### ERDA UPDATES

#### **AUGUST 2024**

Dear Friends, Supporters and Donors of ERDA:

Greetings of Peace, Joy and Good Health!

Time is really moving very fast, August, the eight month of the year, is considered the Ghost Month in some Asian countries, believed to bring negative situations and events based on some cultural beliefs. In the Philippines, it is a month of rain, typhoons, and monsoons, often causing flash floods, flooding, landslides, and other disasters related to heavy rainfall.

The issue on Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) is very much the concern of the government of the Philippines due to big problems they bring, including human trafficking, torture, child abuse, harboring criminals, cyber scams, operations, undocumented workers from China and some countries. And many of POGO established are illegal. Some of the biggest POGOS are managed by illegal citizens of the Philippines supported by some corrupt government officials. One of the most prominent case is the case of former mayor of Bamban, Tarlac who is an illegal citizen, claiming she is a Filipino citizen and was discovered a Chinese national. She was questioned by both Congress and Senate and she left the country illegaly. The Philippine government is arresting her and her co-accused whom who are illegal citizens and at the same time all the illegal activities of the of POGO. The President declared that all POGOs were considered illegal and they must be close as soon as possible until December 2024.

In ERDA we are in the height of preparing for our 50th Founding Anniversary celebration. Key events will be as follows:

- September 10 8th year death anniversary of Fr. Tritz
- September 19 Birthday Celebration of Father Tritz, SJ

Morning – Foundation Day celebration with the staff, partners, network and beneficiaries of ERDA, parents, children, youth. We invited a former senator who was a supporter of Father Tritz and ERDA as a guest speaker. We have the awarding of partners, supporters and community leaders both adult, children & youth

Afternoon - Staff Day and awarding of staff for their years of service

- September 20 Staff Reunion, Gathering of former and current ERDA staff since 1974 up to present
- September 30 Fund Raising Dinner. This fund-raising dinner was initiated by ERDA Vice President Mr. Rudy Ang supported by the members of the Board of Trustees and assisted by Ms. Edly Burgonio, Communicatin & Social Marketing Manager of ERDA.

ERDA was also evaluated by Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), the Civil Society Organization (CSO), Non-Government Organization (NGO) designated by the government based on the law as accrediting body that will certify and recommend for Tax Exemption and as a Donee Institution of the CSO, NGO.

We still continue to distribute school supplies, uniforms and some educational assistance to the assisted children & youth.

ERDA's partners, organizations are still facilitating the donation of food packs, clothing, water among others to the victims of typhoon that caused heavy flooding, flashfloods, landslides that destroyed houses and affected the lives of the people.

The social development workers continue to facilitate the organizing and strengthening of Barangay Children's Association (BCA) through training sessions, recollections, value formation session, conduct of regular meetings and core group discussions & sessions.

The Executive Director Office initiated the facilitation of General Meeting of the Youth Core Leaders, to have an update from each youth organization, share accomplishments, challenges, recommendations and action to be taken. Provided some inputs on organizational management, leadership and lastly the preparation of the working plan of each organization. presently, each organization have their activities in strengthening their organization, relationships and projects.



Youth organization in Bagong Silang facilitated Training on Disaster Management and Reproductive Health to the youth. One of their leader participated in Para Legal Training facilitated by partner organization.

The parents are also strengthening their organizations, groups like CoMSCA and their federation, Federation of Unified Community Leaders (FUCL). They held their members' meeting, participating in various capacity building on financial literacy, mental health, organizational management, skills training leading towards livelihood and fund-raising for their organization like soap making and Zumba (dancing exercise).

Volunteers, students foreign and local conducted various activities for the children & youth. The French scouts facilitated tutorial sessions in Brgy. 20, Manila. the Japanese volunteer students through "Dear Me" are conducting community, home visits, facilitating games & play and providing food for the children. Students from Ateneo University, De La Salle - St. Benilde were facilitating, conducting tutorial sessions, capacity building, trainings, games & play. Students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) facilitated data gathering, research on the situation of the community and people, training on Disaster Management and at the time establishing relationship with the children through tutorials, games & play integrating building community relationship.

We also have a regular visitor from Tokyo University, Professor Nakanishi Toru together with his students. They were oriented on the situation of the people in other countries as part of their education. They had their field exposure in SaBaNa Center, Tondo.

Seven (7) ERDA students are now enrolled in vocational/technical school, they were graduates of Senior High School, Grade 12. Now these young people are appreciating vocational/technical education. They were able to get some scholarship.

Finally, Miss World Organization in London will sponsor 112 high school students from Grade 11 and continue to Grade 12. They already send the fund to ERDA.

ERDA is also starting to prepare for the Strategic Plan 2025-2031.

We have started to prepare the video presentation/film for ERDA's 50th founding anniversary this September.

Twenty (20) children from the bay areas (near the sea & Manila Bay) are going to sing in the Foundation Day Celebration on Sept. 19 and Fund Raising Dinner on September 30. They have formed the choir and started to practice singing for their performance.

Good news, we have sixteen (16) students graduated with some honors from college/university education.

We are excited in the coming September, we are celebrating the 50th founding anniversary of ERDA.

Thank you, God Bless!

Mabuhay!

Sincerely yours,

Dolora H. Cardeño Executive Director

# Tutorial sessions





Activities, sessions conducted by the Japanese students









Activities and sessions conducted by ERDA partner universities Polytechnic

University of the Philippines (PUP),









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## Activities and sessions conducted by ERDA partner universities









#### **Activities and sessions conducted**





















Activities and sessions conducted by ERDA partner universities











**ERDA Children song** 

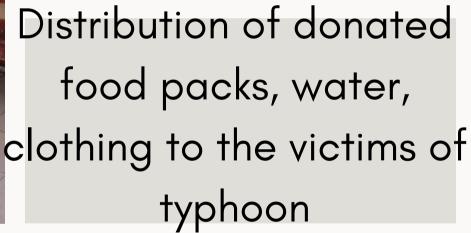


















invites you to the celebration of its

# Golden Amniversary Solden Sears of Empowering Children through Education

19 September 2024 | Thursday

Thanksgiving Mass | 9:00 am

to be followed by a short Program

Mass and Program will be livestreamed

at ERDA Foundation www.facebook.com/erdafoundation