

THE PHILIPPINE COCKATOO FESTIVALS ***Re-establishing our Connections with Nature!***

By Deborah V. van den Beukel and Indira Dayang L. Widmann

19 June 2010, Palawan, Philippines – The yearly Philippine cockatoo festivals organized by the Katala Foundation are here again! Learning about nature and conservation is made easier and fun with festivities like this full of interactive lectures, games and contests. This year's theme is "Re-establishing our Connections with Nature". KFI celebrates these annual festivals on the 15th of June at the Municipality of Dumarán in northern Palawan and this year on 22nd of June in Narra, southern Palawan.

Different exciting and interactive activities to include puppet shows, quiz bee, face painting, extemporaneous speech contest were prepared and Katala, the mascot is ready for another fun appearance for kids and adults alike! This year, a search for Ms. Kalabukay 2011 was organized in Dumarán. Candidates from different barangays in Dumarán compete for the much coveted title by showcasing not only their beauties but intelligence as well in particular on issues on biodiversity conservation.

The festivals' names, Kalabukay and Katala, are local terms for the Philippine cockatoo. Initiated by the Katala Foundation, Inc. since 2004 in Dumarán, the festivals had been generously supported by the two local governments of Dumarán and Narra. In Dumarán, the Kalabukay Festival is jointly celebrated with the 50th founding anniversary of the municipality!

Katala Foundation uses the endemic Philippine cockatoo as its flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with active community involvement. Indeed, nature festivals promote environmental learning through fun activities. For several years of conducting these festivals, the awareness of the local community on protection and conservation is remarkably increasing.

For more information about the PCCP and the festivities, please contact Indira Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at idlacerna@yahoo.com or www.philippinecockatoo.org.

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Editor's Note:

- KFI implements the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Programme (PCCP) presently in 4 project sites in Palawan: Dumarán, Narra, Rizal and Pandanan; and 1 in Luzon: Patnanungan Island, Polillo in Quezon.