

# INTERFACING INITIATIVES

idis newsletter for partners and supporters

VOL 2, 2017 ISSUE

## NATIVE TREES RETURN TO PANIGAN-TAMUGAN WATERSHED

IDIS successfully concluded the second phase of its riparian rainforestation project at the Panigan-Tamugan watershed in Baguio District in 2016.

The project was able to restore local populations of apitong, patikan, almon, almaciga, anitap, malibago and barubo, along with fruit trees, along the riverbanks of Panigan and Tamugan, the city's future sources of drinking water. Overall, some 75,349 seedlings have been planted in approximately 83.5 hectares in the watershed.

The project, funded by the Foundation for the Philippine

Environment (FPE), DKA Austria and Misereor Germany, was implemented together with the local farmers from the Barangays Tawantawan, Gumalang, Wines, Durian, Tambobong, Tamugan.

Other civil society groups also responded to the challenge of sustaining the watersheds. The Davao chapter of the Soroptimist International adopted a riverbank area of Talomo River in Tugbok District. Under the terms of the MOU with the Watershed Management Council and the local barangay, the Soroptimists will support the reforestation and maintenance of the adopted area. (#)

## IDIS CONTINUES WATERSHED COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

IDIS continued work with the city in its capacity as CSO representative in the Watershed Management Council. Its regular participation in the WMC activities has enabled it to contribute to WMC's 2017-2019 strategic plan and has also allowed it to actively lobby for the sustained collection of environmental tax for watershed protection. Despite the on-going legal case against this and another on the validity of the

Watershed Code, both filed by protesting agribusiness companies, IDIS is confident that the cases will be resolved in favor of the council.

IDIS also continues to monitor the developments in the Apo Agua Water Treatment facility. At present, the project's proponents are still in the process of complying with the EIS requirements. (#)

## From the Executive Director

Dear partners and stakeholders,

We bring to you our 2016 annual report, which details the accomplishments that IDIS and you, our partners, have achieved to protect and sustainably manage our watersheds.

2016 was a year of changes; some were good, and some were bad. But for us in environmental advocacy, we take such things in a stride, believing that the good results far outweigh the bad, and that for every step back, we will move forward two steps further.

And so with this in mind, we shall move forward, undaunted and ready to face another year of lobbying for cleaner water, healthier watersheds and greener city spaces. We look forward to a continued partnership and collaboration with you, our partners and stakeholders, for only in the sum of our actions will our vision of a greener and sustainable Davao come into fruition.

Padayon ta,

*Manfreda*

## Other Highlights of 2016 WMC engagement

- Participated in field monitoring activities with WMMT
- Participated in medical missions to communities in the watershed
- Participated in the highly successful 2016 Watershed Summit.

## 10% ADDITIONAL GREEN SPACES REQUIREMENT UPHELD



Together with various stakeholders and environmental groups under the Sustainable Davao Movement, IDIS stood its ground against lobby attempts to dilute the Davao City CLUP and Zoning Ordinance additional 10% green space

requirement in housing development projects. The SDM engaged the public and the local executive, resulting to a victory when former Mayor Rody Duterte finally vetoed the legislative attempt and current Mayor Sara Duterte vowed to retain the provision. (#)

## DEVOLVING THE NATIONAL WATER CODE

IDIS wrote a letter to President Duterte asking for a review of the national Water Code and to devolve some of the functions of the National Water Regulatory Board (NWRB) to local LGUs. This is in line with IDIS's policy agenda on the local monitoring and

licensing of water permits. This will allow LGUs to have a more direct hand in ensuring the sustainable management of local water resources. The Sustainable Davao Movement in another letter submitted to PRRD also adopted this issue as a policy agenda. (#)



## CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST AERIAL SPRAYING



IDIS remained upbeat despite the Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of the city's Ban Aerial Spraying Ordinance. Acting against the interests of the victims of pesticide drift, the SC finally ruled that the city ordinance infringed on the rights of the plantation

owners. The decision discouraged several municipalities from passing similar legislations in their areas.

But the fight is not over, as MAAS and the National Task Force Against Aerial Spraying shifts the battlefield over to Congress.

Two national Ban Aerial Spraying bills have been re-filed in Congress, with the support of major partylist groups. There are also IEC efforts to reach international consumers, particularly in Japan, where the demand and interest on Philippine bananas are high. (#)

## NEW EIS GUIDELINES GATHER MORE SUPPORT

More than 40 CSOs from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao have signed the draft AO to strengthen the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS) law. The draft AO is expected to address the loopholes prevalent in the

current PEISS implementation rules and guidelines. IDIS, which took the lead in this campaign, has submitted the draft to DENR Secretary Gina Lopez. IDIS will monitor developments on this to ensure that the draft is made into law. (#)



