1974 DHRRAW Workshop
Swanganiwas, Thailand
CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE

Proceedings of the 2004 DHRRAW Workshop

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"After 30 years, we can clearly see that our family is expanding and the movement is getting stronger. As you look around, you can see old and new faces but all united in one spirit."  Soetrisno Kusumohadi

Allow us to humbly share in this documentation of the 30th Anniversary Workshop on Human Resources in Rural Asia (DHRRAW) the rich discussion and the deep sharing of thoughts and wisdom from the pioneers, members, friends and partners who warmly and generously participated in the three day celebration of friendship and solidarity. It was indeed a meaningful dialogue of life.

We hope this publication will help us recall our gains as we read through the sharing on the milestones and good practices. May we be all challenged to participate in our own creative ways in finding solutions to the continuing issues and concerns articulated during the discussions. And, may the smiles and laughter captured in the gallery of pictures give warmth in our hearts and inspire us to move forward.

On behalf of the DHRRA family, we offer our sincere appreciation to the PhilDHRRA Members and Staff led by the national coordinator, Mr. Ange Belangel, for being the gracious host and for the inspired event management services they provided, the DAP Staff for the assistance in setting up the venue; Jaybee Garganera for facilitating the workshops, Garrie David for the beautiful photos; the artists and creatives for designing the conference hall and exhibits; Dulce Carandang-Simmanivong, Bernie Galang, and Mac Jusayan, the tireless Documentation Team; the Resource Speakers for the meaningful sharing, the dedicated AsiaDHRRA Secretariat and the core DHRRA Pioneers who encouraged and inspired us to hold this event.

Marlene Ramirez
Secretary General, AsiaDHRRA
It was not meant to be a prediction even though it sounded like one. The late Fr. Dijkstra, founder and beloved father of the DHRRA family, knew what he was talking about. He was confident that the sharing efforts and community building made by more than a hundred development practitioners from Asia and Pacific in August 1974 will not go for naught but would be sustained. So, three decades after the “open-ended affair” begun, the dialogue goes on. The contexts may be different, the challenges may have evolved but the cultural processes identified by Dr. Antonio Ledesma, another dear founder, remain near to the heart of the DHRRAs – musyawarah (mutual dialogue), mufakat (consensus), and gotong royong (mutual cooperation).

Summoned by the Gongs

Day 1: 10 August 2004

“… DHRRAW jušt could not be a finished affair. This dialogue marked only the beginning of a continuous process. We did not meet a dead-end in DHRRAW, but came face to face with an ‘open-ended’ affair.”

John Dijkstra, S.J., 1974 DHRRAW Report

Invitations were sent out on June 2004 but most of the DHRRAs have been fully aware of the forthcoming 30th year DHRRAW anniversary celebration a full year ahead of the actual event. One hundred and thirty development professionals from ten Asian countries answered the call and gathered in Tagaytay City in the Philippines from August 10 to 14, 2004. Fully aware of the lingering vibrant spirit of the 1974 DHRRAW, the 2004 DHRRAW participants felt blessed by the presence of some of the founders who were there during the fateful three-week workshop that planted the seeds of the network.
Day 1 of the 2004 DHRRRAW started at 9:00 am with an opening ritual spearheaded by friends from CHAKRA. The rhythmic sound of gongs reverberated all over the cavernous main hall of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), venue of the workshop. It was a call to assemble and come together. Inspired by various ethnic Filipino traditions and practices, the participants, guests and staff participated in a ritual that was rich in symbols of unity, light, sharing, and respect for mother earth and each other. Calling on the blessings and guidance of the Almighty and dear departed DHRRRA family members, the participants embarked on a journey that started thirty years ago.

The Meeting of Generations

After the opening rituals, Mr. Jesus Vicente (Jaybee) Garganera of the PhilDHRRRA secretariat introduced himself as the lead anchor for the 2004 DHRRRAW program. He then called on the panel of speakers to sit in front to start the session.

First to speak was Mr. Jose Ricardo (Chaco) Molina, PhilDHRRRA Chairperson. In his welcome remarks, Chaco shared three basic ideas that anchored his speech. These notions are partnerships, change, and the human person. According to him, the partnership such as seen among the DHRRAs is set apart because of the special bonds present and very much alive. He cited how relationships, linkages and partnerships are formed and maintained as key to the DHRRRA success story. As for the idea of change, Chaco encouraged the DHRRAs to fulfill their mandates as change agents in their respective societies given their own social context. Finally, he invoked the human person as the center of genuine sustainable development.

Next to give a welcome remark was Mr. Soetrisno Kusumohadi, AsiaDHRRRA Chairperson. He welcomed all participants and guests to the 30th anniversary conference. He expressed pride regarding the growth of the DHRRRA family and the expansion of the movement. There may be “new” and “old” faces among the group, but according to him there is one and united spirit pervading. Calling the event a historic celebration of friendship...
and fellowship, Soetrisno thanked everybody for being present and asked that the days be marked with thanksgiving and joy.

Mr. Antonio (Tony) Ledesma, DHRRA Founding Leader, was then called on to give his own opening remarks. Dr. Tony started his speech by explaining that as a “matanda” (the Filipino word for old), he is also “matandain” (“one who remembers”). He thus shared various memories of the old days of CenDHRRA and the people involved in the growth of the DHRRAs.

He singled out the late Fr. John Dijkstra, S.J. who inspired the whole DHRRA movement and provided the much-needed boost and inspiration during trying times. Calling the present-day DHRRA movement a mighty tree that has grown from a humble seed, Dr. Tony explained that AsiaDHRRA now is a dream turned into reality. The dream is that of people of different countries, cultures, languages, and religious beliefs gather in a circle of dialogue, forging a family that is one.

On hand to give the keynote speeches were two prominent NGO personalities who are now occupying major Cabinet positions in the Arroyo Government. Both women’s histories were also highly intertwined with the DHRRA evolution.

Hon. Corazon Juliano-Soliman is currently the Secretary for Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD). She was a pioneer of the PhilDHRRA network and served as its Chairperson from 1988 to 1990. Secretary Soliman echoed the conference objectives when she posed questions on how far the DHRRAs have gone in meeting their development objectives and how each can learn from the other. As one familiar with the DHRRAs, being part of its history and growth especially in the Philippines, she shared how significant gains have been made even though the serious problem of poverty still pervades in most Asian societies. In
as much as gains are made, Secretary Soliman also expounded on the current challenges facing both NGOs and governments in Asia.

These challenges range from the economic to the political but in the evolving context of globalization and social movements. She ended her speech by citing how adaptation and growing with the times have aided the DHRRAs in making a significant difference in the lives of the rural communities they work with.

After Secretary Soliman’s speech, the plenary listened to Hon. Teresita Quintos-Deles. She is the present Secretary and Adviser to the Peace Process which under the Office of the President.

Just like Secretary Soliman, Secretary Deles shared her experiences during the early days of CenDHRRA. Now that she has crossed-over from civil society to government, insights from the experience are plentiful according to her.

Secretary Deles then anchored her speech on peace as the basis of partnership and solidarity building. She cited the significant role of NGOs in peace building especially in the light of solidarity issues that cut across the different pervading conflicts. Taking inspiration from UNDP’s exhortation on tapping culture as a force for healing and transformation, Secretary Deles explained the development objectives have focused too much on matters of politics and economics while neglecting psychology, culture and ethics. She encouraged the DHRRAs to take part in rebuilding inner lives and structures while still engaging in political and economic transformation.
A View of the Journey and the Road Ahead

Before the morning session break, Mr. Cezar (Ange) Belangel, PhilDHRRAs National Coordinator, formally announced the opening of the exhibit at the back of the conference hall. He explained that it is made up of pictures some of which came from CenDHRRAs rich library collection. An invitation to all was given to peruse and go over the pictures documenting the DHRRAs 30-year journey.

After the morning break, the one hundred and thirty (130) participants, guests and conference secretariat members were introduced in batches according to countries and affiliations. Special mention and recognition were given to the ten (10) 1974 DHRRRAW participants who attended the anniversary conference. The complete list of the 2004 DHRRRAW participants, secretariat, and guests can be found in Annex 1.

To guide the participants regarding the program for the next few days, Ms. Marlene Ramirez, AsiaDHRRAs Secretary General, gave a brief orientation of the program framework and flow. She mentioned that the 30th DHRRRAW was dovetailed to the 5th General Assembly of AsiaDHRRRA.

The discussions and exchanges during the DHRRRAW shall be an important input for the network to define its direction. After the program orientation, the plenary was informed that the afternoon session would start at 2:00 pm. The group then had its lunch break.
Looking Back: The DHRRA Milestones

Each member DHRRA had the opportunity to present its own milestones as an organization. The full text of each DHRRA report can be found in AsiaDHRRA’s special publication for the anniversary entitled “Three Decades of Nurturing Partnerships, Solidarity Building, and Working with Asian Rural Communities.” To conclude the presentations on the DHRRA milestones, Jaybee presented a synthesis of the reports that the documentation team prepared. After the synthesis, an open forum cum sharing was held.

Re the DHRRA logo, Dr. Tony explained that it is a representation of three faces (of men and women) in side view, engaged in a dialogue. Viewing it from the front, it looks like a farmer wearing a hat. He called the logo a very rural logo.

Next to share was Sister Eva who congratulated Dr. Tony and Dr. Angelita for their work. According to her, the couple has served as inspiring figures in her work with the poor. She also shared that working with the poor is a divine task towards building God’s kingdom of love and mercy. Ms. Carmen (Meng) Cabato of ASI shared that while listening to the DHRRA milestones, she felt that she joined their journeys too. She likened the experience with carrying different bags with different weight and contents. She said upon reaching the destination, different levels of success were attained and challenges still abound. Sharing the hope of Mr. Deepak

Synthesis of DHRRA Milestone

DHRRRA formation and development

• Network formation among NGOs: Establishment of NGO fora, creation of a network among local NGOs, facilitate the formation of a network of COs, alliance/federation formation among farmers and fisher folk organizations and self-help groups
• Networking among individuals and volunteers: rendering of services by professionals committed to rural development
• Spirit behind the DHRRA organizing process: building on the gains of 1974 DHRRRAW; need to strengthen local NGO solidarity and capacities; changing local context prompting network building
• Linking of old circles and new circles: pioneers sharing and engaging the new generation in the dialogue of life thus passing on the spirit of 1974 DHRRRAW

Strategies and approaches adopted

• A myriad of strategies: dialogue of life, shift from antagonistic relationship with government to critical collaboration, SIAD, volunteerism, active cooperation with government and government-supported/organized POs
• Approaches: CD to CO, support service approach to issue advocacy approach, set up of pilot/demonstration areas

Tackling the problem of rural poverty: what’s been done on the ground

• Implementation of programs and projects towards building self-reliant communities and POs
Tamang from SEARCH, Meng exhorted the DHRRAs to metamorphose into butterflies.

Ms. Rachel Polestico of SEARSOLIN explained that their institution have witnessed the development of many DHARRA leaders especially since Fr. Dijkstra sent a lot during his days in Indonesia. She shared a different meaning to DHRRRA – development of human resources in rich areas. Using “rich” means rich in capacity, spirituality, etc.

Last but not the least, Mr. Bambang Ismawan shared the early days preparing for the 1974 DHRRRAW. He also explained that InDHRRRA’s local name, Bina Desa, connotes networking. He said that the then small seed is now a big tree and full of the energy present in good relationships.

After the sharing, Jaybee called it a day. He asked that a big round of applause be given especially for Dr. Tony who was constantly mentioned as a source of inspiration.

Later that night, PhilDHRRRA and AsiaDHRRRA prepared a warm and fun-filled welcome reception. A well-known local musical artist, Mr. Joey Ayala, shared some socially significant song numbers while staff members of PhilDHRRRA showcased their talents and commitment to being a gracious host. Some of the participants gamely joined the program when called upon.
At 8:37 am, Jaybee led the whole group in a moment of praise and thanksgiving. After this, a recapitulation of the previous day’s highlights followed. Before going on to the next session, the participants were asked to share some of their significant reflections given the previous day’s sessions.

To start off, Rev. Kya Mu shared that he is very much encouraged by the spirit of sharing among the DHRRA members. Bambang on the other hand cited the importance of stories and suggested that these are collected from the DHRRA families. He explained that in the stories shared, there is spirit in itself. Mr. Francis Wahono agreed on the point of the stories of life. He also said that each country has its own language but there is a way to overcome the barrier. He observed that participants are seated per country and there is a need to mix up. Francis also highlighted that in the spirit of participation there is need to share in the burden of conference management.

Sister Eva cited the strong feeling of sense of belonging of everyone to the DHRRA family and looks forward to sharing the same vision and mission – to develop our people, develop integrity and being united. Mr. George Chiou on the other hand shared that he was astonished by the country report from Vietnam especially on the aspect of rice exporting and organic rice packaging. He said that it is so expensive in Taiwan because of production costs and equally important is the brand and quality.
Ms. Napasri (Nana) Maneewong focused on her impression about Dr. Tony and his high spirit. She shared that the group gained more energy and inspiration from him since yesterday especially every time he gives comments and shared stories. She also said she is impressed by the secretariat team and how there is unity of the DHRRA. On his part, Deepak focused on the spirit of humility. He said that in many gatherings, people try to pretend more than what they are not.

Ms. Ruth Montojo shared that this is her first time to attend an AsiaDHRRA gathering. She took note that 30 years ago, people came together and some of them have come for this reunion. She said she is deeply impressed by the 30 years of work with rural farmers and will share this experience to colleagues. Mr. Duong Anh Tuyen shared that the Vietnam group is impressed with the different efforts on poverty alleviation and food security.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sengpaseuth Simmanivong said it seems very easy to be a DHRRA member and the reports will serve as a guideline for Laos to be a member of the DHRRA family. Lastly, Ms. Josie Fernandez remarked that the entertainment last night was good and it was a great opportunity for fellowship. Jaybee thanked everybody for their sharing and remarked that AsiaDHRRA is indeed a family more than anything else.

Regional DHRRA Network Milestones

After yesterday’s presentation of national DHRRA milestones, the next session focused on the significant events and accomplishments of the regional level networks, CenDHRRA and AsiaDHRRA. The details of the milestones can be found in AsiaDHRRA’s publication “Three Decades of Nurturing Partnerships, Solidarity Building, and Working with Asian Rural Communities.”

The milestones presentation was divided into four parts according to the era and its dominant themes. The CenDHRRA presentation was done by Dr. Tony while that of AsiaDHRRA was divided into three parts and presented by the past and incumbent Chairpersons.
By Dr. Tony Ledesma

Dr. Tony shared the beginnings of the DHRRA movement through the retelling of how his and Dr. Angelita’s lives were drastically changed because of Fr. Dijkstra’s challenge. He also narrated how in August 1974, a workshop in Thailand planted the seed of the DHRRA movement. Citing names unheard of to some but eliciting fond memories from those who were present in 1974, Dr. Tony traced the work of CENDHRRA as it performed secretariat roles for the budding DHRRA movement. He also shared stories related to the formation of national DHRRAs whose births were outcomes of the DHRRAW participants’ need to continue and foster the dialogue.

By Mr. Djoko Aminoto

Focusing on the second stage of the DHRRA’s evolution, Djoko shared that in 1994, CENDHRRA expressed its plan to become a resource center. Because of this, it needed to clear itself of its DHRRA secretariat functions to focus on its new directions and thrusts. After a crucial membership assembly, the DHRRAs decided to form AsiaDHRRA and elected a Standing Board for its governance. The secretariat was then based in Jakarta. During this period, AsiaDHRRA still pursued the process of musyawarah through programs like exchanges and dialogues among the DHRRAs.
By Mr. Guillermo Cua

A strategic planning workshop in 1998 started the process of redefining AsiaDHRRA’s directions given the changes in the context in Asia. Gil explained the four-point strategy as approved by the General Assembly (GA) and how these were translated into clear programs and actions. He also shared that the GA gave its mandate to a new leadership and the secretariat office was then transferred to Manila. It was during this period that growth and changes in membership and programs happened along with the formation of an alliance among Asian farmers’ organizations.

By Mr. Soetrisno Kusumohadi

Building on the gains earlier made, AsiaDHRRA in this period is still guided by the same albeit redefined strategies. Soetrisno shared the proactive partnership expansion in the Mekong region. He also highlighted the network’s two new programs on leadership and capacity building for Asian farmers. Looking to strengthen its constituency, the network also laid the groundwork for a recognition-giving activity in the south east Asian region. For excerpts and copies of the speeches, see Annex 2.

To conclude the milestone presentation, a video production was shown. It gave an overview of the three decades of the DHRRA movement and featured Dr. Tony and Dr. Angelita who shared many of the stories.
Human Resource Development in Rural Asia

Marlene introduced the next speaker, Ms. Josie Fernandez, an HRD Consultant, who tackled the topic Human Resource Development in Rural Asia. Josie introduced herself as a Malaysian of Indian descent, possessing a Portuguese-Spanish name. This she used to describe rural Asia and the work to be done - diverse and vast.

Josie started her presentation with the analyses of the situation in rural Asia and of the prevailing HRD concepts and practices. Given these two, she shared the negative implications on the lives of the rural population in Asia. She cited the need for a serious paradigm shift especially in terms of HRD strategies. This however must be done in the context of a new definition and understanding of HRD. She also recommended the need to develop a holistic regional policy and blueprint for human resource development for Rural Asia by 2005. An open forum then followed Josie’s presentation.

Deepak shared that these days when we talk of globalization, we discuss of clichés and that we usually demonize the USA. It however also suffered from globalization. He further explained that we keep comparing our countries with America – better pay, more intelligent. We have to be proud of ourselves. We must love our system, be proud of our culture. Start with the politicians. Josie responded that she tried very hard not to talk of these clichés but we understand these better because we come from different countries. She also said that we need to look at our own structures and a multiple approach is very important.

Next, Mr. Syaiful Bahari talked about neo-liberalization being more concrete. He said that the basic problem of rural areas since the 80’s up to now is democracy and that many people believe that it will bring better life conditions. But according to him, this is contrary to reality wherein a real and substantive democracy is still needed. For him, musyawarah is the real and genuine democracy and it is our challenge how to elaborate it
as the basis of democracy for Asian countries. In response, Josie explained that many of our democracies are fragile and that there is a lot of violation of human rights. She said that there was no intention on her part to give a model of ideal democracy but only to provoke further discussion. According to her, as NGO leaders, part of the work is to discuss different kinds of political changes needed to include in our activism.

Lastly, Francis shared that he thinks the term HR is for mainstream economists and that critical economist like himself understand it as equivalent to capital resources, a factor of production. In the presentation however, it was looked at the community as focal of HR and this leads to the question why we use the term HR? This seems more distant. After 30 years of InHDRRA, Francis said there is still the homework of defining the “HR” in the DHRRA name. Agreeing with him, Josie clarified that she used the term HR because it was the title given to her but that she also has the same concerns and questions.

After the short question-and-answer session, Jaybee made some administrative announcements and then called for a break. Lunch break followed then.

**Rural Development “Good Practices”**

At 2:20 pm, the plenary group was given an orientation on the first workshop. Jaybee guided the group in understanding the following: the workshop objectives, flow, process, guide/focus questions, templates for reporting, schedule, room assignment and the support staff to assist each group.

There were four groups and each had a presenter focusing on a specific theme:

- PhilDHRRRA: Sustainable Integrated Area Development
- InDHRRRA: Grassroots Organizing and Networking
The workshop was from 2:50 to 5:45 pm. After each group wrapped up their discussions, the plenary adjourned for the reports. Please check Annex 3 for the workshop outputs and reports.

Jaybee concluded the day’s session with a reminder about the Gala Night and its program.

The Gala Night was designated as the opportunity to give recognition and thanks to significant individuals and institutions that made valuable contributions to the growth and development of the DHRRA family. After a cultural presentation from the Tagaytay Tourism Office Cultural Dance Troupe, the Testimonial Program started and was anchored by Marlene and Mr. Bosco Lee. Given awards that night were Rev. Fr. John Dijkstra SJ (posthumous), Dr. Antonio Ledesma, Dr. Angelita Ledesma, Ms. Evelyn Deles, and the JCEAC. The network also recognized partners in development.

A fellowship dinner followed the program. Also, Marlene shared AsiaDHRRA’s fund raising campaign to everybody by going over the key campaigns to be launched soon.
The 3rd and final day of the conference started with Dr. Yoshikuni Yatani leading the group in a simple body exercise for two minutes. After a recap of yesterday’s highlight, Jaybee once again asked the group for their significant reflection and insights from previous day’s sessions. First, Deepak shared his frustration about his inability to answer the question what is the soul of AsiaDHRRRA. He said that there is a new road and things have changed and that many new important issues have cropped up—HIV/AIDS, people we need to share and care, and others. He asked about what to do with the huge burgeoning population, insurgency, and the critical issues that need to be taken aside from the old things that we have been used to do. To Deepak’s comments, Sr. Eva said she wanted to complement his statements. She said we journey on together to give something to life, bring peace. She asked what is it that we are after and that this is the question that she is posing to herself and also to everybody. Jaybee joined by saying maybe the afternoon session can help answer the questions.

Meanwhile, Rachel shared some of her reflections on the blueprint for rural development. She agreed that is an important question - what our end goal is, what we want to achieve. Rachel said maybe what came out in the workshops were values transformation, education and training at the grassroots, mobilizing of resources, and a lot more that impact to rural communities. She shared that we cannot do it alone and need to involve other sectors, put special emphasis on indigenous, women. She gave the example of Vietnam’s experiences on partnership building as a well of experience to learn from.
Jaybee also shared his personal reaction that our role as NGO is to always push the envelope, redefining things to empower people. Unlike 30 years ago when the leaders and pioneers had the time to discuss and reflect not only on the theory but most so with the soul of the work, now we have become victims of the efficiency and effectiveness.

Ms. Tess Fernandez shared her reflections while listening to the reports yesterday. She asked the group when we say development of human resources in rural areas, what exactly do we mean by that? She asked for common guideposts that we could work around on and define certain parameters.

Jaybee thanked those who shared their insights and reflections. He then proceeded to orient everybody with the next session.

**The UN Millennium Development Goals**

The presentation on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was made by Ms. Marivic Raquiza, a Co-convenor of the MDG Social Watch. She explained that more than a hundred countries adopted the Millennium Declaration in September 2000. The declaration contains a set of mutually reinforcing goals that the governments committed to achieve by the year 2015. It has eight specific goals:

- eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
- achieve universal primary education
- promote gender equality
- reduce child mortality
- improve maternal health
- combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- ensure environmental sustainability
- develop a global partnership for development
During Marivic’s presentation, she noted down many of the limitations and challenges vis-à-vis each development goal. She explained that the declaration is actually a watered-down version of earlier commitments made by the different governments.

After the presentation on the MDGs, four members of a panel then shared their organization’s views and recommendations. Here are the highlights of their sharing.

Ms. Joy Chavez, Focus on the Global South explained that MDG sidelines the important issue of human rights. One of the very 1st covenants that UN had was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Most of the things we need to say and address are already contained in there. It is by far a more radical articulation of human rights of all people in the world. It was however chopped down hoping that it would get us to where we want to go. Unfortunately it came out too narrowly. The MDGs do not address poverty and too narrowly in terms of scope and direction. The ways of addressing poverty and hunger are reduced to numerical targets. Unfortunately, the amount of money that we have or being generated worldwide does not correspond to the amount of money that we hold individually. Specific measures do not identify distribution. Targets are not apparent, even implied. There is no reckoning, no assignment of responsibility, no demanding of accountability for past actions. These goals have been articulated earlier on and the initial timeline was 2000. There was no reflection what happened in the past targets.

To end in a more positive note, she said that there are spaces for civil society action. First, civil society can help in defining poverty. It can also help in creating political space necessary to pursue the MDGs. The MDGs can be made into guideposts in advocacy with governments and international organizations. It also presents opportunity to work with the poor especially in terms of projects and programs. The challenges include the technical aspect of monitoring. Another challenge is the absorption of the goals – with the number of goals, how many and which one and who to engage. Last, there is a need to track the comprehensive targets and goals.
Ms. Daphne Villanueva, SEACA shared that what MDG would possibly do is look at pockets of poverty. There is big danger because the measurements of poverty are reduced to goals and indicators. Seemingly, achievements in goal 1 are probable but the problem of achieving it is obvious with huge disparity. The report of Cambodia showed high per capita but then it also shows there is growing disparity in incomes. Often the trend in countries is there is growth but income distribution disparity is high. $1/day is not a sufficient measure. People are deprived of access to common resources. There are other measures that are not shown that are maybe in the data that we have.

CSOs can work on hidden pockets of poverty, show real pictures of poverty on the ground and temper some aggregations at the national and international. We will be more effective in doing this because we see this in our everyday work. NGOs can augment data and information on poverty situation in relation to the MDG goals.

Mr. Heru Wardoyo, AFA Chairperson, sharing his reflection on the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Mr. Tri Heru Wardoyo, AFA. explained that he lives in Sumatra, near Ache where there is conflict and many people evacuated. He maintains a nursery and sell seedlings to other farmers. He said he understands that UN has been waging war against poverty since the ‘70sa and that it is good to know that UN member nations have not given up until now the fight against poverty. However, he asked what has happened in reality? For him, poverty is still growing and the living conditions of many small farmers, fishers, indigenous people, and women are miserable. He asked why are we poor? Poor accessibility. Most roads in rural areas are very poor and farmers cannot bring their products faster to the market. Many farmers plant palm oil in Indonesia. Monocrop is practiced because it is the trend in the international market. Come harvest, the product commands low price. Does the UN’s MDG address why farmers, fishers and indigenous people are poor? Can it help alleviate poverty by 2015? Can it protect the right of IPs? To end, Heru said he appreciated the MDGs but he is not sure whether it will solve poverty.
Mr. Roel Ravanera, AJPN pointed out that Asia has more poor people than Africa. 3 out of 4 poor people live in Asia. Poverty in Asia or in the world has a rural character. Many poor people live in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for livelihood. The logical conclusion then is to focus on farmers and fishers. There is inequality between developed and underdeveloped countries.

There are significant NGO initiatives on poverty reduction and empowerment of rural communities. This is the area where successes of the civil society will lie. An open forum followed after the panel reactors’ inputs.

Syaiful focused on 2 main comments. The first is that development in the world needs to have a human face because the one we often see is an inhuman face - monopolies, domination, political hegemony, driven by MNCs and industrialized countries. The MDGs should include a human face while also being a part of the big economic player. He also mentioned he cannot imagine how goals will be realized with privatization and globalization in his own country where the state removed subsidies for health, family planning, etc. The second point is that the MDG is a setback compared to development program of the ‘50s to ‘60s. That time agrarian reform was looked at as a basic solution to poverty. There is a need to reflect and correct the ideology behind current development programs. Syaiful cited the need to restructure access to resources, production and marketing, and the power relationship between industrialized countries and underdeveloped countries.

Daphne agreed that the MDGs hide a lot of the structural reasons for unequal development and poverty all around. She said it would not change much our work. 187 heads of state signed the MDGs and it then created for us a new platform under which we can lobby and expose structural things that were mentioned. There is a need to get people together and critically look at the MDGs and see to it that there is adherence to it by countries. There needs to be an open space for us to bring in arguments.
Joy’s rejoinder to the discussion was that during colonization period, there was a process of pacification and accommodation. And then there was the legitimacy question – ADB, WB - have not done what they are supposed to do. According to her there was a development decade during the ‘70s, then structural adjustment in the ‘80s, then poverty reduction in ‘90s. Finally there are the MDGs in 2000s. She said don’t be surprised that there are two faces because the stage is occupied by the same actors. She ended by stating the need to challenge hegemony.

Deepak shared his earlier feelings that UN was a toothless tiger. After some years, he realized the power center is not UN. NGOs become fed up with UN declarations so we go straight to the people and wonder where to start. According to him, the best help is self-help and in the process we can work on not the concern of UN but the area of influence that we can have.

Mr. Bernie Aragosa also shared his own insights. According to him, the goal of poverty eradication is good but there is a need to change the framework. He said there is a need to look into the non-material roots of poverty – human greed and consciousness. He cited the need to tap into the goodness of humankind. In each local culture it is seen like in the “bayanihan” spirit in the Philippines wherein community members help each other.

Meanwhile, Dr. John Ferchak said that the MDG fail to address problems facing the 21st century. For example, population is one. It is expected to rise to 10 billion and this will interfere with the development efforts we are doing. In China, they used a one-child policy and the objective is to stabilize the population down to 700 million. There was a very serious change in policy. Second, there is global warming, fossil fuel, etc and working on alternative fuel, biomass fuel is increasingly important. This is a foreseen crisis and sure enough there is Iraq. Targets need to be set to address global warming. And 3rd, there is biodiversity. We are destroying the very resources that support us. These concerns are not addressed by the MDGs.
Dr. Tony on his part said that in the political world, we have the coalition of the willing, a group of naïve development groups who are rushing towards a war that is unjust because that is the war against the poor. For him, one of the weapons of injustice is to trap, to confine, to imprison the development world within the framework of the developing world. We must break out, otherwise we will not be in control of our future. Someone said, 20 years from now, we’ll still be in the pit of poverty without being able to climb up. He once heard a formula that includes the formula of spirituality and connected this with a new coalition, a countervailing one to oppose the coalition of willing controlled by developed world.

We must take the first step away from globalization. He said we could do this if we really believe in the values of our countries. In globalization our values are homogenized, flattened out and values of the west dominate. We must break out, assert our individuality and dignity. We must become nationalists. Filipinos must no longer count up to international standards. We must tighten our belt. We have it in our culture. We are rich in nationalist values which we have forgotten and thrown away because of the bright lights. Can the Japanese lead us?

According to Dr. Tony, there is a need to create a new framework not siphoned by the UN. Before they were following UN paths at CENDHRRA but now have entered into a new era. We have forgotten values. These values cannot be found in the elites, in the powerful – commercially and politically powerful. These can be found where we are supposed to be – with the poor. He encouraged everybody to search and give them prominence.

Rachel shared the idea of the MDGs as minimum development goals since it seems all agree that there should be a lot more. It should be the MDGs plus in our work and this will be the NGO’s contribution especially in the context of AsiaDHRRA and CenDHRRA. She also cited what are we working on, how we measure our work – the impact points. According to Rachel, many countries agreed upon the MDGs, so how
come the goals are less than what we are supposed to do? She also said there ought to be goals 9 and 10 on corruption and peace building. We are spending a lot on war. $54 B a year to achieve the targets but countries are so resistant in contributing. She concluded that it is easy to join coalition of the willing.

Tess on the other hand cited that development focused on GNP and asked what about GNH which stands for Gross National Happiness and focuses on relationships. For her, if one is not responsible for one’s own actions, how can there be development? For example, she cited the family planning efforts. There is tremendous increase in population.

If we don’t take a look at the other dimension of development, we’ll be reduced to counting numbers. We have to be responsible for the number of children we produce. This is a responsibility also of per capita - both responsible for resource per capita and the number of children one raises on this earth.

Sr. Eva shared that before the session, she asked about end goals. According to her, in all our programs, where there was no good foundation on values and spiritual foundation, no good direction. It should be founded on scriptures.

As a rejoinder, Marivic said that it is easy to be co-opted by the beauty of the MDG’s vision. Nelson Mandela noted the failure that has happened in the ‘90s – the decade of many broken promises. She said if we do not critically engage we will be apolitical. We can monitor the goals and promises made even though the goals are watered down. Other goals in other conferences did not find its reflections in the MDGs. Many women’s groups are quite unhappy that a lot of the goals in the population conferences are not reflected. Look at the MDG as minimum instead of millennium. She also agreed that UN is certainly not a power center. In the last two decades, the US played a major role in shaping the global economy and politics. The space for multilateral discussion is decreasing and unilateral decisions emanating from the US increases.
To end the discussion, Dr. Tony said he is against any accommodation in the MDGs. According to him, they always say in the UN, “your comment has been noted” followed by a bang of the gavel.

Jaybee thanked everybody for the interesting the discussion and exchange. He also expressed the group’s gratitude to the speaker and members of the panel. As tokens of gratitude, AsiaDHRRA presented them with gifts. The open forum ended at 12:40 pm and the group had lunch.

**Building Our Roadmap Ahead**

At the start of the afternoon session, Jaybee presented the workshop guidelines and reporting framework. This however was revised by the group in the context of its earlier discussion and sentiments leaning towards non-accommodation with the MDGs. The group then proposed and approved an alternative guide question for the planning. The new guide questions are: Based on our country experiences, how can we transform AsiaDHRRA to carry our voices and bring it at the international level? What insights and lessons can we put forward to AsiaDHRRA to guide in defining the direction of the network?

There were four main workshop groups: Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines), North (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan), Mekong (Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Nepal), and Regional Groupings (ASI, AWCF, SEARSOLIN, AJPN, ANGOC, SEACA, Asia Caucus). After the workshop process, each group presented its report. For the full text, please refer to Annex 4. An open forum and discussion followed after all the reports were presented.

Dr. Angelita first shared her question on culture. She asked what’s happening to humans especially with the massive labor migration, social costs and negative effects on families and communities. Later she also shared that in the early years of CenDHRRA, there was a very strong focus, a very keen awareness of self-reliance. They tried to promote self-reliance of rural communities – not the idea of rural poor living on their
own but the idea for rural communities to go as far as they could. Globalization however came in much faster. She said there were small movements and asked if an economy that is not based on oil could be had? She shared they grew up without cars, pharmaceuticals and had better lives. She clarified that she is not saying that we go back to primitive times but that we are not going anywhere either if we base our economy on oil.

Mr. Paul Sinappan on the other hand shared his recent experiences in Iran. He said that Friday is prayer day for Muslims: time to pray to Allah, have discussions with the community and later dialogue within the family. He cited these important practices and how it can be a key to finding Asia’s answer to the West’ WTO, IMF, etc.

Dr. Kim Chija shared that the north also has initiatives to share its resources. This is especially true for the northern group in the DHRRRA family where in initiatives on sharing on agricultural technology with other DHRRRAs have been done inspite of implementation challenges.

Mr. Sil Vineth on his part shared his concerns on the worsening situation in Cambodia wherein NGOs have a problematic relationship with the government while at the same time facing resource constraints. He also expressed that the Cambodian labor migration situation is worsening.

Paul shared the migrant worker’s situation in Malaysia where he said the government and labor agencies benefit from the migrant workers. At present time, some NGOs are helping migrant workers and now after much advocacy, some gains are being made. For example, Filipino domestics get higher pay because of a bilateral agreement between the Malaysian and Philippine governments. The meeting and organizing of these migrant workers will give them the voice so that they will be protected. The locals are also being targeted through education by focusing on the need to treat migrant workers with dignity. There are big problem with undocumented migrant workers because of their illegal status and most local advocates are experiencing harassment.
Last but not the least, Francis said that the issue of migrant workers in Asia is very urgent. He urged AsiaDHRRA to go beyond working as a secretariat but focus on advocacy. All of us wherever we come from, we say the same thing. The “north” of Asia includes Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and they employ migrant workers from Philippines, Indonesia, etc. We are brothers and sisters and need to talk about this issue.

To wrap up the forum, Jaybee asked Soetrisno on behalf of AsiaDHRRA for a response to the concerns and points that surfaced.

Soetrisno said that Dr. Tony urged us for some actions that need to be done. Voices elaborated into action. The discussion results reaffirm what AsiaDHRRA has done in the past and we feel we are in the right track. Concretely, the peasant agenda would be based on the experience of the people. He also said that the voices that we want to give to the authorities do not come from AsiaDHRRA but from the people. This is the kind of advocacy that AsiaDHRRA wants to do and with AFA, we will work together to strengthen the capacity of to do advocacy. Advocacy must involve many parties – start with a leadership dialogue like what we had last October. AsiaDHRRA is rooted in society and we try to listen and turn their problems into actions. We must strengthen our research for we should know what’s going on so things can be discussed.

Jaybee expressed his gratitude for the inputs from the group and then proceeded to the closing remarks.

**Closing the DHRRAW 2004**

As hosts, PhilDHRRRA National Coordinator, Ange, extended his gratitude to everybody for the presentations and sharing. He also thanked the secretariat – transport group, documentation – and the management of DAP for hosting us.
Meanwhile, Soetrisno, AsiaDHRRA Chairperson said thanks you and seconded Ange’s expression of gratitude to everybody for their attendance and participation to the anniversary conference of the 1974 DHRRAW.

Marlene, Secretary General said her heartfelt thanks to PhilDHRRA for accepting the challenged to host the 30th anniversary. She thanked Ange for the full support of the PhilDHRRA team. She explained that the preparation was quite heavy but there is so much excitement from everybody. He also cited the work done by the AsiaDHRRA secretariat.

Ms. Sally Ganibe expressed her gratitude as a guest and friend of AsiaDHRRA. She said congratulations are in order for the 30 years of experiences with good practices and good values. She said that AWCF’s roots can be traced from the DHRRA too and that we belong to one family as cousins, brothers and sisters. We need to build ourselves together by complementing each other to bring quality life to all Asians.

As one of the originals in the 1974 DHRRAW, Paul expressed his joy and hope for more opportunities to meet and know more people and share stories. He said he got to know some pioneers way back 1974 and some have passed away and so we pray for them. He also said they have kept the wheel moving and the center of wheel is emptiness and this is love. He thanked everybody for all the hard work done on this conference and cited that the challenge is how to pass this spirit to all our young people in Asia.
The final closing remarks came from Ms. Ryoko Tsuboi who represented the voice of the new generation in the DHRRA family. She shared a poem from Kenji Miyazawa who was a teacher in an agricultural school. She read:

**Not defeated by the rain**

*Kenji Miyazawa*

Not defeated by the rain  
Not defeated by the winds  
Not defeated by the snow or heat in summer  
Having a strong body that never defeated by all these

Having no greed  
Never get angry  
Always keep silent smile on the face

Eating 4 cups of brawn rice, Miso and little vegetables a day  
Never count myself in anything  
Well seeing, listening and understanding everything  
And never forget all these  
Staying in a hut thatched with reeds  
locating in the shade of a forest of pine tree in a field

If there is a sick child in the east,  
Go and care for it

If there is a tired mother in the west,  
Go and shoulder it’s bunch of rice straw
If there is a man who is near to death in the south,
   Go and tell the person
   “you don’t need to be frightened”

If there is a quarrel or lawsuit in the north,
   Go and tell them “Stop, it is futile”

Just shedding tears when I had a drought
Just helplessly walking around when I had cold summer

Being called “lump” (or “blockhead”) by people around me
   Never be praised
   but
   Never be a disturbance
Like that person is who I want to be

After reading the poem, Ryoko shared her thoughts that even before coming to the Philippines as volunteer, she felt many contradictions. She mentioned that being born in a very rich country, she has more than what she needs. When she read the poem however, it changed her life. She shared that as a member of the JaDHRRA successor generation, she will get to know others better and we can learn from each other - exchange globally, realize what we have and don’t have like living together. Seeing the many pioneers who started the DHRRA and the young people who continued, Ryoko said that she needs to open her mind and accumulate experiences and try to keep this precious network as a second successor generation.

Before the plenary took part in the formal closing ritual spearheaded by CHAKRA, Dr. Tony shared that in most Asian societies, the blessing of the oldest person must be given to the younger generation who is going to travel. He then gave everybody the blessings of Almighty God, Fr. Dijkstra, and others who have gone before us. He said that we belong to many religions - Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, of no religion. He said, “we bless you, we bless you who are old and young, you who come from afar and near. With the blessing comes our
love. The center of the wheel is love. We love because we have received your love. Thank you.

At 7:17 pm, the conference was formally ended to give way to the 5th AsiaDHRRA General Assembly the following day.

Some of the DHRRAW participants joined the field trip scheduled the next day. The one-day trip included a morning visit to a village in Naic, Cavite. This village is home to farmers using the SRI technology. After a formal welcome from the village leaders and mayor and governor’s representatives, the participants listened to the farmer’s sharing on the experiences related to the use of SRI. Afterwards, they visited one of the nearby farm sites. In the afternoon, the participants went to the office of IRRI in Los Baños, Laguna where they were briefed on the institute’s programs and technologies on sustainable rice production.

With the rich dialogue during the DHRRAW and the insights from the field visit, the 5th AsiaDHRRA General Assembly was opened at 9:00 in the morning August 14 with the theme: Enhancing our Capacity for Effective Partnership with Rural People by Harnessing Organizational Expertise and Nurturing Solidarity.
I. Pagtatawag ng mga Agung (summoning by the gongs)

The sound of gongs signals the invitation to the people to gather around the community circle. (Inspired by the use of gongs by the indigenous Filipinos to summon the community to its gatherings.)

*Ritual Facilitator (Script):*

This may be referred to as a modern Filipino ritual as it is composed of a mixture of symbolisms and religious-cultural elements coming from different sub-cultures in the Philippines, particularly the indigenous. It is, therefore, not associated to any one particular ethno-linguistic culture. Nevertheless, the essence of the Filipino ritual is what is sought to be expressed. It would not be surprising to find that some aspects of this ritual maybe similar to those of your own in your respective Asian country.

We begin the explanation with the altar centerpiece... *This is called the “Tambara”—used by the Manobos, pre-Islam indigenous peoples from the Mindanao region. It is a decorated bamboo pole with its two ends spread open to form two funnel-like openings. This represents a human being with arms stretched open outwards to the sky (to connect with heaven) and legs spread open rooted to the ground (to connect with the earth)—thus mediating the flow of energies between the material and spiritual world. It is usually where offerings are placed during rituals.*

The essential aspects of a Filipino ritual are the participatory expression, the intentions or prayers and the symbolic offerings...
II. Pagpapadyak sa Kalupaan (feet-stomping to connect with the Earth)

The indigenous Negritos in the Philippines, called the Aetas, begin their rituals by connecting with the Earth. They do this by crouching low and then stomping one foot to the ground. *Let us express our own connection to the earth, the land as one united community gathered together by stomping one foot to the ground four times. It is important to do this in a way that even if there are over 60 people in the circle, we should just be hearing only four stomps. 60 people stomping in unison means one whole solid community communing with the earth --the soil that which the farmer tills in order to harvest the bounty of nature, the bounty that feeds the people... (native drum rhythm plays on cue of the stomping..)*

Filipino indigenous spirituality is intertwined with ecology and our intimate relationship with nature. This is why our offerings often symbolize the different elements of nature...

We will be requesting some key people to lead the blessing of each symbolic offering.

III. Pag-aalay ng Apoy (offering of Light/Fire)

The chosen people will light the candle and place it on top of the Tambara ritual centerpiece. *Let this candle of light be our offering of fire. Let this symbolize the light that is within each of us. The spark of the divine within each of us that dispels darkness, doubt and fear. Let us be as bright as the light.*

*We invite each one to translate in your own language the affirmation, “Let me be the light.” Then in our hearts and in our minds, we silently repeat this to ourselves with reverence.*

IV. Pag-aalay sa Lupa (offering to the Earth)

Two chosen people distribute the rice grains & flowers to each one in the circle. *We now ask each one to take a flower and some palay/rice grains and hold these close to you in*
your hand throughout the rest of the ritual. Let the rice grains and flowers symbolize the fruits of the earth or the blessings from the soil.

V. Pag-aalay ng Katubigan (offering of water)

Opening of the wine and pouring to the ground.
It is also a practice in the Philippines that each time a bottle of wine is opened, the first drops of it is poured to the ground thereby offering it to the earth.

VI. Pahingalay sa Saloobin (meditation on one’s intention)

Silencing, meditation & centering the self (accompanied by the music of the tungali nose-flute)
In silent reverence, may we now ask each one to contemplate on a central intention, wish or a prayer that you wish to offer for the coming days in this special gathering. And let us represent this intention with the flower and rice grain we have in our hands…

And whenever anyone is ready, he/she may offer the flower and grains to the altar… and then kindly go back to your place in the community circle.

VII. Pag-aalay sa Hangin (offering to the wind)

Burning of incense
Finally, we now offer the incense to represent the element of wind or air. Let the wind carry our prayers, intentions, and wishes to the heavens…
VIII. Daupang-Palad (greeting of “oneness in mind and heart”)

Teaching an indigenous Filipino greeting

And now to close this ritual, may we teach you a Filipino greeting. Please find a partner beside you and follow our gesture… To help you remember you may intend to say, “we are one in mind and in heart.”

May we now ask each one to go around the room and greet as many people as you can, especially those who you don’t know yet.

(Segue to “Recessional” – musical accompaniment of gongs and kulintang as the people greet each other and then proceeding to their seats)
Fellow advocates and enablers of human resource development in rural areas, welcome to the city of Tagaytay, our second birthplace! Welcome to your, to our 30th DHRRAW!

We gather here today and for the following two days. To look back so as to better see what lies ahead; To listen to the truth of experience so that we may truly speak; To re-live the past so that many more can fully live in the future.

As I took some time over the weekend to look back at, listen to and re-live the first 30 years of AsiaDHRRRA, three notions took shape in my mind. Partnerships, Change and The human person. Yes partnerships, change and the human person.

**Partnerships**

For if something characterizes all of us, that is the partnerships, the relationships between, among and within our organizations.

Allow me to draw some lessons and parallelisms from the chemistry I studied in yester years and the relationships that we have built across time and space to help us all visualize this. Take the case of anthrax, coal and diamonds. If one were to examine what their constituent element is, the answer to all three would be carbon. Yet anthrax kills, coal burns and diamonds cut as well as make beautiful pieces of jewelry. What sets them apart is the type of chemical bonds that keep the atoms of carbon together.

The same may be said of the DHRRAS. It’s not that much of who we are individually [separately] but of how we relate to each other, how we establish linkages, how we develop networks,…
Change

I will now abandon my otherwise shallow recollections of chemistry to move into more familiar territory to all of us; change-agents and development management.

I shall illustrate my point with a parable that many of you might have heard of, yet i will repeat for, to my mind, it depicts what all dhrras are and should be

I’m speaking of the parable of the potato, the egg and the coffee bean

If we were to subject the aforementioned three (potatoes, eggs and coffee beans) to the same amount of pressure and temperature, the consequences would be entirely different. The hard potato would soften, the soft egg would harden, while the coffee bean would disolve yet in the process change the color, smell and taste of the water it’s boiling in.

In the same guise peoples and organizations may be subjected to the same societal circumstances, yet act and re-act in a different fashion. We know of hardened elements of society that like the potato eventually give up and we’ve also come across soft elements in society who harden themselves in the midst of difficult circumstances. I contend that the DHRRAs should, like coffee beans, be ready and willing to disolve themselves, offer themselves, immolate, but not without first leaving a dent, making a difference by changing the difficult circumstances and unjust structures they were in. In short, fulfilling their mandate as change agents.

And Finally The Human Person

A number of years ago, i had been asked to make a presentation on transition to democracy in south-western europe for an international forum and while i labored to put historical data and political analysis together, on the saturday evening prior to the meeting, my son alejendro –who was four years old then- had obviously other plans for me. He was determined to bring me out to the lawn and play soccer with him.
Hoping to buy some time I offered him a deal, which to my mind would easily give me an hour of intimacy with my personal computer and an opportunity to produce an output in line with what had been expected from me.

I took a map of the Asian continent, broke it down into about 40 amorphous pieces and told my son; “Alejandro, I’ll play with you as soon as you put this picture together.” He agreed. To my lament, my son was back, with his mission accomplished in less than 7 minutes! When I asked him how he managed to do so in such a short time – fully aware of the genetic limitations I had transmitted to him – he said:

“That’s simple,” Papa, “on the flip side of the map there was a picture of Argentine soccer legend Diego Armando Maradona” – the equivalent of today’s David Beckham or Ronaldo – “I put his face together and in the process completed the broken map you gave me.” What a powerful lesson, I thought!

Yes, indeed like in the case of the fractured Asian map I gave my son, true and sustainable development will only take root in our continent if the human being is at its center, if he/she is empowered.

**Partnerships, change and the human person, isn’t that what we’re all about?**

When I was awarded the honor to serve PhilDHRRRA as its chairperson, I knew very well that a variety of challenges would lie ahead of me, that opportunities would flourish before my very eyes, but no one told me that I would have the privilege to stand with and beside social development giants such as you, to welcome you to a place I hope you all call home, our nation; the Philippines.

For this I will always be grateful. Thank you and mabuhay!

**Chaco G.A. Molina**

*Chairperson, PhilDHRRRA*
To all fellow DHRRAs, honored guests and partners, Good morning.

On behalf of the DHRRRA family, I would like to welcome you to our 30th anniversary. We are indeed blessed to have each other in this historic event which is both a celebration of our friendship and fellowship.

After 30 years, we can clearly see that our family is expanding and the movement is getting stronger. As you look around, you can see old and new faces but all united in one spirit. As we treasure our pioneers and elder members of our family, we also open our hearts to welcome the new members and the younger generations of rural leaders.

We also welcome our guests and partners who have witnessed our struggle and trusted and supported our aspiration and development efforts. May the warmth of our friendship and the unity of our vision bring us closer and stronger as we face the new challenges ahead.

Thank you for the gift of your presence. I know that each one have traveled a long way just to celebrate and reunite with the DHRRRA family.

We recognize and appreciate and thank you for great efforts and hard work of PhilDHRRRA and AsiaDHRRRA’s secretariat to organize this gathering. Again we welcome each one. Let us then celebrate our 30th anniversary with much joy and thanksgiving. In solidarity let’s hold each one in our hearts as we continue our small steps in making our life and the lives of the rural people a little happier and fuller.

Let the celebration begin!

Soetrisno Kusumohadi
AsiaDHRRRA Chairperson
Do not worry, when you are as old as I am, 76 years old, you will have the chance to talk while sitting, as I am now.

I would not like to single out anybody because we are all brothers here.

I had prepared a talk, but after I saw old friends, I decided to tell you a story.

When I saw everybody in a circle, it reminded me of Fr. Dijkstra. He likes circle. To him, it is a good symbol. A circle was dear to him. He said it is very Asian to go around a circle. It would be wonderful if instead of being in this room, we are outside the skies and seated in a circle but I know that there is a typhoon coming.

I am already a matanda (Filipino word for old). But in the Philippines, being a matanda is to be matandain (Filipino word which means one who remembers). This means to remember, to have a memory of the past. This memory of the past will enrich the new generation’s present and guide them for their future.

I remember the first time I met Dijkstra. It was hard to see him because he was smoking. His room smelled awful. He asked us to join a pilgrimage to an unknown future. He loves circle because he loves dialogue. He loved talking to people not from a presidential table, but with the people. He was a master of musyawarah. Some of his acts of friendship were towards us. In a circle we tell stories. Sometimes around a campfire. And our stories live again the memories of the past. How I first walked solo to Central Java behind a motorcycle driven by a speedy man by the name of Soetrisno. I thought it was going to be my last ride. He was going to show me where the batik factories were.

I first met Kikuchi-san at the Asian Rural Institute, which reminded me of SEARSOLIN. I slept in a dormitory with a Japanese student. I was sound asleep until 12 midnight but was awakened by a stampede. The student said “Our pig is giving birth” and they needed to watch them to learn. It is nice to know that the generation is
going on. A new generation is cropping up in Laos, with Biki and Dulce producing a beautiful child, William. With Dodo and Marlene producing a new generation to a lovely girl named Kyra. Other stories can spill out.

I would like to tell a story of a pastor from Mindanao. Bishop Capalla, a promoter of peace and reconciliation. He taught me how to sacrifice for national reconciliation. Dinky will remember the talk he gave about the reconciliation to the cabinet of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

I also remember a little girl I first met at the funeral of her father. She took up counseling psychology and later became the director of NCRFW and the 8th president of PWU. I’m talking about Dr. Amelia Lourdes Benitez Reyes.

I also met a humble woman, a medical doctor who I first met in a clinic with many flies, mosquitoes and cockroaches. She was operating on a very shaky operating table with a kerosene lamp as light and a mosquito net to cover the patient without anesthesia and with very crude surgical equipment. She is Sister Eva Maamo, a medical surgeon. She is a winner of Ramon Magsaysay for community leadership.

I would like to tell you stories in a circle. We live out our lives in a circle, in a wheel. We forget sometimes that the wheel has a center. In Asian literature and history, the center of the wheel is vacant. It is empty. The Buddha meaning of emptiness is to be devoid of any materialistic cravings, to be free of greed, anger. In Islam the great prophet, Mohammed, meant the empty circle to deny himself, to give up for the sake of his people and his mission. In Christianity, the middle of circle of our life.

A person who emptied himself of all power, fame, the great Christ himself. And we will revolve around an empty circle. That is the meaning of CENDHRRA. Until now, it has not yet collapsed.

Thanks to the new generation. I believe that the next 30 years will even be greater than the first because of the power of that center. The power in that emptiness is great love, a silent love that cannot be dominated and monopolized by one culture, one religion, one race.
The love that the Buddha saw, Mohammed saw, Christ saw which is to be given to all. My brothers and sisters in the DHRRA family, the dream of Dijkstra 30 years ago, the love for those who are suffering and poor, is carried on by Sister Eva in her small clinic serving poor people. It is carried on in the countries that are represented here. The emptiness of wealth, power in each one of you will bring you to the DHRRA for the next 30 years.

Dr. Tony Ledesma

CENDHRRA
Three Decades of Nurturing Partnership and Social Development with Rural Communities

To our friends, to honor and recognize one of my many mentors, Dr Tony Ledesma whom I have journeyed for the last 30 years; Mr Soetrisno; my dear colleagues Ging, Chaco and Marlene, and those of you whom I met, whom I have crossed path with, and I would like to make special mention to Bishop Capalla; my warmest greetings to all of you.

It has been 30 years since the “First Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas Workshop” (DHRRRAW) was held in Swanganivas, Thailand in August 1974. From the DHRRRAW evolved the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (DHRRA) networking spirit and evolution of local DHRRAs in the region, giving rise to what is now known as the AsiaDHRRA: a network of 11 social development organizations in ten Asian countries.

I welcome all delegates to this beautiful city of Tagaytay, and I congratulate all of you on AsiaDHRRA’s 30th anniversary! I hope that you will enjoy your brief stay here in the Philippines, and I am sure that PhilDHRRA, the local host and co-organizer of this workshop, will ensure a very enjoyable and productive renewal of bonding among us development partners. I feel very much a part of history.

We have reached several milestones in our development work with the rural communities. Today, AsiaDHRRA gathers together some 100 partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Laos, Myanmar and Nepal – not only to celebrate these milestones, but to reflect on gains so far achieved in the light of new and emerging challenges to social development.

At the end of this seven-day workshop, we hope to draw a common roadmap towards sustainable rural development in the Asian region for the next decade. To do this, we are challenged to ask ourselves these questions:
How far have we gone towards meeting our development objectives? This calls upon each DHRRA to present the milestones of their 30-year development work. Likewise, the two Regional DHRRA networks are asked to examine the challenges of human resource development in the Asian rural areas: the CENDHRRA, for the milestones and challenges from 1974-1994, and the AsiaDHRRA, for the milestones and challenges from 1994-2004.

This will situate all of us on what has been achieved so far, and what we need to focus on as we intensify our solidarity building for rural development in Asia.

How can we learn from each other? Following a common documentation framework, this involves an in-depth sharing of rural development “best practices”.

Representatives from the Philippines (PhilDHRRA) will present to you their successes on the “Sustainable Integrated Area Development” or SIAD advocacy, while representatives from India (InDHRRA) will present their innovative Agrarian Reform Campaign. We will also see the best practices of Malaysia (DHRRA-Malaysia) and Vietnam (VietDHRRA), in their respective areas of “Credit Union Cooperatives” and “Partnership Building for Human Resource Development”.

Many of our countries were under the military regime. Very much under the military influence and very poor. The individuals expanded into organizations and the organizations expanded into network. And we had some gains. We are here to celebrate some of this gains. While there is still poverty there is zone of energy – because we changed the ownership of land and now using this land for their family community. Social relationship and economic relationship changed.

We have won from these agrarian communities vibrant cooperatives who have moved lives from very poor and dire situation to one of prosperity; grew to one of small and medium enterprise (SME) which has become the backbone of enterprise. We have won covenants because we lobbied on the halls of power, knocked on doors of authority, walked the halls of New York City and won international covenants. We had won not just social contracts in our society but also among and between countries. There is transformation of unequal relationship to one that is just and equitable. For many of our countries, Philippines in particular, the challenge
now is how do we bring to life all these laws. How do we make it real to still many of the poor people in our countries? How do we strengthen our society and deliver justice on our tables, land for the farmers, food for the people?

We have a myriad of initiatives. We are talking of rice. Rice is a very economic and political commodity in Asia. It brought a concept and pockets of hope of communities, undertaking and bringing to life sustainable area development. A development that ensures future of our children, and our children’s children. Building on this gain, we need to move ahead because we are still far from the end of our work of transformation. It has become a global initiative. No one can discover a star without disturbing a flower. We cannot stop globalization. What we need to do is take that and make sure that it works for the people and for sustainable integrated area development.

We have many challenges. One is economic challenge. When market is open what happens to people? When market has become the prime mover of the economy, it’s a lot of paper transaction, what kind of economic structures and systems that should work for us, that we should advocate for.

Second, homogenization of the icons of our young people. Globalization of our culture is a challenge of how we work with our young people. If you open television, there’s only one picture… we forget the culture. The challenge is to root the modernization in the culture and values of our society.

Another is political challenge, which is the main issue of today. Terrorism is a valid concern but taken into its extreme, it fosters division and violence. For us, the main issue is poverty, hunger. As a consequence, poverty becomes a ground for terrorism. Poverty, insecurity from economic, political and social threats of lives of society in different parts of the world – the roots of terrorism.

We celebrate our gains. But as we have transformed, so did the multinationals, so did those who want to promote war. So did those elements of society that wants to promote something that is true to them. We have goals but should we even review these goals? How can we learn from each other? This is one of the major challenge – learning from one another, developing new concepts and learnings in our own sphere and immediately sharing. That would hasten all that we need to do for development work. Because of our
advocacy and our work in our countries, we have made all countries agree on agreeing what should be achieved in 2015. That is another challenge that we must face. How can our work address the millennium concerns that will pull out people from their vulnerability? New challenges face Asian countries today with trends of globalization and population movement.

Showcasing these success stories challenges us to draw lessons needed for replication, mainstreaming, and policy reforms for sustainable rural development.

- How does our work relate to the Millenium Development Goals or MDG? The whole world, by adopting the MDG in the year 2000, has made a commitment to reduce the extent of extreme poverty by the year 2015. This calls upon us development workers and networks, to reexamine, update and realign our thrust and priorities in support of the MDG.

Many of our countries were under the military regime, very much under the military influence and very poor. The individuals expanded into organizations and the organizations expanded into network.

Extreme poverty is a worldwide phenomenon. New challenges face Asian countries today, with the trends of globalization and population movements. The events of the past 30 years give evidence to the fact that while social transformation has remained as our overarching goal, evolution and adaptation are likewise the common threads permeating all our efforts. This ability to grow and change with the times has enabled us to make the greatest difference possible in the lives of the people we are committed to serve.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have been with you in this decades-long journey. I look forward to many more miles along this shared journey, and many more opportunities for us to grow and evolve further.

Again, I wish all of you a pleasant, productive and empowering 7-day workshop. Thank you very much.

Corazon Juliano-Soliman
Secretary, Dept. of Social Work and Development (DSWD)
Peace as Basis for Partnerships and Solidarity-Building

Thank you very much for inviting me to address you this morning. This occasion bears witness to a legacy of thirty years. As close to a hundred leaders and movers in the civil society of Asia gather today to pause and reflect, I can reasonably say that we are, here and now, placed in a moment distinctly historic and momentous. Thirty years of striving through the region’s tides and turns must account for something tremendous.

Indeed I am truly honored to be asked to share this occasion with you, even as preparing for this message meant that I also had to undertake my own journey of reflection and interrogation—with images and remembrances dancing in my head, of my first CENDHRRA workshop in Bogor three decades ago, in 1976, when a younger Bambang welcomed an even younger me; of my formative years as an NGO worker, sitting around the CENDHRRA table with the Ledesmas, the small staff, often joined by Fr. Dijkstra, in the small office at Pedro Gil; of the vigorous discussions and dialogue, mixed with raucous laughter and also music, which would go late into the night in those earliest founding years of PhilDHRRA.

It wasn’t easy looking back thirty years in time, at this point in my life when I have crossed over from civil society to government. It wasn’t easy browsing through speeches I have made before NGO gatherings through the years, and hear myself say the same things over and over. As well, it wasn’t easy to find a message that would be relevant not only to the NGO community in the Philippines, but also to all of Asian movers in the DHRRA network whose context—the wide, fascinating world of Asia—is replete with paradox and contradictions.

Still, I thank you for providing me this occasion to pause. Moments of reflection have become very rare indeed for us whose work is characterized by the relentless pressure to decide and deliver, as often we are left with little time to stop and take stock. I am sure that the results of your collective reckoning and realization will bring benefit to both civil society and government. I certainly look forward to receiving the proceedings of this event.
Briefly I would like to share insights from my current perspective as a crossover in government, mainly within the context of my work in the peace process, in areas that I think will need a proportional development in thought, alternatives and action from the NGO community in the Philippines and in Asia.

I suppose NGOs in developing countries take the same shape, goals, and methods of working, but variations in national conditions account as well in the diversity that has permeated the DHRRA network in a colorful, creative way. Across the region and through thirty years, we see patterns shaping in the NGO movements, definitely through growth and maturity. From small, separate, localized initiatives we have seen through the years the upscaling of NGO work through networks reaching national and regional levels in response to various concerns about impact, sustainability, and accountability. More and more, there has been frank acceptance of limitations in terms of size and resources, while the struggle with the region’s collapsing borders continue. Still and all, the NGOs have become effective not only as igniters of change but also as managers of change, capitalizing strength not so much in their size or resources but in their ability to unite the actions of hundreds, even thousands, of citizens.

In my work in the peace process, the role of the NGOs as movers of the peace constituency in the rural areas has become more and more significant in light of the so-called “solidarity issues” that cut through the conflicts affecting the region. Mainly these pertained to contested identities and the concept of commons (i.e. environment, global heritage, information as belonging to all regardless of race and generation) amid the observed rise of conflicts based on ethnic differences. Gender conferences in Asia have been yielding the same prominent issues as profoundly affecting women these days. Recently these concerns were fully articulated by the UNDP when it launched the 2004 Human Development Report, which focused on the huge, untapped potential of culture as a force for healing and transformation.

In 1999, I was asked to give a speech before the Psychology Association of the Philippines, during which I said, “more and more in the NGO community, we are beginning to say that perhaps we have paid too much attention to matters of economics and politics and not enough to matters of psychology, culture, ethics.’ The challenge then and now is to define problems on a deeper level which involves looking into the psyche and sense of identities battered by the march to borderless markets. In my work in the peace process, it has
become more and more obvious that we cannot strive just to remove or transform economic structures and arrangements. We also need to heal and rebuild inner structures and lives.

In the Philippines today, and I suppose in many other countries in Asia, the legacy of contested identities bears heavily on the prospects for peace. In their struggles expressed in both peaceful and forceful means, peoples, most of whom, by the way, reside in the rural areas, put at stake not only their interests in terms of gains and losses, but, mainly and more importantly, their identity and their sense of security about their identity.

There are differences that both governments and civil societies must strive to recognize and celebrate, considering the long history of colonization among nations in Asia that created and imposed a sense of having majority population – what is now referred to as “mainstream.” There are layers of differences, in terms of lifeways and cultures, origins and ethnicities, that some more dominant, elite groups and societies have been unable to comprehend and tolerate.

There is a need for both government and the NGO community to struggle to see how to bring about a peace built on a rainbow of colors of the different beliefs and lifeways of the peoples of Asia. A peace built on a rainbow of colors is at the very least more interesting—and certainly more beautiful—than a peace built to accommodate a dull and monolithic gray. For sure, in the Philippines and in Asia as a whole, only a rainbow kind of peace will endure.

There should be a way to enlarge the voices of contested identities. This is one area where the NGOs can lead tremendously. Proposals for national multi-cultural policy framing proposed in the UNDP Human Development Report is something that I think would be worth your while. Governments would certainly need input in this regard from the people whose work hews closely to communities.

Still, as we talk policies in the higher levels we need the NGOs to build it on the ground. We need your help to continue to move into ways by which we increase our people’s capacities to address conflicts through non-violent ways. And certainly we need to work through our lifeways and cultures. This means a challenge in the ways we do our media and communications work. We need your help in continuing to learn a language
and a way to talk to the public about peace and about development. Because peace has to be something that touches everyone. Because a peace that is only carried by a few is going to be very hard to sustain.

I hope that during this convention you can find time to look at the processes that are being undertaken to achieve healing and reconciliation on the ground. Any peace agreement or any development intervention that does not look at the ways in which the hidden wounds of our people are healed is going to rest on very shaky grounds. Because with every outbreak of hostilities there is going to be a son or daughter of someone who was killed in the war in the past who will rise up and say “I will avenge the death of my father, my mother...the rape of my sister, the ravishment of our homeland. We have to heal the wounds.

And in the healing of wounds I would say that civil society, the NGO movement, the peace constituency, are the ones who are truly capable and credible of taking leadership. Because the way to transition will require a mediation and most governments, including the Philippine government, cannot do that. Governments have turned to a third party for help in bringing an effective peace negotiation process. Most governments, and the Philippine government in particular, have been needing and wanting to see a vibrant peace constituency movement to jump over the bend and help.

In other words, I am saying here that from a government perspective (at least of the Philippines and I hope of other governments in Asia), these can be arenas of our future work and collaboration. Even in countries where ruling powers are antagonistic to these possibilities, it will be equally, if not more important, for the NGO movements to take leadership therefore. In short, for the next three decades down the road, let us try to forge mutual accountability in responding to our peoples’ struggle for identity, for cultural diversity, for peace. Let us, for this cause, be one community.

And I think in this regard we can take guidance from the book The Community of the Future published by the Drucker Foundation. The story is told in its chapter written by Margaret J. Wheatley and Myron Kelner Roger of a junior high school that operates as a “robust community” of students, faculty and staff. In this school, all behaviors and decisions are based on three rules and three rules only: “Take care of your self. Take care of each other. Take care of this place.” I think these three rules are another way of saying - equity, sustainability and accountability.
In ending let me just leave you with some words which may begin this journey of reflection and interrogation. I start with four C’s: community, connection, conversation, and conflict-resolution. Then follow with four R’s: recognizing, remembering, redress and reconciliation. If we understood more what these four C’s and four R’s mean for our people, maybe we can begin to build a solid foundation for pursuing development that is truly equal, sustainable and accountable—in short, development, as it should be, with a human face.

Thank you very much and good morning.

Teresita Quintos-Deles
Secretary and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
CENDHRRA Milestones
Dr. Tony Ledesma

DHRRA is a family of crazy people. While others stand on their feet, we stand on our head, looking at the world from a different perspective. We are crazy; we belong to the marginal groups, not the mainstream.

Not milestones but milespeople. Put the human face

Angelita and I would not be standing here if not for Vietnam. We were teaching in Chicago when the Vietnam War broke out. If a student fails, he will be brought to Vietnam to fight. We do not want to take that to our conscience so we crossed the border to Canada. Then we met Dijkstra. He changed our life. An iota of humility is Dijkstra. He taught us what a humble life is. He is a European who became an Asian. He was more Asian than I could ever be.

This is the paradox of people standing on their heads:

We want to be able to pull out our stakes anytime. In CENDHRRA, we believed in being like a bonfire - burn yourself out and leave no trace of yourself. We wanted to leave no trace of ourselves. We were aware that the work is always at the periphery, not at the center.

In our relationship with funding agencies, we said CENDHRRA would not end up begging for their money. The Germans understood our problem because they came from World War 2. Misereor promised to be our equal.
In the DHRRA movement we hear many voices. There were the two organic farmers who do not speak English. Beautiful sound of language. Chinese spoken by a Chinese. Bahasa spoken by an Indonesian. Language spoken by the people. We exist to serve the people – learn from them, be shaped by their values, touch their lives. The poor have the truth of development.

And then again there is crazy Dijkstra who look at things upside down. The world will be shaped by the marching legions – the poor demanding their rights, dignity, history, identity, rightful place – center of history, center of DHRRAs, center of our lives.

**AsiaDHRRA Milestones Part I**

*Djoko Aminoto*

We are glad today, to see again all DHRRA friends from ten countries in Asia who are reassemble here. It means that the AsiaDHRRA networking is still alive, their dynamism and interaction among them may happen in longer term. It is expected that the partnership in the networking process takes the form of an effective interaction and are sustainable, both in national level as well as at regional level.

There always happen the development of the increasing quality of human resources, increase of their real income and prosperity. The formation of groups and application of better management and technology, through exchange of experience and training, increase the leadership and leaders in rural areas. These developments may vary from one country to another due to differences in social, cultural and political conditions. Networking process differs in the Philippines and in Indonesia. It makes development and dynamism of AsiaDHRRA goes in different ways.

Involvement in AsiaDHRRA much depends upon our activities in national DHRRA and interaction with friends from other national DHRRA in Asia. My involvement in INDHRRRA started in 1978, several years after the DHRRRAW workshop. I started with very limited network among several local NGOs and some international funding agencies. After several years latter, mid of 1980, local NGOs have been growing fast, big / medium / small size and becoming thousand throughout the country. International funding agencies are also growing.
When the concern of the NGOs is in socio-economic, the growth of INDHRRA is still favorable for networking process. But after the NGOs involved in political and commercial activities, the journey of the national NGO took other ways and makes the INDHRRA networking process become difficult. Several programs and activities in AsiaDHRRA in 1994 – 1998 contributed to the increasing of management capacity, leadership and leaders in rural areas.

My resignation as chairman of AsiaDHRRA in 1998 and then from INDHRRA in 2000, due to old age, gave the opportunity to younger generation to arise.

The establishment of AsiaDHRRA to strengthen the Secretariat of Asian DHRRA’s and CENDHRRA to make possible the network of Asian DHRRA’s develop more effectively. Through the help of CENDHRRA and Dr. Liem we expend the network to Vietnam. And through the contacts of AIT – NGO Management Training we expand to Cambodia and Nepal. Hopefully the expanding network in Asia may bring more interaction and increase in leadership and leaders of farmer and rural community.

Again we should redefine the mission and vision of NGO’s, the national DHRRAs, and the AsiaDHRRA, due to the socio-economic-political changes. We still have to continue to struggle for the betterment of farmers’ position in the globalization (WTO) process. The idea of rotation of the place of the Secretariat of AsiaDHRRA from Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, may bring an opportunity to develop new leader, leadership to other national DHRRAs. It seems, it does not work well. Should it be tried again? Land reform is still very strategic issue in several countries in Asia.

We need to define the strategy to face the global liberalization, globalization, in and out of WTO, for the sake of a fair trade not a freer trade. Study the possibility of RRC (Beijing) and Bangladesh to be involved in AsiaDHRRA as a new member, due to their experiences and important position in rural development in Asia.
I am glad and joyful to be here in this occasion of another decade in the milestones of AsiaDHRRA for two reasons:

I am joyful to celebrate with you the achievements of the DHRRA movement and to see AsiaDHRRA growing even faster after I left;

But equally important, I am glad and joyful to be reunited to the DHRRA family and to meet new friends. There are many things that help bind us together to be called a “community” and one of which is a common experience – the meaningful and challenging experience of working for and with the rural poor communities, especially the peasants in rural Asia. We meet different faces and situations but experience common themes of misery, struggle, failures and celebrations.

So, my congratulations to all of you for this celebration and gathering of Asian voices towards one spirit – spirit of learning, sharing and caring in solidarity with one another – unity in diversity.

But before AsiaDHRRA’s journey from 1998 to 2002, let me give up a brief picture of how I came into the DHRRA. I believe the cooperative movement and the DHRRA family had some common values – working for equity and people empowerment, self-reliance and self-determination and making people as masters of their own destiny. We share the same aspirations and similar natural links – rural poor communities in Asia.

I would like to believe that I came as a 3rd generation of DHRRA member in the family. The first decade was a movement stage of DHRRAs where saw a movement of people in dialogue of life. CENDHRRA played a facilitating and coordinating role. The second decade was the network stage where saw the formation of the national DHRRAs. The third decade was the expansion and coalition stage of DHRRAs where we saw the birth and growth of AsiaDHRRA, the birth of AFA and the partnership building. So, I came into the discussions of DHRRAs during the period of dialogue about DHRRAs from “a regional secretariat” expanding into “a regional network”.
You know, AsiaDHRRA activities are best appreciated from 1998 to 2002 under the following situations:

- a period of Asian financial crisis (starting 1997) which wondered even the tier economies; ask the question – how will we sustain our work?
- reflection – economic growth is not the only guarantee for success. the birth of UN Sec Gen Kofi Anan’s Global compact aiming to build a social floor for the new global economy: the baswic human rights and principles, the period where the poor started to think not only of job but also their rights.
- the emergence of political democratic changes in Asia – “Changes toward democracy”.

Under the above situation, new challenges to civil society emerged:

- Relevance (fighting poverty and strengthening democracy)
- Sustainability (mobilizing resources)
- transparency and accountability of civil society
- ability to unite and build social coalitions

It is in those contexts that we formulated our agenda for the 3rd decade.

In the beginning of 1998, we had a strategic planning workshop in Laguna to review and assess what we have achieved in the past and to define our strategic organizational and leadership direction. in that workshop, there are two significant decisions reached:

1. **We viewed AsiaDHRRA in two dimensions:**

As a movement of people: (four-point strategies)

- Strategy 1: Redefinition of development paradigms in the context of a better understanding and appreciation of globalization
- Strategy 2: Building strategic partnership for greater advocacy towards solidarity of Asian rural peasantry
As a network of DHRRAs:

- Strategy 3: Effective responses to the problems of marginalized farmers through strengthened capacity of both the DHRRAs and the partner POs
- Strategy 4: Popularization and expansion of alternative rural development approaches based on DHRRA’s grassroots experiences

Central to this strategy of movement building was a call to catalyze the process of building an alliance among the farmers’ organizations in the region. It was where the leaders felt that AsiaDHRRA will make a difference. This is a significant development on the DHRRA movement evolution.

2. A restructuring of the governance in AsiaDHRRA to ensure regional representation to the Executive Board from the Southeast Asia sub-region, North DHRRAs sub-region (chopsticks region) and Mengkong sub-region. This was complemented with new secretariat headed by Ms. Marlene Ramirez.

The period 1999-2002 was a period of expanding partnership/leadership.

- Expanded partnership in the Mekong sub-region to bring in new ideas and dynamism to the network and linking the work of our DHRRAs towards the formation process of a regional farmers’ alliance:
  - VietDHRRA was formed through CAEV;
  - A young grassroots-based network of indigenous NGOs was formed, CNAC in Cambodia;
  - We explored new partnership inside Myanmar or Burma among SEARSOLIN graduates and some Diocese concerned with human rights and agricultural development. This resulted into a dream of MyanDHRRA from SAAM friends.
  - We also reached out our cooperation in Laos which began with the Quaker Service in Laos. Their involvement in the farmers’ exchange program led them to see the value of solidarity among Asian rural farmers. This even led to a Laos-Philippine family union: Biki of QSL and Dulce of AsiaDHRRA, and their beautiful child – William!
• We accompanied InDHRRA in their work of building a National Alliance of Peasants and thereby strengthening their commitment towards genuine agrarian reform in Indonesia.
• We also saw expansion of leadership in the DHRR network with DWI as a new generation of woman leader in InDHRRA and Nana in ThaiDHRRA.
• We stirred MasDHRRA into a new operating DHRR network of Malaysia with new leadership.
• We facilitated five farmers’ exchange visits in different countries which culminated into a launching of AFA in Malaysia in 2002. This is a major milestone for AsiaDHRRRA’s commitment to rural development and people empowerment in rural Asia.
• Beyond just network-building is our work for coalition building at the regional front. We catalyzed the birth of a regional network coalition, Asia Caucus, to facilitate exchange of information and resources among NGOs who had region-wide programs or have Asian regional NGO networks.
• We actively took part in the formation of SEACA, a program-based network concerned with building the advocacy capacity of CSOs in Southeast Asia.
• The challenge of resource development was responded to by proactively engaging other development stakeholders to support AsiaDHRRRA. From a single donor organization (Misereor), we explored and concretized other partners – APHD, the ASEAN Foundation, Agriterra, CORDAID and SEACA.
• We also began our challenging effort of building AsiaDHRRRA as a membership-based network by also collecting membership and annual dues.
• And on the end of the 2002, a mid-term review was conducted by an independent consultant which was sponsored by Misereor. One of the key recommendations of the review focused on reformation of the four-point strategy and agenda. This reformulation was set in the agenda of the 4th General Assembly.

Our celebration today should remind us of our continuing struggle for freedom and justice and our search for peace and harmony. And by this time, we should have built our confidence because we now have 30 years of:

• Experiences in fighting poverty in the rural communities;
• Transforming grassroots and community-based leadership for DHRRAs;
• Developing new ideas and creative approaches;
• Expanding our partnership with international donor agencies.
But most of all, we have set a clear directions and good governance in AsiaDHRRA. We have built the Asia Farmers’ Association (AFA) for sustainable rural development. That partnership with AFA is, and will build the sustainability and niche relevance of AsiaDHRRA.

I am hopeful of the future and excited for the possibilities in AsiaDHRRA. AsiaDHRRA under this new millennium should move into another stage: the integration and consolidation stage.

- I look forward to DHRRAs integration and consolidation of their innovative community-based projects;
- I believe the national DHRRAs are in a better position to influence policy reform and legislation in our governments because we are closer to the peoples’ issues and concerns; thus integrating economics with politics;
- I see the importance of strong complementation between AsiaDHRRA and AFA in fighting rural poverty and people empowerment;
- I hope that long-term development pact between AsiaDHRRA and donor agencies could be explored so that cooperation can move beyond aid to support: “Local roots but global fruits, local communities but global impact”.

Finally, I expect a fruitful and enjoyable dialogue among colleagues and friends in this movement and a look forward with great interest on your future. Thank you.
AsiaDHRRA Milestones Part III
Soetrisno Kusumohadi

In 1995 I resigned as the Executive Director of an NGO and since then, I became involved with DHRRA family again. They said only crazy men will be willing to work in an NGO. KILA – repeat to sound LUCKY, in Indonesia AGAIN.

Going back to the sacrifice of the Ledesma’s – they resigned from a stable teaching job positions in Canada because of their principles.

I also cite Djoko Aminoto and Gil Cua who both shaped a good foundation for AsiaDHRRA. This is a task I have to continue.

We have the rules and structures but how to implement it – should be in the climate of family. However, we must always respect in terms of ethical, moral - what rule has already set up, what structure has already been agreed. If we lose the sense of family, we will never have the spirit of unity.

If the DHRRA family is strong enough, we can agree on a common platform.

It is important that acceptance and recognition of diversity among the family – we agree that we must put it in the moral and ethical roots. I believe that if the DHRRA family can maintain, if not only firm but fluid activity, we will be able to contribute more to our society. Give us corrections, suggestions.

All achievements and struggles still exist. With guidance of our Lord, we beg again not only for our personal direction.
3 Decades of Nurturing Partnerships, Solidarity Building, and Working with Rural Communities

Rationale

AsiaDHRRA will celebrate its 30th anniversary since the 1st Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas Workshop (DHRRAW) held in August 1974 in Swanganivas, Thailand. The 1974 DHRRAW saw the birth of the DHRRA networking spirit and nurtured by CENDHRRA. From then on, national DHRRAs evolved in each country and the regional network into what AsiaDHRRA is now, a partnership of 11 social development organizations in 10 Asian countries.

Ushering on its third decade of nurturing partnerships, solidarity building and working with rural communities, AsiaDHRRA finds it fitting to celebrate the event by assessing and reflecting on the gains of the past years, and in the light of new challenges to social development, draw a common road map towards the next decade of continued commitment to sustainable rural development in the Asian region.

The 2004 DHRRA Workshop will highlight the development milestones of each DHRRRA and the regional network and showcase selected “good practices” by the members on rural development. We also find it fitting to do a review and updating on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reflect on how our own work relate to the global goals to cut sharply the extent of extreme poverty in the world by 2015.

AsiaDHRRA will bring together around 100 development practitioners from 12 Asian countries representing various NGOs and POs, government agencies, multi-lateral organizations, regional partners, and donor agencies. It will also be an occasion to revisit and renew relations with the DHRRRA networks’ founding members, incumbent leaders, and partners.
Conference Objectives

- To promote the agenda of Human Resource Development in the Rural Areas thru a discussion and assessment of the gains and milestones of the AsiaDHRRA members and network the past 3 decades;

- To facilitate an in-depth sharing of rural development “good practices” following a common documentation framework in aid of replication and model-building and as input to policy advocacy;

- To create an opportunity to understand and get updated on the UN Millennium Development Goals and utilize it as one reference in crafting the road map of the AsiaDHRRA network in the next decade;

- To provide AsiaDHRRA the opportunity to present its thrusts and current programs, including its five-year Fund Raising Campaign Plan to respond to the long-term sustainability needs of the network.

- To facilitate a genuine dialogue among partners and create opportunities for renewing ties, forging new relations, and encourage a unified yet diverse action towards fulfilling the DHRRA development agenda.

Date and Venue

The 30th DHRRAW Anniversary is on August 9-15, 2004. The venue is the Development Academy of the Philippines Conference Center (DAP) in Tagaytay City, Philippines. It was in Tagaytay that the DHRRA Assembly decided to spin-off AsiaDHRRA from CENDHRRA in 1994.

Participants

- DHRRA participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal
- Partners from fellow regional networks, donor agencies, and representatives from government agencies and multilateral institutions have also been invited.
Organizing Committee

The event organizer is AsiaDHRRA, with PhilDHRRA, the local host DHRRA as co-organizer.

Conference Flow

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<tr>
<td>Whole day</td>
<td>Arrivals and Registration</td>
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<td><strong>DAY 1 - August 10, 2004</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:45 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>9:00 - 9:20 am</td>
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<td>Mr. Jose Ricardo Molina, PhilDHRRA Chairperson</td>
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<td>Mr. Soetrisno Kusumohadi, AsiaDHRRA Chairperson</td>
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<td>Dr. Angelita Yap-Ledesma, DHRRA Founding Leader</td>
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<td>11:00-11:30 am</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
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</table>
| 12:00 - 12:30 pm | **Program Orientation: DHRRAW 2004**  
Ms. Marlene D. Ramirez, AsiaDHRRA Secretary General |
| 12:30-2:00 pm  | Lunch Break                                                              |
| 2:00 - 3:00 pm | **Presentation of DHRRA Milestones: 30 Years in Rural Development by DHRA Representative**  
InDHRRA  
ThaiDHRRA  
Malaysia DHRRA |
| 3:00 - 3:15 pm | Coffee Break                                                             |
| 3:15 - 5:00 pm | KoDHRRA  
CNAC Cambodia  
SEARCH Nepal  
VietDHRRA |
| 5:00 - 5:30 pm | Open Forum/Reactions                                                    |
| 5:30 - 6:30 pm | Free Time                                                                |
| 6:30 - 9:30 pm | **Welcome Reception and Fellowship Night**                              |

**DAY 2 - August 11, 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:15 am</td>
<td>Day Opener and Recap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8:15 - 10:30 am | **Presentation of the Regional DHRRA Network Milestones (CENDHRRA and AsiaDHRRA)**  
CENDHRRA (1974-1994)  
AsiaDHRRA (1994-2004)  
Video Presentation (30 years) |
| 10:30 - 10:45 am | Coffee Break                                                             |
| 10:45 - 11:30 am | **Speaker 1: Human Resource Development in Rural Asia**  
Ms. Josie Fernandez, Human Resource Development Consultant |
<p>| 11:30 - 12:00 pm | Open Forum                                                              |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 - 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Forum-Workshop 1 on Rural Development “Good Practices”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 - 3:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Sustainable Integrated Area Development</strong> to be presented by PhilDHRRA&lt;br&gt;<strong>Grassroots Organizing and Networking</strong> to be presented by InDHRRA&lt;br&gt;<strong>People Empowerment through Cooperatives and Rural Credit</strong> to be presented by DHRRA Network Malaysia&lt;br&gt;<strong>Partnership Building for Human Resource Development</strong> to be presented by VietDHRRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-4:00 pm</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Plenary Reporting of Four Workshop Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Summing Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-6:30 pm</td>
<td>Free Time (prepare for Ceremonial/Gala Night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30-9:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Gala Night</strong>&lt;br&gt;Anchor: Ms. Marlene D. Ramirez and Dr. Bosco Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Testimonial Program</strong> for the DHRRA Founding Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fr. John Dijkstra -- Posthumous Award&lt;br&gt;by: Mr. Djoko Aminoto (AsiaDHRRA Chairperson, 1994-1998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Antonio Ledesma and Dr. Angelita Yap-Ledesma&lt;br&gt;by: Mr. Bambang Ismawan, Founding DHRRA Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Jesuit Conference of East Asia and Oceania (JCEAO)</strong>&lt;br&gt;by: Dr. Antonio Ledesma</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Partners in Development</strong>&lt;br&gt;Misereor The ASEAN Foundation Agriterra APHD&lt;br&gt;Open Society Institute CORDAID SEACA AJPN&lt;br&gt;by: Mr. Soetrisno Kusumohadi, Chairperson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DHRRRAW 2004 73
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source of Inspiration</td>
<td>Asian Farmers’ Association (AFA) for Sustainable Rural Development &lt;br&gt;By: Congressman Guillermo P. Cua (AsiaDHRRA Chairperson, 1998-2002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Fellowship Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:30 pm</td>
<td>Presentation of AsiaDHRRA Fund Raising Campaign (5-year Plan and Key Campaigns) &lt;br&gt;Marlene Ramirez, Secretary General, AsiaDHRRA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 3 - August 12, 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00 am</td>
<td>Day Opener and Recap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Speaker 2: The UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – A Review and an Updating</strong> &lt;br&gt;Ms. Marivic Raquiza, Co-Convenor, MDG Social Watch, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-9:45 am</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45-10:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Panel Reaction : Views on the MDGs and Recommendations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panelists &lt;br&gt;Roel Ravanera, Reg’l Program Coordinator, Asia-Japan Partnership Network, Jenina Joy Chavez, Focus on the Global South, Daphne Villanueva, SEACA Regional Coordinator, Heru Wardoyo, AFA Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45-11:30 pm</td>
<td>Open Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:00 pm</td>
<td>Synthesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-3:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Workshop 2: Building on the Gains and Moving Forward to 2015 - Our Road Map Ahead</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Plenary Reporting and Open Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Synthesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30-6:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Closing Ceremonies: DHRRAW 2004</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Message of Thanks</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Soetrisno Kusumohadi, Chairperson, AsiaDHRRA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Cesar Belangel, PhilDHRRA National Coordinator</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Solidarity Messages</strong></td>
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<td>Partners</td>
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<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>DHRRA Leader/Pioneer: Mr. Paul Sinnappan, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DHRRA Leader/Successor Generation: Ms. Ryoko Tsuboi, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Community Ritual</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45-7:15</td>
<td>Free Time (prepare for Socials)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:15-up</td>
<td><strong>Dinner and Solidarity Night</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Day 4 - August 13, 2004**

| Whole Day        | **Group Field Visit**                                                    |

**Day 5 - August 14, 2004**

| 8:00 am - 12:00 pm | **AsiaDHRRA 5th General Assembly**                                      |
|                    | Bayview Park Hotel Manila                                               |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm    | Lunch Break                                                            |
## Day 6 - August 15, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Continuation of AsiaDHRRA 5th General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-6:30 pm</td>
<td>12th AsiaDHRRA ExeCom Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joint Meeting with AFA ExeCom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free time for Other Participants</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Day 6 - August 15, 2004</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Departures of Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Optional Tour Packages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ANNEX 9 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Indonesia**
- Mr. Francis Wahono  
- Mr. Soetrsino Kusumohadi  
- Ms. Dwi Astuti  
- Mr. Bambang Ismawan  
- Mr. Djoko Aminoto  
- Mr. Syaiful Bahari  
- Ms. Rezky Khainidar  
- Mr. Rybertus Sutjipto  
- Mr. Tri Heru Wardoyo  
- Mr. Muhammad Nur Uddin  
- Ms. Wigatiningsih

**Malaysia**
- Mr. Saravan Sinnapan  
- Mr. Paul Sinnapan  
- Mr. Ahmad Nayan  
- Ms. Josie Fernandez

**Thailand**
- Dr. Napasri Maneewong  
- Promma Kengla  
- Ms. Lamai Tangmo  
- Khun Paw (Sudaporn)  
- Mr. Somwang Pummai

**Vietnam**
- Dr. Bui Quang Toan  
- Dr. Le Thi Nghe  
- Mr. Duong Anh Tuyen  
- Ms. Phan Le Xiem

**Cambodia**
- Sil Vineth  
- Mey Som  
- Kea Kim San

**Laos**
- Mr. Vanxay Viphongxay  
- Mr. Bounmy Phommahalath  
- Dr. John Ferchak  
- Mr. Sengpaseuth Simmanivong

**Japan**
- Dr. Yoshikuni Yatani  
- Mr. Hajime Kikuhi  
- Dr. Ichiro Fujiwara  
- Ms. Shinno Miyoko  
- Mr. Kenichi Yamamoto  
- Mr. Yoshihide Fujioka  
- Mr. Michio Shimamoto  
- Mr. Yoshihiko Noro  
- Dr. John Ferchak  
- Mr. Sengpaseuth Simmanivong  
- Sil Vineth  
- Mey Som  
- Kea Kim San  
- Vanxay Viphongxay  
- Bounmy Phommahalath  
- Sengpaseuth Simmanivong  
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- Shinno Miyoko  
- Kenichi Yamamoto  
- Yoshihide Fujioka  
- Michio Shimamoto  
- Yoshihiko Noro  
- John Ferchak  
- Sengpaseuth Simmanivong  
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- Yoshikuni Yatani  
- Hajime Kikuhi  
- Ichiro Fujiwara  
- Shinno Miyoko  
- Kenich
Korea
Dr. Ji wong Cheong KoDHRRA
Dr. Kim Chija KoDHRRA
Dr. Sung Lee KoDHRRA
Mr. Youn Sang Jun KoDHRRA
Seong Kun Yun KoDHRRA
Dae Uk Kim KAFF
Hyeong Seok Kim KAFF

Taiwan
Dr. Bosco Lee TaiwanDHRRA
Mr. Tzong-Chiz Chiou TaiwanDHRRA
Tai Neng Chen TWADA
Chia Chen Chen TWADA

Myanmar
Rosemary Kwin KMSS
Rev. Kya Mu MBC
Fr. Kayria MBC

Philippines
Hon.Secretary Dinky Soliman DSWD
Hon. Secretary Ging Deles OPAPP
Hon. Guil Cua Coop-NATCCO
Archbishop Fernando Capalla CBCP
Mahar Mahangas SWS
Karen Tañada GZO
Remmy Rikken CAPWIP
Sally Ganibe AWCF
Daphne Villanueva SEACA
Roel Ravanera AJPN
Jenina Joy Cahvez Forum on Global South
Esther Alkonga Diocese of Alaminos
Amelou Benitez Reyes PWU
Ms. Tess Fernandez Lihok Pilipina
Ms. Rachel Polestico SEARSOLIN
Mr. Ernesto Lim , Jr. AR Now!
Mr. Chaco Molina PhilDHRRA
Mr. Cesar Belangel PhilDHRRA
Mr. Macario T. Jusayan PhilDHRRA
Mr. Rolando Abando PhilDHRRA
Mr. Bert Pardalis PhilDHRRA
Mr. Marciano Virola PhilDHRRA
Ms. Agnes Ramos PhilDHRRA
Mr. Jesus Vicente Gaganera PhilDHRRA
Mr. Samuel Maduro PhilDHRRA
Ms. Maripaz Bernice Galang PhilDHRRA
Ms. Arline Canoy PhilDHRRA
Ms. Jem Canoy PhilDHRRA
Mr. Alejandro Layanan PAKISAMA
Mr. Vicente Fabe PAKISAMA
Mr. Rene Cerilla PAKISAMA
Mr. Vic Paglinawan PAKISAMA
Mr. Bernard Baloyo PAKISAMA
Ms. Ma. Lourdes Magtibay PAKISAMA
Ms. Rose Tugana PAKISAMA
Ms. Lyn de la Cruz PAKISAMA

Nepal
Deepak Tamang SEARCH-Nepal
CENDHRRA
Dr. Tony Ledesma
Dr. Angelita Ledesma
Ms. Evelyn Deles
Mr. and Mrs. Nestor Bonoan
Dr. Roberto V. Anastasio
Ms. Maritess Calalang
Ms. Benilda Calalang
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Gonzales
Ms. Remmy Rikken
Ms. Karen Tañada
Ms. Ester Alkonga
Ms. Belle Katigbak
Dr. Alfonso Aguirre
Mr. Jesus dela Fuente
Sr. Eva Maamo
Ms. Ofelia Duiñas

AsiaDHRRRA Secretariat
Ms. Marlene Ramirez
Ms. Esther Penunia
Ms. Lany Rebagay
Ms. Lorna David
Mr. Jose Angelo Hermida
Ms. Josie Dalino
Ms. Ryoko Tsuboi
Ms. Shu Hui