaign). The goal is to consolidate and strengthen individual efforts towards creating

As part of the campaign, the NLP took a proactive step by organizing a Seminar-Workshop on December 7, 2023, at the NLP Epifanio delos Santos Auditorium. Facilitated by Ms. Josephine Banaag, a PCW-accredited resource speaker, and supported by the NLP Gender and Development Committee, the workshop focused on the Safe Spaces Act, particularly in the context of public service.



Ms. Josephine Banaag facilitated the workshop on Safe Spaces Act.

During the enlightening seminar-workshop, participants, including NLP employees and staff from various public libraries nationwide, delved into the nuances of harassment, understanding its various forms and how they manifest within the realm of public service. The workshop engaged participants in group discussions centered around real-life harassment cases, encouraging them to explore effective resolutions and identify the appropriate authorities to address such issues.



The speaker, organizers, and participants of the GAD workshop.

Notably, the whole-day seminar-workshop was accessible both through face-to-face attendance and an online modality, ensuring the widest reach possible. This inclusive approach allowed NLP employees and library staff across the nation to actively participate in the discussions and contribute to the collective efforts against violence.

The NLP reiterates its commitment to fostering safe and respectful environments, contributing to the broader goal of building a VAW-free Philippines. With events like these, the NLP continues to play a vital role in driving societal change and promoting a culture of inclusivity and gender equality.



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# MS. VELASCO RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FROM PRC

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) takes immense pride in the remarkable achievement of Ms. Blesila P. Velasco, Chief Librarian V of the Public Libraries Division, who has been honored as one of the 2023 Outstanding Professionals of the Year, specifically in the field of librarianship. The prestigious award was presented by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) during a ceremony held at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, on December 10, 2023.

The "Outstanding Professional of the Year Award" is the highest honor bestowed by the Commission upon a professional, acknowledging their exceptional contributions, demonstrated competence, and integrity in the exercise of their profession. Recipients are recommended by their peers and selected for their outstanding achievements and dedication to advancing the field.

advancement of the profession, and effective discharge of social responsibility through personal or professional engagement in social-related activities.



Ms. Velasco received the Outstanding Professional of the Year Award from PRC.

The ceremony, held at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion, was attended by esteemed professionals, colleagues, and well-wishers who celebrated Ms. Velasco's remarkable accomplishments in the field of librarianship.



Ms. Velasco's exceptional achievements and commitment to her profession were acknowledged as she received this esteemed award. The criteria for the award include demonstrating professional competence of the highest degree, conducting oneself with integrity, meaningful participation in professional activities through a professional organization, significant contributions to the



The NLP commends Ms. Velasco for her outstanding achievements and unwavering dedication to the field of librarianship. Her recognition as the 2023 Outstanding Professional of the Year is a testament to her exemplary contributions and the enduring commitment of the National Library's professionals to excellence.

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# NLP CELEBRATES NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS OF EMPLOYEES

**The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) proudly welcomed the recent appointments and promotions of several dedicated employees to various positions within the institution. In a ceremonial oath-taking held at the Director's Office, these individuals officially embraced their new roles and responsibilities.**

On August 14, 2023, Ms. Rovelyn L. Centina (Administrative Assistant II, Information Technology Division), Ms. Chona R. Fabon (Administrative Assistant III, Finance and Administrative Division), Ms. Shanlee S. Florido (Administrative Assistant II, Finance and Administrative Division), and Mr. Marty P. Ico (Bookbinder II, Filipiniana Division) took their oath before NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano.



Newly appointed and promoted employees who took their oath on August 14, 2023, with NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano.

Another oath-taking ceremony was held on December 15, 2023, with Susan M. Zamora (Librarian V, Catalog Division), Loradel Y. Martinez (Librarian III, Copyright Division), Anlhet C. Buenaventura (Librarian II, Copyright Division), Sheryl A. Tolentino (Copyright Examiner, Copyright Division), April Aileen F.

Lagumbay (Archivist II, Filipiniana Division); Darwin B. Besorio (Librarian I, Sentro ng Karunungan Library), Alyanna Kriza S. Centeno (Administrative Assistant III, Sentro ng Karunungan Library), Karl William C. Panisan (Computer File Librarian I, Sentro ng Karunungan Library), Johnrey Leuz C. Membreve (Computer File Librarian I, Bohol First Congressional Library), Justo B. Dasoy II (Administrative Aide I, Public Libraries Division), Sheena Laine L. Samson (Administrative Aide I, Public Libraries Division), and Allan L. Mangahas (Administrative Aide I, Finance and Administrative Division) taking their oath before Director Adriano.



Newly appointed and promoted employees who took their oath on December 15, 2023, with Director Adriano.

The oath-taking ceremonies symbolize the commitment of these professionals to their roles within the NLP. Each appointee and promotee pledged to uphold the institution's mission and contribute to its continued success.

The NLP extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the appointees and promotees. Their commitment and expertise are integral to the NLP's ongoing efforts to provide valuable services and resources to the Filipino people.

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# FILIPINO ARTWORKS SHINE AT SMITHSONIAN'S EXHIBITION



NLP Dir. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Asst. Dir. Edgardo B. Quiros attended the inauguration of the Smithsonian Institution Exhibit on April 27, 2023 at the National Portrait Gallery USA in Washington, D.C. Also part of the delegation were Director-General Jeremy Barns, Mr. Jorell M. Legaspi, Ms. Anne Rosette G. Crelencia, Ms. Caroline Marie D. Duque of NMP; Asst. Sec. Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga of the DFA-Office of American Affairs; and Consul Gen. Iric C. Arribas of the Philippine Embassy-USA. (Photos from the National Museum of the Philippines)

In a momentous showcase of historical significance, two Filipino artworks took center stage at the Smithsonian Institution's latest exhibition, "1898: US Imperial Visions and Revisions." Held at the National Portrait Gallery USA in Washington, D.C., the exhibition ran from April 28, 2023, to February 25, 2024, marking the first major Smithsonian Exhibition to examine the United States' intervention in Cuba and its expansion into Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

Apolinario Mabini's portrait, a masterpiece by Fabián de la Rosa from the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) Collection, and Felipe Agoncillo's portrait by Félix Resurrección Hidalgo from the National Fine Arts Collection of the National Museum of the Philippines

(NMP), were the Filipino treasures on display. These artworks, together with various artifacts, provided a visual narrative of the Philippine-American War (1899-1913), a pivotal chapter in the country's quest for independence and sovereignty.

The exhibition, aptly titled "1898: US Imperial Vision and Revision," commemorated the 125th anniversary of the United States acquiring overseas territories and emerging as a global power. With a focus on the impact of U.S. influence, the showcase aimed to examine debates around imperialism while shedding light on the experiences of people in the Caribbean and the Pacific, emphasizing the loss of self-determination during this critical period.

Over ninety objects, including portraits and visual representations, delved into the perspectives of proponents and opponents of overseas expansion. The exhibition also explored the agency of individuals who played a role in shaping their political futures amid the transformative period of U.S. imperialism.



The Portrait of Apolinario Mabini by Fabián de la Rosa (from the National Library of the Philippines Collection) is one of the two Filipino artworks that was displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's newest exhibition.

Among the distinguished attendees at the inauguration on April 27, 2023, were NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, and an NMP delegation that included Director-General Jeremy Barns, Deputy Director-General for Museums Jorell M. Legaspi, Chief of Research, Collections, and Conservation Management Division Anne Rosette G. Creencia, and Museum Researcher for the Fine Arts Division Caroline Marie D. Duque. Assistant Secretary Jose Victor Chan-Gonzaga of the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of American Affairs and Consul General Iric C. Arribas of the Philippine Embassy in the USA were also part of the delegation.



Inauguration ceremony of the "1898: US Imperial Vision and Revision" Exhibit.

Highlighting these Filipino artworks at an international platform provided a unique opportunity for the Philippines to share pivotal moments from its history with the global community. This exhibition coincided with the ongoing celebration of the 125th anniversary of Philippine Independence and Nationhood, commemorated from June 12, 2023, to March 23, 2026. The portrayal of Mabini and Agoncillo's portraits showcased the resilience and determination of the Filipino people during a crucial period in their pursuit of autonomy.

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## STREAMLINING NLP TRANSACTIONS THROUGH ONLINE PAYMENT



An orientation on Linkbiz.portal and the Landbank Government Purchase Card (GPC) was conducted by LBP-Intramuros officials, followed by the signing of Memorandum of Agreement with NLP.

**The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) is advancing towards a more efficient, convenient, and secure process for service transactions for NLP products and services through an electronic payment system.**

On October 13, 2023, the NLP, through the Finance and Administrative Division, facilitated an orientation on Linkbiz.portal and the Landbank Government Purchase Card (GPC) with officials and employees of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) - Intramuros Branch.

The orientation was conducted by officials from LBP-Intramuros, headed by their Vice President, Mr. Renato R. Aquino, alongside other officials including Ms. Fararah Rosca M. Balog, Department Manager; Ms. Carla Jane P. Rotaiko, Senior Customer Associate; Mr. Dindo Libranda, Department Manager; Mr. Joseph Del Valle, Senior Management Associate; and Ms. Joanne Ocampo, Senior eProduct Officer.

NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano and Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, together with Division Chiefs and staff of the Cash Section headed by Elmeron Alberto, Administrative Officer V; Accounting Section headed by Geraldine Guisando, Accountant III; and Budget Section Head Marvin Vanguardia, attended the orientation.



Officials from LBP-Intramuros Branch facilitated the orientation on Linkbiz.portal and Government Purchase Card.

In response to the implementation of the national government's policy indicated in Republic Act No. 11032, or the Ease of Doing

Business and Efficient Government Delivery Act of 2018, which aims to streamline the current systems and procedures of government services, NLP is upgrading its processes by offering an alternative and more practical way of service transactions. This orientation is part of the action taken by the Finance and Administrative Division with the goal of initiating the digitalization of NLP services during the Operational Planning of NLP for fiscal year 2024-2025 in September 2023. Once established, the portal will be fully utilized in 2024 and will serve as an alternative process for onsite transactions for clients and stakeholders of NLP.

Ms. Joanne Ocampo, LBP Senior eProduct Officer, gave a detailed presentation about LANDBANK Link.BizPortal. It is an alternative payment channel that allows clients to pay for products and services via the Internet from both government and private institutions/sectors. According to Ms. Ocampo, the Link.BizPortal will provide convenience, efficiency, safety, and faster transactions. It can also decrease the direct and indirect costs associated with physical cash and track financial flows, resulting in less corruption and theft. With this system, it will also save on operational costs of the agency while maintaining the efficiency and quality of its services.

The presentation for the LANDBANK GPC was also given by Mr. Joseph Del Valle, Senior Management Associate of LBP-Intramuros. GPC is a credit card that serves as an alternative payment solution for the procurement of eligible goods and services. In this presentation, he emphasized the features and benefits of GPC. Mr. Del Valle pointed out that through the GPC, NLP could reduce administrative costs, enhance control over expenditures, and improve liquidity management. He also added that through GPC, NLP could reduce cash and check handling, eliminate procurement lead-time, shorten the time to liquidate government obligations, and develop a database of financial information.

Another product of LBP was also presented by Mr. Dindo Libranda, Department Manager, who discussed the financial assistance that LBP could provide for Housing Loan Applications. The orientation concluded with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement

between NLP and LBP officials for the implementation of the digitalization of service transactions. NLP Directors, along with Mr. Renato R. Aquino and Ms. Joanne Ocampo, sealed their partnership through the signed Memorandum of Agreement.



Top management of NLP and LBP-Intramuros signed a Memorandum of Agreement after the orientation.

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# YEAR-END ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED AT NLP

The Performance Management Team (PMT) of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), under the leadership of Dolores D. Carungui, Librarian V of the Reference Division, recently concluded a comprehensive five-day year-end assessment for 2023. Held from December 18-22, the assessment aimed to evaluate the accomplishments of various divisions within the institution.

A customary event conducted at the end of each year, this assessment is an integral part of the Performance Management System at NLP. Divisions were tasked with evaluating their achievements against predetermined targets, while PMT members provided guidance on metrics and indicators for the upcoming year, 2024.



PMT Chairperson and Reference Division Chief Dolores D. Carungui, with Filipiniana Division Asst. Chief Maricel Diaz and Chief Susan Fetalco.

One notable addition to this year's assessment was the introduction of the Online Accomplishment Report Form for 2024, presented by Ms. Maricris Abancia, Information Technology Officer I of the Information Technology Division. This innovative tool facilitated the preparation, submission, and consolidation of divisional reports encompassing aspects such as library material acquisition, utilization, the number of library users served, materials and pages digitized, as well as preservation and

conservation efforts.

Nine divisions, along with the Office of the Directors, actively participated in the assessment. Each division was afforded the opportunity to address concerns pertaining to their respective targets and accomplishments, fostering open dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders.



Ms. Jennifer Dimasaca, Bibliographic Services Division Chief and PMT Member, facilitates discussion during the year-end assessment meeting.

The PMT Chairperson emphasized the significance of this assessment not only in evaluating past performance but also in disseminating important initiatives aimed at enhancing the performance management framework of the NLP. Activities initiated by the PMT, including policy and guideline reviews, were highlighted as essential components to furthering organizational effectiveness.

This year-end assessment underscores the NLP's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in service delivery. By fostering a culture of accountability and transparency, the institution aims to uphold its mandate of providing quality library services to the Filipino public.