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# Report on

# BIGKIS- LAKAS and the WORLD



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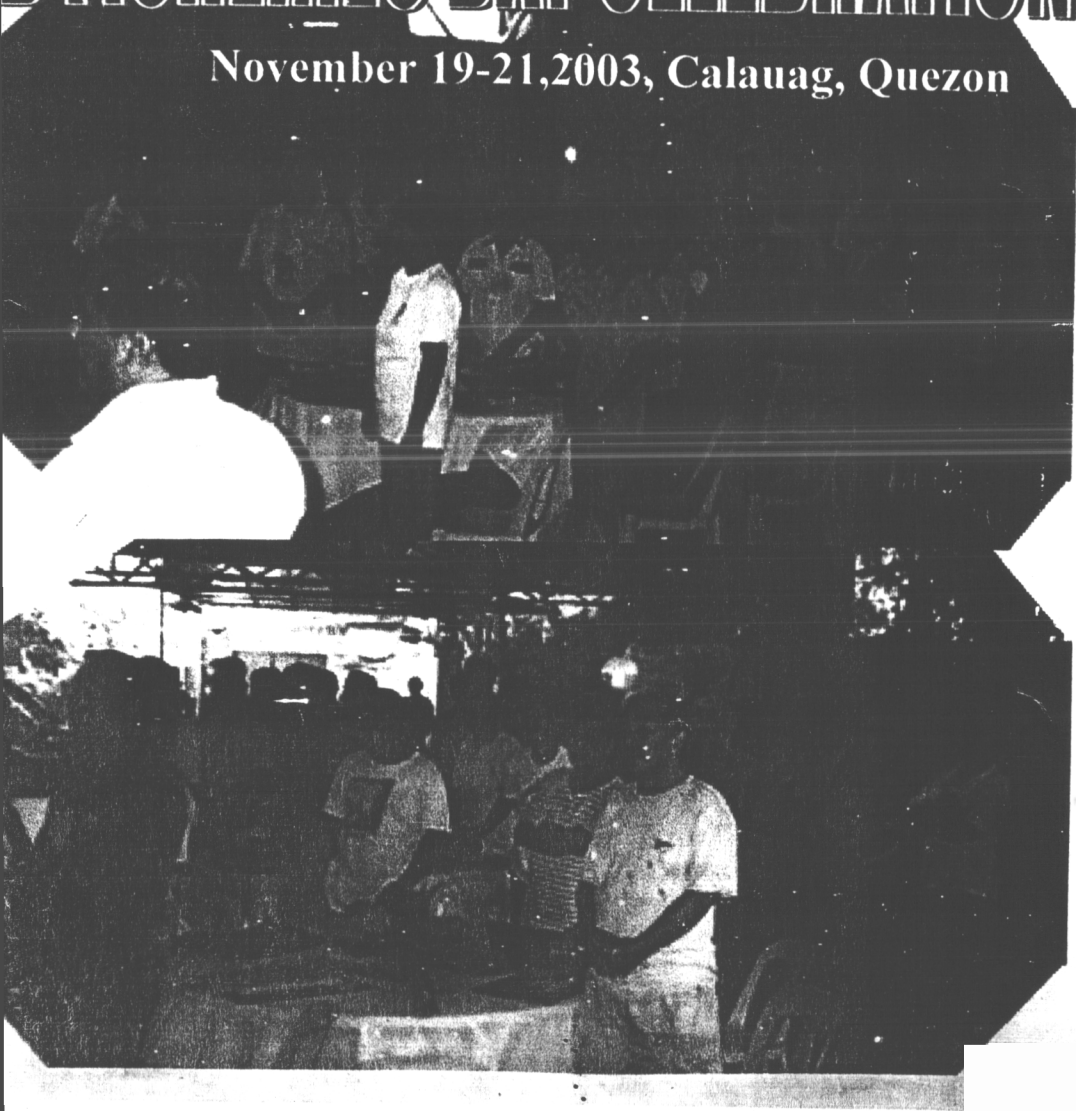
**ICSF**



**ASI**

# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATION

November 19-21, 2003, Calauag, Quezon



**REPORT ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
BIGKIS-LAKAS, PILIPINAS INC. (BLP) AND THE  
CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD FISHERIES DAY (WPD)  
NOVEMBER 19 – 21, 2003  
CALAUAG, QUEZON**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Since 1998 **Bigkis-Lakas, Pilipinas (BLP)** a national alliance of fisherfolk organizations in the Philippines has decided to hold their **Annual General Assembly (GA)** every 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November and celebrate the **World Fisheries Day (WFD)** every November 21.

The plan was accomplished in 1998 in **Calauag, Quezon** and in **Angono, Rizal** in 1999. But in year 2000 the activities were not carried out because of funding limitation. In 2001 the **World Fisheries Day** was held in **Gumaca, Quezon** but there was not enough fund to hold the BLP general assembly. In the following year the local federation of Visayas in Eastern Samar hosted the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day with support from the provincial government but the BL General Assembly was again left behind for lack of sufficient funding.

During the BLP annual evaluation planning held in February 2003 at Pili, Camarines Sur, the leaders challenged themselves to really work hard to get enough funds to really have both the General Assembly and the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day. Since February 2003 efforts had been exerted to insure that plans are moving on the right track but for several months everything was hanging in the air. Until one morning of October when Rafael Olivera, BLP president informed us that **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region IV-A – Fishery Resources Management Project (FRMP)** has available budget for a conference for as long as it is conducted in their coastal pilot areas and Calauag, Quezon is one of the closest area to Manila. The funding is limited to board and lodging and for training materials.

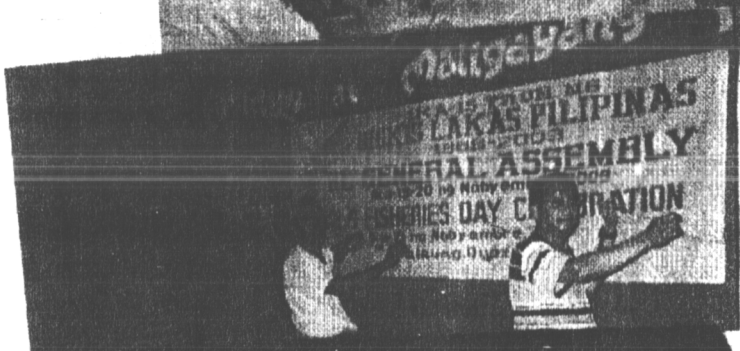
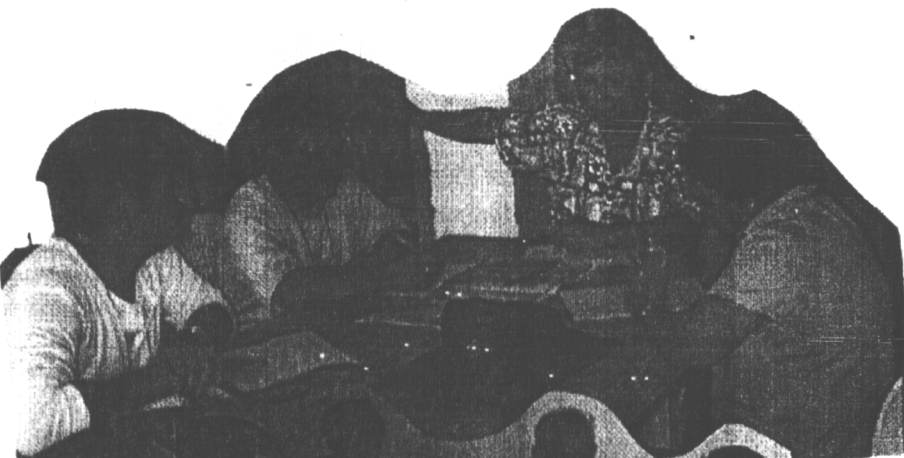
Immediately we send our proposal (see ANNEX A1) to BFAR Region IV-A Director Rosa F. Macas and was readily approved. But our next problem was the transportation of the participants coming from all over the country.

The overall steering committee, decided to write letters to all Regional Directors of BFAR (see ANNEX A2) requesting them to shoulder the travel expenses of all fisherfolk representatives of FARMC who are also BLP members numbering up to 22 participants. Letters of Invitation with programme was also sent to other WIF & BLP leaders not involved with **Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC)**. It was a blessing that with **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)** support the other BLP and **Women in Fisheries (WIF)** participants travel expenses were taken cared of.

It was already second week of November when we contacted the BL local organizations in Calauag, together with their supporters. The core leaders in Calauag were so grateful for the good news and willingly did all the legworking and preparation for the 3 day activities. The town mayor/head gladly permitted us to hold the BL GA and the celebration of the WFD in his town. He assured us of full support to these activities. The second and last meeting of the committee was November 16 where progress of assignment were assessed. The local steering committee grew from 7 to 10 people who were tasked to ensure additional beddings for the participants, participation in the parade and slogan drawing contest, Eucharistic Celebration, additional food in the last day, decoration and physical arrangement, sound system, streamers etc. The program has been revised for several times to suit the availability of resource speakers.

Despite the hustle of limited preparation, the unpredictable weather and budget limitation, every activity in the programme went very smoothly. We believed the Guiding Spirit was with us doing the bigger task in the best way as we creatively visualized and affirmed them in the Subconscious Mind.

With all the blessings and guidance, we thanked our BATHALA (SUPREME BEING), the Bigkis Lakas fisherfolk, their supporters from the government and private institutions, other sectoral groups, the local government of Calauag and most especially to BFAR Director Rosa F. Macas of Region IV-A and Assistant Director Esmeralda Paz Manalang and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers.



## THE FLOW

November 19, 2003

The participants coming from different parts of the country were greeted by 3 big streamers installed before the entry to Calauag town by buses coming from Manila and coming from Bicol Region and the other one close to the venue.

In the venue there were also streamers, banners and the attractive backdrop put up the day before the Bigkis-Lakas General Assembly by the local working committee.

The secretariate mostly staff of **Asian Social Institute (ASI)** and one from BFAR Region IV-A office warmly welcomed the participants arriving in batches from 4:00 in the morning till mid afternoon and even up to the second day. It was very elating to see all arriving participants filled with excitement, joy and gratitude as they registered and embraced their colleagues. After registering they were given their training kit and provided them cartolina and pentel pen for their report. It was Charles Capricho, who acted as facilitator of the first day Jocelyn Rupin WIF representative and Pres. of the Davao del Sur Muslim and Christian Fisherfolk Federation led the National Anthem at exact 10:30 A.M. and followed by a creative worship led by Betty Solleza. The ritual focused on BATHALA's great love to humankind which is manifested in the 4 elements of nature giving life to every creature. Prayers were offered to glorify the Almighty for His blessings and guidance to the struggle of the Fisherpeople, the Fisheries and Marine Resources. It is also a way of thanksgiving to be able to hold another general assembly with the Theme "Research, Basis for the Progress of Fisheries" and the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day. The native religious music that vibrantly opened and closed this para-liturgical service sang this way.

**WORLD FISHERIES DAY**  
NOVEMBER 21  
STOP  
FISHING COMMUNITIES  
FISH CONSUMERS



In **LOVE GOD** abides  
(*Sa Pagmamahal naroroon ang Diyos*)  
In our **HEART GOD** resides  
(*Sa ating PUSO naroroon ang Diyos*)  
In **Fisheries GOD** cares  
(*Sa PANGISDAAN naroroon ang Diyos*)  
With **Bigkis-Lakas GOD** reigns  
(*Sa BIGKIS LAKAS naroroon ang Diyos*)

This was followed by a warm lovely welcome by Mario Villaflores, one of the local leaders who has the temperament of St. Peter and charisma of St. Paul. His Ilonggo influenced tagalog dialect blended so beautifully with his husky voice that the participants felt the real welcoming spirit of Bigkis Lakas style and quality.

With this inspiring welcome the participants introduced themselves one by one in their own entertaining style too. After each introduction 3 claps of applause is given as a gesture of love and acceptance. After this joyful introduction Charles Capricho oriented the participants about the importance of the General Assembly and the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day focusing on the theme "Research, Basis for the Progress of Fisheries." He stressed on BL's growing leadership in shaping the Fishery Industry which needed researches as back up tools for success and greater impact in transforming the fishing industry.

## **BALITA-AARALAN – SHARING OF EXPERIENCES**

To valorize the work done by the fisherfolk representatives coming from all over the country to the General Assembly, the sharing/reporting of accomplishment immediately followed (see ANNEX B1) The reports contained an update of their organizational force, the strengthening and expansion activities, problems and issues encountered, and immediate plans. An average of 10 minutes was given to each reporter that went on up to the next day in the afternoon. When Resource Speaker of the day arrived, the reporting temporarily stopped and started again after the open forum.



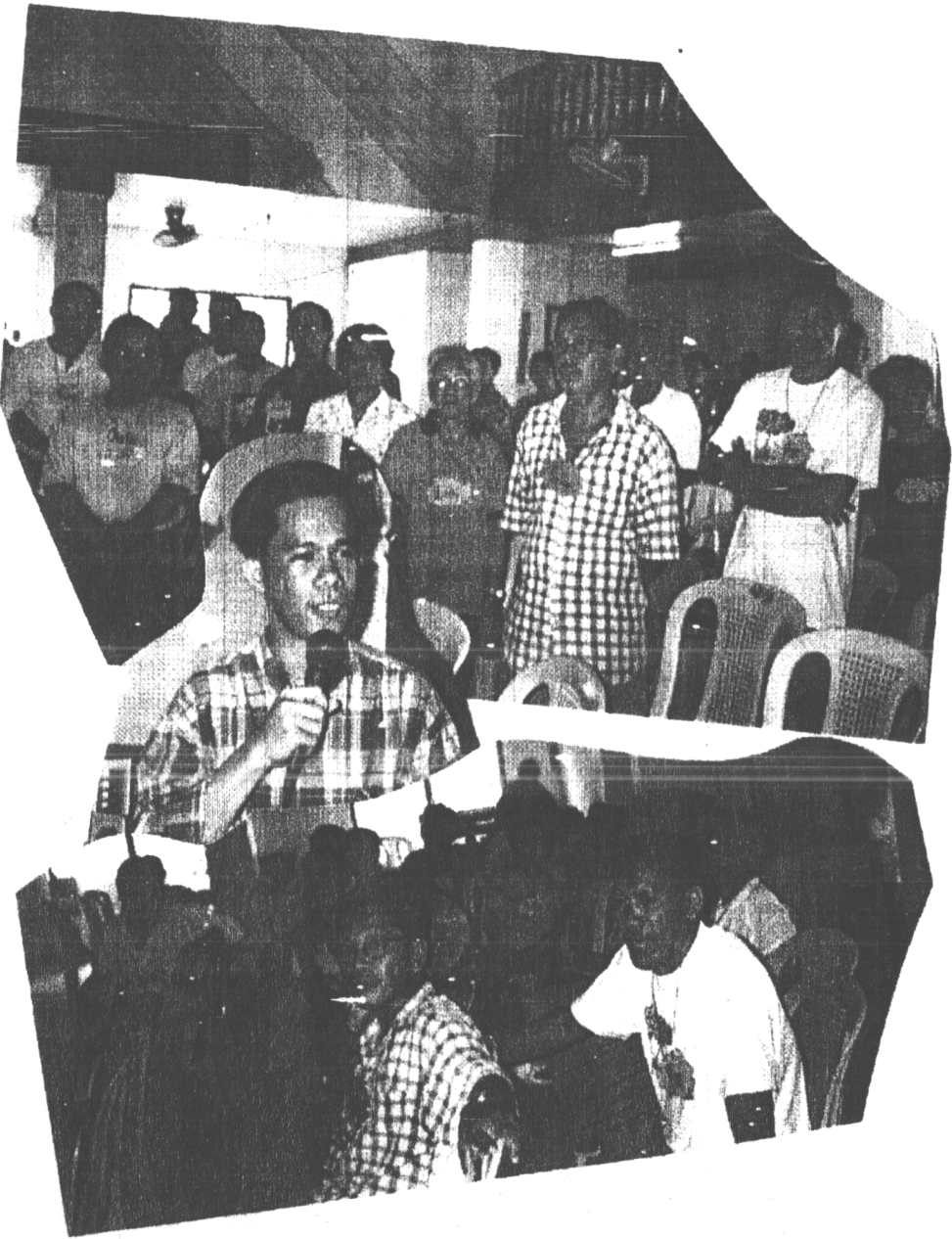


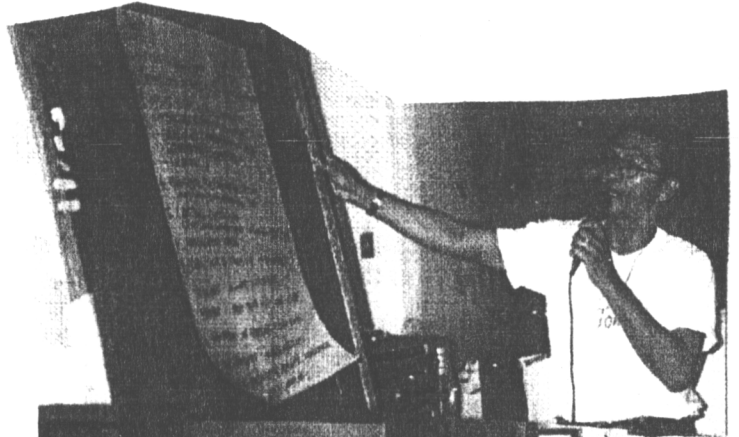
## RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Resource speaker of Day 1 was Mr. Glen Forbes who was introduced by Mrs. Rea V. Olase - a supporter to Bigkis-Lakas and a close acquaintance of the speaker. Glen is about to finish Law and very much involved in organizing fisherfolk and in Coastal Resources management. His main forte is on the legal side and research work related to the subjects mentioned earlier.

The lecture stressed on Research as a very vital activity in the preparatory stage of any project/endeavor. He shared his experiences when he did CO while still studying in college. For him the progressive cycle of **Action-Reflection-Action** helped him allot to be conscious at looking back and analyzing action done for a day. It is a discipline that Community Organizers must have to research issues affecting the people we are organizing. With enough knowledge brought about by social inquiry, the process of consciousness raising through experiential learning will be facilitated. In this manner mass participation at the base will be enhanced and will be a good training ground for grassroot leadership. It is a group-centered leadership providing sincere and quality service to the community.

Research along this aspect could also be undertaken like an evaluative study related to the strengthening activities of the organizing and the core-building process. Here the orientation of CO work will be analyzed whether it is democratic, nationalistic, sustainable, self-reliant and self-governing. As a review he did share the different steps in organizing; social investigation, consultation, formation and training, establishment of organizations, strengthening, expansion, networking, advocacy, linkaging and other technical trainings.






In Coastal Resources Management, the Research aspect is also very necessary before any intervention is done to the resources. First he stressed on the assessment of the status of the marine resources. While experts are needed here, fisherfolk could learn the process. From the initial study, action plan will be laid out with necessary technical and financial support. If needed legal sanction and back up support would be favorable for the smooth implementation of the project. Monitoring is another challenging task to ensure success which will be another research work after a given timetable. Research will always be part of any worthwhile activity/project, not only to be successful but to gain knowledge and confidence to improve and make a better world where real solidarity, peace, progress and ecority exist.

An open forum provided the clearing house to some queries specifically with international domination in the fisheries trend and growth.

The reporting of the different federation continued up to 5pm then followed by the BL President sharing of BL 2002-2003 Accomplishment Report and Charles Capricho about BL international involvement.

Vir synthesized the BLP federations reports in these 3 mission – elements of being co-creators, co-redeemers and co-sanctifiers in transforming the fisheries in particular and the fishing communities in general. Organizing efforts by BLP led to the formation of organizations, continuing education, advocacy and coastal resources management. Many are already venturing into socio-economic endeavors both sea and land based. Quite a number of organizations are active in seaborne patrol, mangrove reforestation and seaweed culture. BLP has reached national and global level of involvement in shaping the future of fisheries. These are works of creation, we co create a better world and a brighter future. In the process, liberation takes place, we save the seas and all the aqua-biodiversities, we save the fishing sector, the fishing communities and the fisheries. These changes go deeper into our being. We become transformed into better persons, persons for others, persons for the environment. A new kind of spirituality that is one with creation, one with the Creator, with BATHALA. “Bigkis-Lakas tayo sa Diyos!” (“We are strongly united with the Supreme One”).





After supper the steering committee met for a brief clinicking to assess the whole day sessions and also plan the next day. Generally, comments were very positive except for some reporters who went to long with their sharing. All the decorations in the Livelihood Center were transferred to Munting Paraiso, where the second and last day sessions will be held. It was an inspiring moment to see everyone willing to lift a hand for faster accomplishment of the task to the next venue. The participants were too eager to continue sharing that some stayed late that night..

**2**

November 20, 2003

## **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND ORGANIZED FISHERFOLK**

Session began at exactly 8:00 with the singing of the national Anthem led by Rose, WIF leader from Quezon. A creative ritual followed with Glo Dasal WIF leader from Camarines Sur leading the participants. Raffy Olivera was chosen as facilitator of the Day. Right after one federation report, Dr. Macas arrived and was greeted with Kundiman medley, our native welcome songs. As the main speaker of the day she was introduced by Alvaro Noscal a very close ally in Region IV-A fisherfolk rrganizing. Varo did a very spontaneous introduction tracing the first time they met in a conference where the fisher leaders sang "Where were you when we needed you"

That was the magic musical cord that started the sweet, deep and meaningful partnership with the fisherfolk. The speech of Director Rosa F. Macas flowed interestingly around this dynamic and successful partnership between the Fisherfolk organizations and BFAR Region IV-A..

She said that an effective and systematic extension service would really need a well organized peoples organizations, she added further that now the government has recognized the need to empower the people which is evidenced by various laws that gave mandate not only to the local government but also to the different sectors. She cited that according to a political scientist, the people are not only interested in the outcome of democracy but also on the democratic processes. It is important, therefore that the people being affected by the problem should be involved not only in the implementation of the programs but also in the planning and evaluation of the program. In other words we should be interested and actively participate in implementing democratic processes.

In their region, she shared that there are three important course of action they use as a strategy. They are, **Linkaging, Networking and Counterparting**; these are very important especially when some of our laws overlap each other. We cannot afford to act individually but should support each other. Simply put, we should put our acts together in order to be more efficient and effective. As a result, she stressed, our concerted efforts create a certain synergy that gives maximum result to our planned activities, she concluded.

In addition, she said, there are basic elements needed to be more effective in our linkaging, networking and counterparting efforts; they are:

1. Common Agenda
2. Common Commitment
3. Common Trust
4. Common Values and Concern
5. Organizational Culture of caring honesty and transparency.

She cited that in her region, their partnership is such that when they plan out their activities, they not only implement best, they also



Coalgabang Page 1-4

COALGABANG  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HERNANDEZ DAY CELEBRATION  
2009

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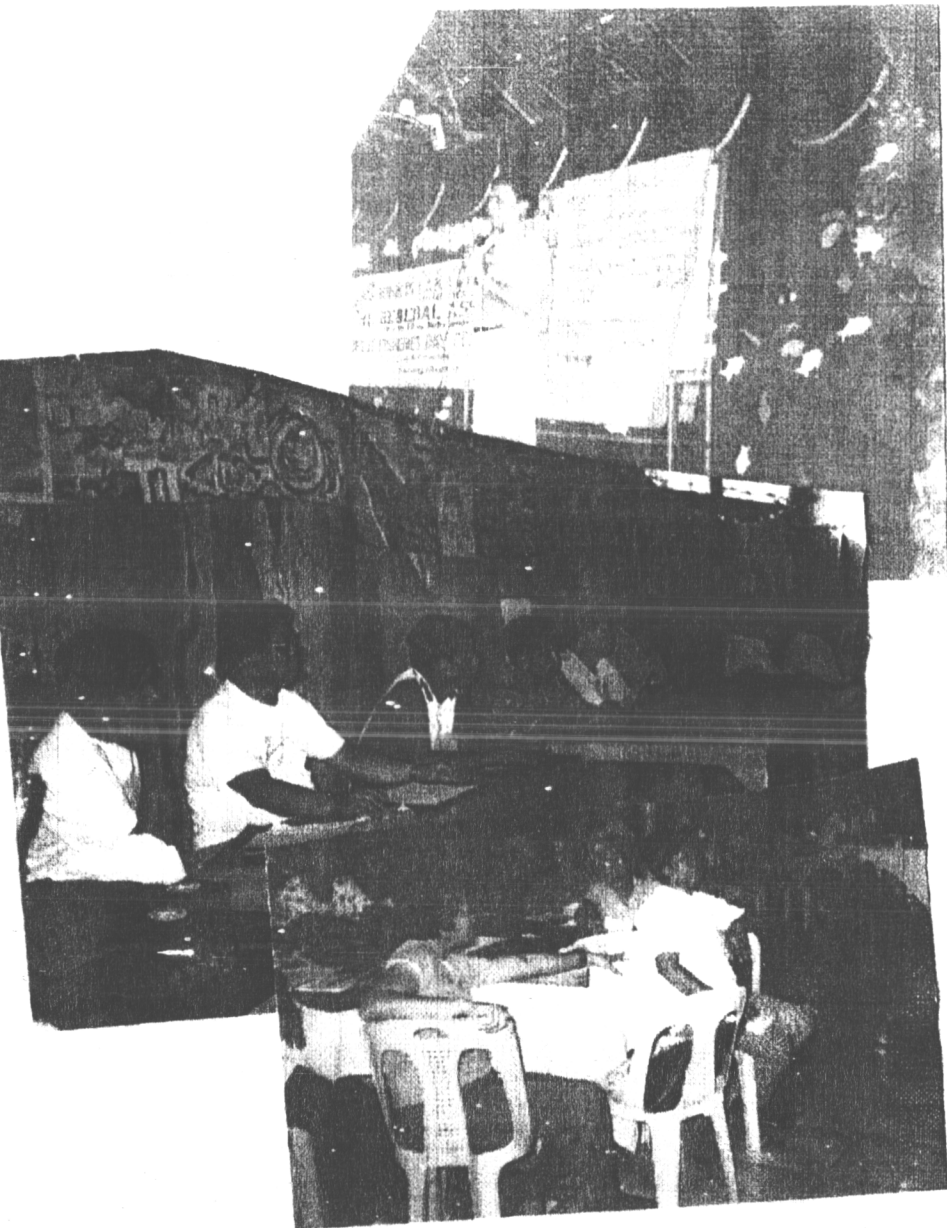
evaluate together because she believes that if they will all act together there will be unity and if there is unity there is hope. In closing, she said she believes that Bigkis-Lakas Pilipinas is a potent and effective organizational force towards improving and strengthening the fishing industry.

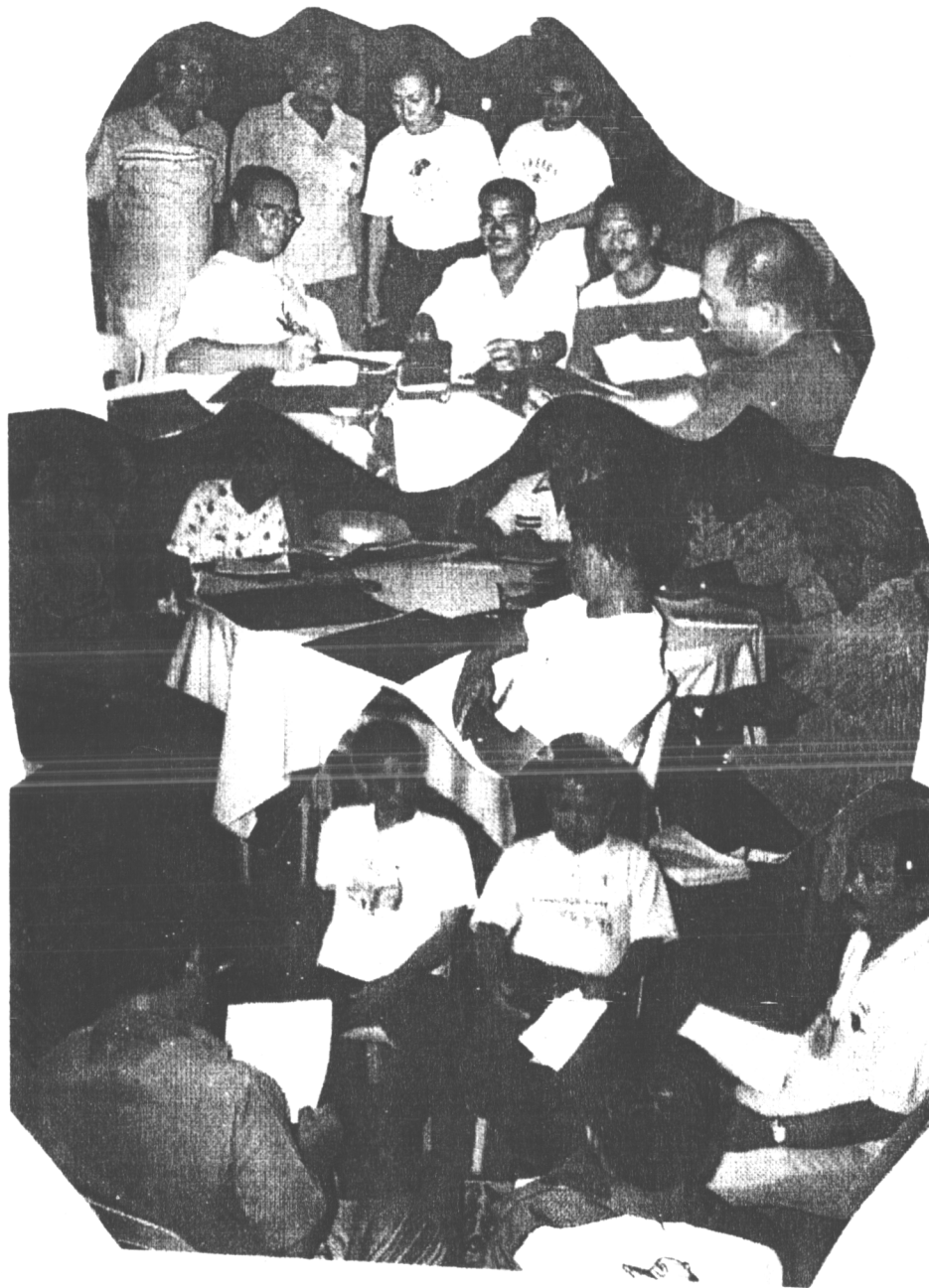
Like the talk of Glen Forbes, both sharing touched the heart of the participants moving them to a hundred hand of applause. In the open forum some of the leaders concurred with Director Macas analysis and thanked her for the support they have been receiving from the Regional BFAR office. Even during lunch time the Director continued entertaining some queries while also enjoying a sumptuous lunch. When she left at 1:30 p.m., the afternoon session started with the introduction of new comers and their reports.

## **DELIBERATION ON ILO CONFERENCE 2004 AGENDA**

Another big session followed regarding the discussion on the ILO questionnaire about the Work Conditions of fishworkers joining small scale fisheries operation within and outside territorial waters. To facilitate the session, Vir did a symbolic drawing to simplify and make the discussion easy for every item in the questionnaires.

As an introduction, Vir gave a historical background of the ILO 2004 conference on condition of small scale fisheries. Background data was based on SAMUDRA 2 Quarter issue, ICSF journal (see ANNEX C1). The participants welcomed the noble intention of ILO and willingly answered the questionnaire. (see ANNEX C2). An Adhoc committee helped out in putting the responses in the final form.





## **WORKSHOP ON POSSIBLE RESEARCH AGENDA 2004**

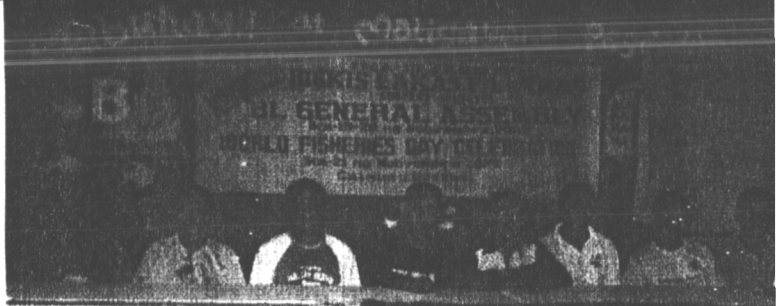
After listening to all the federations reports there were many learnings that floated around the conference. The two important lectures of Mr. Glen Forbes and BFAR Region IV-A Director Rosa E. Macas were also wells of knowledge based on experiences. Even the deliberation on ILO questionnaire about the condition of work of the fishing sector is worthwhile information.

With all these inspiring sessions the participants went to a workshop where they identified possible research agenda for 2004 concerning their involvement in fishery transformation. It revolved around organizing fishing communities, Coastal Resources Management, Advocacy in Fisheries, Strengthening of Organizations, FARMC involvement etc.

There were 6 groups formed to come-up with research subjects that could help BLP in the realization of their VMG. Support groups were also encourage to partake especially in realizing the research work.

As a summary, the following are areas of concern that need research work:

1. Community Organizing among fisherpeople, Women in Fisheries (WIF)
2. Baseline studies of Fishing Communities
3. Updating of Community and Organizational Profile of Fisherfolk
4. Relevant Trainings for fisherpeople
5. Strengthening of FARMC
6. Passing of Ordinances
7. Implementation of Fishery Laws
8. Fishworkers Concerns especially engage in commercial fishing
9. Viable and sustainable Socio-economic projects and livelihood concern of fishing communities
10. Management of fishery resources to include resource assessment.
11. Government programs re-fishery resources management.

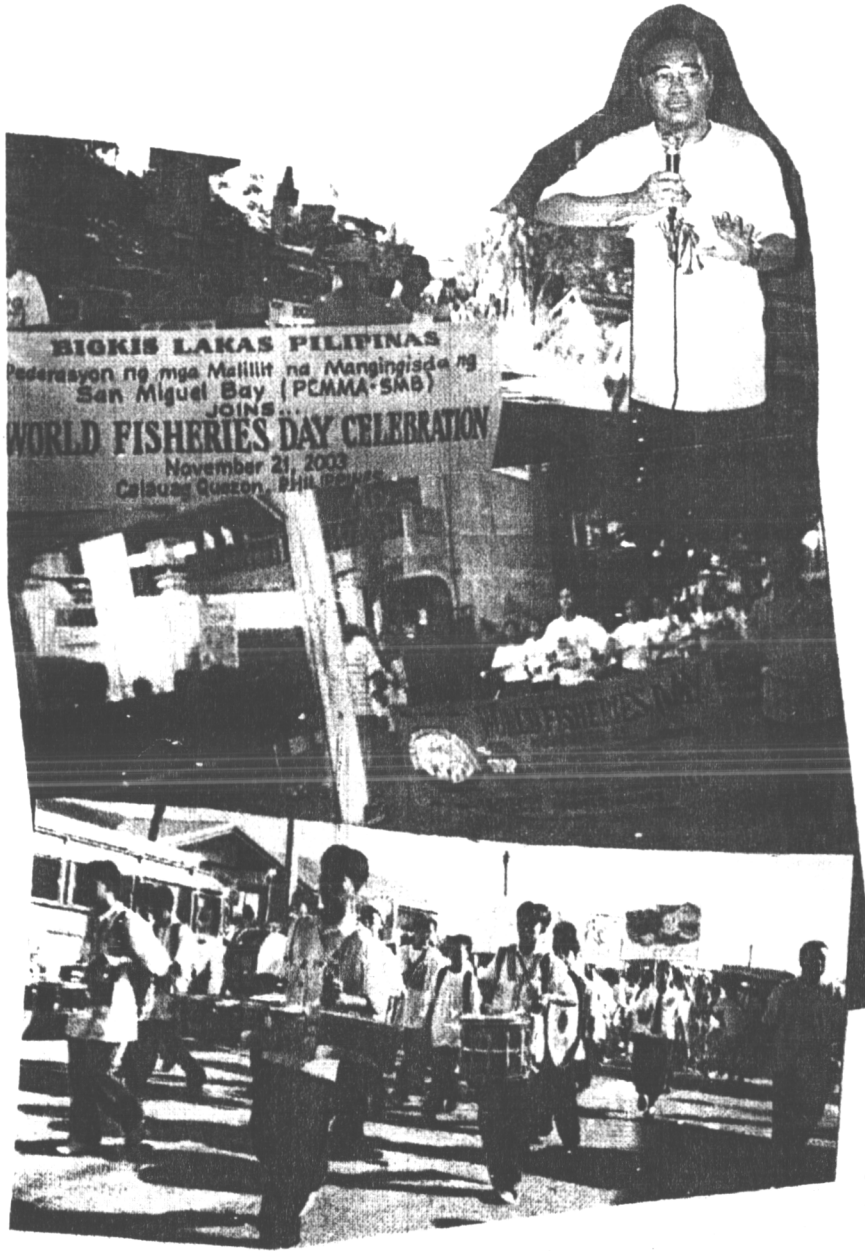


## ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS (2004-2005)

By 5 p.m. the general assembly was called to read again BI VMG and objectives as jumping board for the election of new officers. At the moment, BI based on the VMG is still on the right tract as glanced on the different local reports. Some suggestion were made with regards to a more autonomous operations of BI Luzon, BL Visayas and BL Mindanao. These will be amendments that will be given consideration for the next general assembly. The committee on Election facilitated the process by writing on the manila paper the present Bigkisan Representatives from the present member federations. They are like council of leaders who are the policy makers of the alliance. There were 31 Bigkisan who voted for positions for Presidency, Vice-Presidency, Treasurer and Auditor. The President elect chosed the Secretary from the Bigkisan. The following are the new officers of BI. for year 2003-2005.

President:	Danilo Pialo – Calauag, Quezon
Vice-President:	Cochito Yu, Sr. – Davao City
Vice-President	Roger Amatorio, Jr. – Guimaras
Treasurer:	Rafael Olivera – Cardona, Rizal
Auditor:	Charles Capricho – Calabanga, Camarines
Secretaries:	Cornelio Casipit – Calamba, Laguna Felizardo Lim – Naic, Cavite

They were given the floor to share their thoughts and feelings about their new positions in BLP. Generally they were too grateful for the trust and support they got from the Bigkisan. Being entrusted with such a big and delicate responsibility to manage BLP, they humbly expressed to do their best with the cooperation of the whole membership.





After supper the new officers had an initial meeting to plan immediate action of BL regarding the suggestions in the 2 day deliberations.

The Steering Committee again met to evaluate the second day and prepare for the last day which is the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day.

## 3 WORLD FISHERIES DAY

November 21, 2003

Participants woke-up early to attend and participate in the Eucharistic Celebration at the local Catholic Parish Church. This was co officiated by the **Parish Priest and Fr. Virgil – Social Action Center (SAC) Director of Romblon Diocese** and also a participant in the General Assembly. Fr. Virgil read the statement of commitment of the Fisherfolk to Fisheries during his homily which was focused on the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day. Though not compulsory for the participants, majority joined in the liturgical rites. After the breakfast the participants joined to meet other sectors, groups, schools and the local government at the Municipal Basketball Covered Court just in front of the Municipal Hall. At exactly 8:30 a.m. the parade moved on led by the Town Police Traffic Officers then the Calauag National High School Band, Students then by BL leaders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The local BL organizations in Quezon were second to the last before the last Drum and Lire Band of Calauag Central Colleges. While marching, BL leaders were chanting "Celebrate World Fisheries Day", "Long live Bigkis-Lakas", "Long Live Women in Fisheries", "Uragon ang Bicolano" and many more.





A full stop was called for at the Wharf of Calauag fronting the Lamon Bay waters. Different inspiring documents related to the occasion was forcefully read and expressed to include Statement of Commitment (ANNEX D1, D2, D3, D4) The Apex of the parade is the offering of the commitment to the **GREAT FISHER** of men **JESUS CHRIST** by burning it on a pot while the participants sang "In our Solidarity, there is the Almighty" After this very solemn rite the school children carrying the slogan placards proceeded to the Municipal Basketball Court where they put their entries at the stage for judgment. A group of judges meticulously chosed 20 finalists and from these chosed 12 only where the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners were selected/chosen. As this was going on at the cover court, at Munting Paraiso, the committee on the ILO conference finalized the response of BL and put them in the ILO questionnaire. The results of the meeting of the new officers were also reported to the general assembly.

The afternoon program was opened by action song led by the CALARIZ fisher leaders. The invited guest were ushered to the presidential table as the participants sang welcome songs. Danilo Pialo, the newly elected President acted as Master of Ceremony calling first the Town Mayor to welcome the participants. With soft but firm voice he assured the Calauag people and the BL participants that his administration will truly look into the development of fisheries of Calauag.

In between inspirational talks, cultural presentations were rendered by the different schools of Calauag. This Celebration of the World Fisheries Day was highlighted by Assistant Regional Director Manalang's talk.

The focus of her inspirational message was anchored on three important achievements of the Fishery sector for the year 2003. First was the incredible growth of the fisheries to pull up the Agricultural sector from lagging behind. Though the 60% poor are coming from the agriculture and fishery sectors a big change in terms of economic development was achieved within this year. There were many fishery development related projects and coastal resources management programs that improved the catch of fisherfolk. With this



achievement she asserts that fisherpeople are no longer sustenance or marginalized. Their economic situation has really improved.

Second factor contributing to this progress of Fisheries was the vital role played by the strong, committed, seasoned Fisherleaders, who voluntarily work hand in hand with BFAR through the FARMC structure thereby facilitating information dissemination and livelihood support to fishing communities. Necessary auxiliary supports were also provided together with strong coastal resources management program.

The empowerment of the fisherfolk led to the third factor that strengthened the fisheries and this is the contribution of the sincere, honest, competent and dedicated BFAR personnel especially those in Region IV-A under the leadership of Director Rosa F. Macas.

The participants heartily concurred with the Assistant Regional Director's, revelation which really inspired everyone and became most fitting note to celebrate the World Fisheries Day. The Fishery sector saving the agriculture sector, why not?

The Municipal Agricultural Officer also gave her inspiring thought about the value of recognizing Fisheries worldwide, BFAR R-IV-B FARMC Organizer also shared his message of support to Fisherfolk of BL whom he considered best ally in realizing real change in fisheries of the region.

Shortly after the speeches awards were given to BL friends and supporters for many years. It was sad some of the awardees did not make it because of very hectic schedule. But their representatives received the awards on their behalf. The winners of the slogan drawing contest were called one by one to receive their prizes.

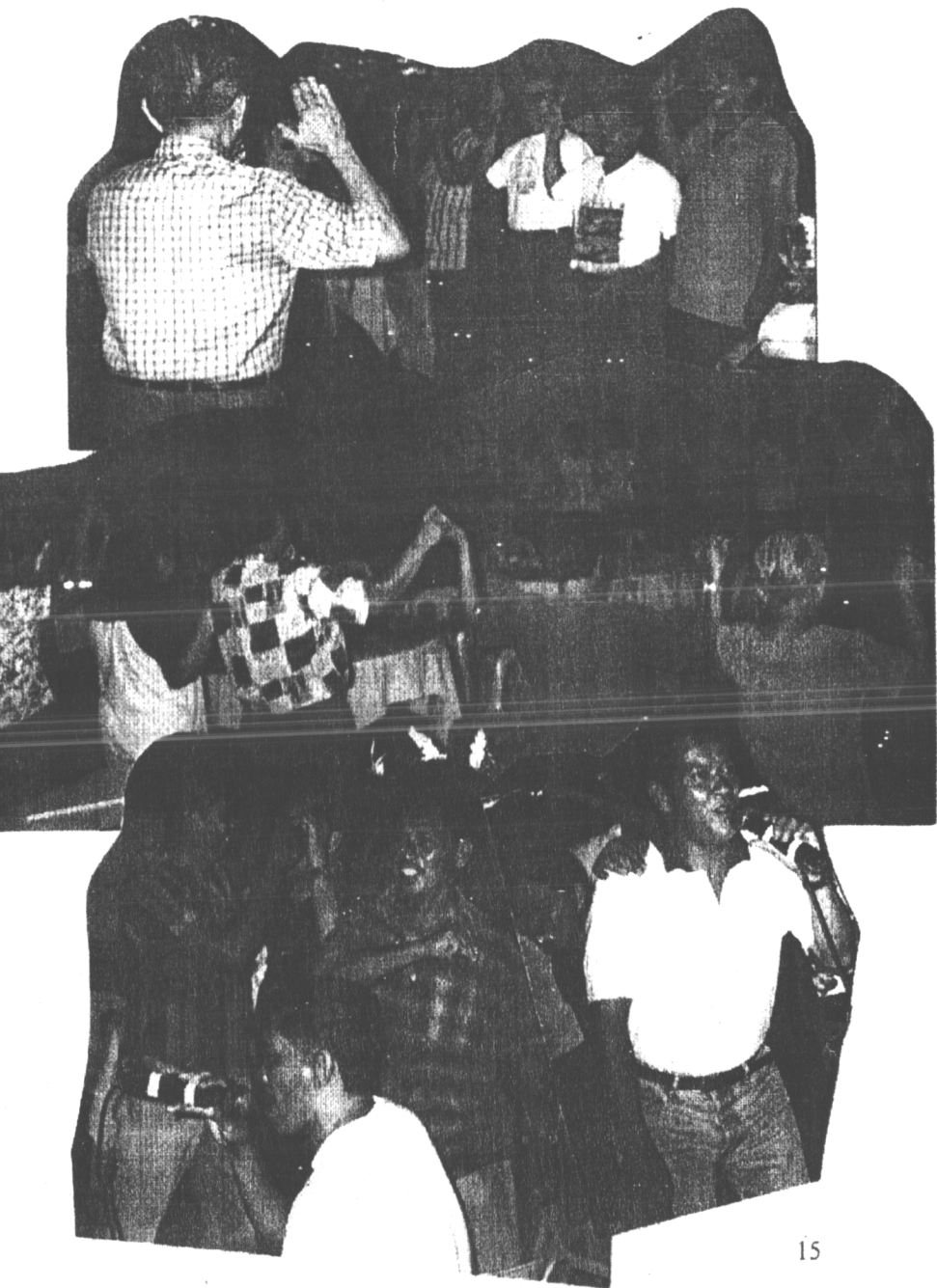
It was also the right occasion for the new officers to be inducted to office by the mayor himself. Without any guide copy of the Induction rite, the Mayor masterfully guided the BL newly elected officers and inducted them in the presence of the whole GA and participants of WFD Celebration.

In the concluding portion of the programme the Certificate of Attendance was formally given to the participants. In the end Raffy Oliviera thanked all the participants, the local working committee, the schools of Calauag, the local government – BFAR Region-IV-A, ASIFC and ICSE. A closing ritual was led by Vir creating a big one circle while we thanked the Almighty Loving BATHALA, praying for beloved BL KABIGKIS who already passed away, and those who did not come for the GA then finally singing again the synergizing song, ***“Sa Pagmamahal, naroroon ang Diyos”*** “In LOVE, the OMNIPOTENT ONE abides.”

## **SOLIDARITY NIGHT**

A number of participants began to leave for other urgent commitment in their provinces that evening. But still many joined the Solidarity Night as an expression of thanksgiving and appreciation of each other. A videoke was hired to color the last activity with music, dances, food and drinks, poetry and jokes. The fisherfolk sang with gusto and they really sang well with the videoke. Every song was interpreted in different dances modern, indigenous or tribal and both.

It was indeed difficult to say goodbye as camaraderie becomes so tightly knitted. Sweat and tears began to pour as the participants embraced each other while expressing farewell wishes and looking forward of meeting again for the next General Assembly and the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day in 2004.





**ATTACHMENT:**

- ANNEX A1. Project Proposal – re BLP General Assembly and WFD Celebration  
ANNEX A2. Letter of Invitation to Regional Director and Programme
- ANNEX B . BLP Federation Reports Covering Year 2003, BLP President’s Report and Report on International Linkages.
- ANNEX C1. ICSF Samudra 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Issue “Welcome Labour” p.1.  
ANNEX C2. Write-up on the BLP deliberation on the ILO Conference 2004 Questionnaire re – Work Condition of the Fishing Sector
- ANNEX D1. Statement of Commitment to our Marine Resources and to our Fishing Industry  
ANNEX D2. Covenant with our Fisheries and Marine Life  
ANNEX D3. Blue Vote for our Fisheries, Marine Resources, Fishing Communities and for Fisherfolk  
ANNEX D4. Announcement – re - BLP General Assembly and WFD Celebration for year 2003  
ANNEX D5. Message from WFFD re – WFD Celebration  
ANNEX D6. ICSF Samudra 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter issue “Hijacked....” (First 2 Paragraphs)
- Participants Place of Origin
  - Participants Directory
  - Financial Report
  - Entries for the Slogan Contest during the WFD Celebration 2003

Since the foundation of the World Fisheries day in November 21, 1997 in India by the world Forum of fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFFF), BL changed their General Assembly from December to November 19 – 21, thereby devoting the last day for the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day. BL becomes one with the world on this blessed day. This is usually started by an Ecumenical Liturgical Services followed by a parade around the town, a program in the town's gymnasium and a solidarity night. Speakers are invited from the local and national government and from other notable institutions of the country with fishery and social science expertise.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. Derive from the sharing of experience relevant subject for Research purposes to enhance and realize the objectives of FARMC in particular and the R.A. 8550 in general.
2. Create a learning opportunity for our fellow Filipinos about the bounty of the seas and celebrate life with the fisher people.
3. Awaken our people to fishing realities and get their support in liberating our marine life and the fisherfolks themselves.
4. Encourage our President of the Republic to officially declare November 21 as World fisheries Day in our country and support the demands of PAMPANO and the Fisherfolk sector as a whole.
5. Inspire both the fisher people and the supporters from private and government sectors to continue their struggle and support in the light of nation-building and global solidarity.
6. **Learn and innovate from the experiences in implementing the RA 8550 and FARMC in particular from the local to the national level.**
7. Benefit from the sharing of both the participants and resource people especially about government plans, programs, projects and other relevant concerns in fisheries.
8. Come up with a creative documentation of the whole process.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS, INC. (BL)**  
**AND CELEBRATION OF WORLD FISHERIES DAY**  
November 19 – 21, 2003

**INTRODUCTION:**

Vital to all organizational life is the constant interchange of communication that freely flows vertically and horizontally. This usually happens through regular meetings of the members and officers of Board of directors and various committees as well as the holding of general assemblies for the membership at large. All these and other activities are embodied in the organizations Constitution and By Laws. But aside from carrying out the organizations mandate, a general assembly is also an excellent venue to catch up on each others activities including experiences of success and failures for mutual learnings, support and inspiration.

The BL General Assembly is held annually in Luzon to provide an opportunity and venue for all BL fisher-leader representatives to update themselves about fisheries trends is the BL organizational standing and breakthroughs and the current challenges on Coastal Resource management (CRM).

It also revitalizes their commitment to the Vision, Mission and Goal (VMG) and deepen camaraderie among themselves. Though this is only a three-day gathering it serves as an inspiration and a binding force ever-activating the spirit of BL as a movement. Actually, this occasion is a much-awaited schedule where agape and cooperation is a living synergy of collective organizational life.

For the year 2003, the BL General Assembly chooses the theme "*Research Basis for Fisheries Progress*". This is very appropriate since research is an essential component in implementing Coastal Resources Management. Research provides scientific basis for worth while undertakings.

Expected to attend this year's general assembly are about 70 BL leaders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The big bulk of participants are coming from Luzon because of proximity to the venue. Representatives are asked to present creative reports to the national body and these will be exhibited for deeper understanding of both the socio-political and eco-cultural reality of their respective areas.

This is preceded by a yearly report from BL officers in the light of the current national fishing situation. Discussions on this subject and input concerning fisheries and CRM update become a springboard for planning.

The program flows in this order:

### Day One

8:30 – 11:00 A.M.	Mounting and Viewing of Exhibits
11:00 - 5:00 P.M.	Provincial/Regional Reports: Experiences, Learnings, and Challenges
5:00 - 7:00	Creative Synthesis
8:00 - 10:00	Analysis and Recommendations

### Day Two

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Lecture on the Importance of Research in COCRM Program
1:30 – 4:00 P.M.	Workshop: Participatory Action Research
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.	Reporting and Synthesis
8:00 – 10:00 P.M.	Planning (November 2003-2004)

### Day Three

8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	World Fisheries Day Parade
11:00 – 12:00 Noon	Ecumenical Liturgy
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.	World Fisheries Day Program
8:00 – 10:00 P.M.	Election of officers, awarding of certificates of attendance Celebration of Life

As projected, this General Assembly will need the following budget for the different activities and needs to assure an efficient and effective performance.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

There will be a national conference on November 19 and 21, 2003 of BL leaders who are actively involved in implementing FARMC in their respective areas. Many of these leaders are municipal, provincial, regional and national FARMC representatives. Their sharing will primarily evolve with their involvement both in BL Organization and FARMC organizing.

The whole occasion is a 3 day live-in action, reflections, celebration workshops, starting on November 19 – 21, 2003. Preparation has started as early as June 2003 with a Steering Committee taking charge of all preparatory initiatives from writing concept papers, choosing the proper venue, identifying participants, visitors and resource persons, brainstorming on the activities for 3 days and other implementing details.

The process will be participatory, creative and liberating taking into consideration regional cultural beliefs and traditions, together with their individual uniqueness. As an output, the group shall come-up with a realistic plan responsive to particular problems identified. The success stories experienced by the leaders would serve as an inspiration for the participants to emulate. Resource speakers will be importance of Partnership between Government Agency and Organized Fisherfolk.

As mentioned earlier the first day will commence with an exhibition of the BL Local, Provincial, Regional and National Accomplishment Reports for 2001 – 2003. From this activity, a synthesis will be derived together with the learnings and recommendations. Discussion on the recommendations will guide the executive committee in their regular planning.

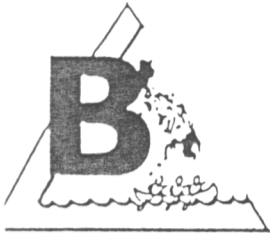
The next day will be devoted on the Orientation of the importance of Research on community Organizing (CO) CRM efforts. Experts on this aspect will be invited as resource persons. An open forum will be facilitated to clarify and even entertain questions of relevance to the subject. Planning of respective federations will follow to assure the implementation of the research plan which is the course of action for the coming years.

On November 21 the fisher people will simultaneously celebrate the World Fisheries Day in their own custom and tradition, in their own perspective and social context. It is an opportune time to renew commitments to care, protect and develop the very source of their livelihood.

In the evening there will be an election of officers of BL which will be followed by a celebration of life.

Working committees will be formed two months before the occasion to prepare the nitty-gritty aspect of this big celebration.

As an output the whole process of the General Assembly and Celebration of World Fisheries Day will be documented and produced in book bind. Photo documentation will back-up the proceedings to include videotape. A profile of the participants and supporters will complete the documentation. The sponsor will be given a copy of the documentation as a token of appreciation and gratitude.



# Bigkis-Lakas Pilipinas

**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FISHERFOLK ORGANIZATIONS**

EC Reg. No. 162201

1518 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila 1004 Tel. No. 523-8266 • 526-5590 Fax 522-1095

November 5, 2003

Director Abdulgafor N. Abdua  
Regional Director - BFAR Region 9  
R. T. Lim Blvd.,  
Zamboanga City  
Fax. No. 9932046

Dear Sir/Madam:

Greetings of Peace and Integrity of Creation!

Bigkis-Lakas Pilipinas (*BLP*), a national alliance of fisherfolk organization is celebrating the **World Fisheries Day on November 21, 2003** and their **Annual General Assembly** two days before that important occasion. Participants to this national conference are selected leaders of *BLP*.

Your **Regional Fisherfolk Representative** Mr. Gaudencio Cajetas and or his **Alternate** is very active and committed member leaders of *BLP*. We are aware of the strong partnership you are creating with fisherfolk in the region thus, promoting effective and efficient working relationship.

In this connection, may we invite the above leader/s to the **BLP Annual General Assembly and the Celebration of the World Fisheries Day** which will be held at the **Livelihood Center of Calauag, Quezon from November 19-21, 2003**. Attached herewith is the program of the three (3)- day affair.

May we also ask the favor that your office facilitate their travel from their point of origin to the assembly site and back to their home base.

Again, we thank you for your untiring support to our local leaders and may this partnership bring forth favorable development in your local fishery programs and likewise to the National Fishing Industry as a whole.

Respectfully yours,

  
**RAFAEL OLIVERA**  
President-BIGKIS-LAKAS Pilipinas

BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND  
 CELEBRATION OF WORLD FISHERIES DAY  
 November 19 – 21, 2003

BUDGET

Board and Lodging @ P600.00 x 70 x 3 days -----		P 126,000.00
Transportation Expenses of Participants -----		166,500.00
• Mindanao @ P8,000 x 8 part. - -	P 64,000.00	
• Visayas @ P6,500 x 8 part. - - -	52,000.00	
• Albay @ P1,500 x 5 part. - - - - -	7,500.00	
• Camarines Sur @P1,200 x 8 - -	9,600.00	
• Camarines Norte @P1,200 x 5 - -	6,000.00	
• Pangasinan @ P700.00 x 4 - - - -	2,800.00	
• Polillo @ P800.00 x 5 - - - - -	4,000.00	
• CALARIZ @ P400.00 x 9 - -	3,600.00	
• Quezon @ P800.00 x 15 - - - - -	12,000.00	
• Ilocos Sur @ 1,000 x 2 - - - - -	2,000.00	
• Staff @ P1,000 x 3 staffs - - - - -	3,000.00	
Honorarium of Resource Speaker - - - - -	3,000.00	
Training Kits @ P40.00 x 80 participants -	3,200.00	
Supplies and Materials - - - - -	10,000.00	
Communication and Other Expenses - - - -	10,000.00	
Mobilization Streamers @ P1,500 x 4 - - - -	6,000.00	
Documentation Fee - - - - -	10,000.00	
Per Diem @P500.00 x 3 staffs x 4 days - - -	6,000.00	
		<u>48,200.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>P 340,700.00</b>

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## BLP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2003 REPORT OF BL FEDERATIONS

November 19 – 21, 2003

Name of Federation/Address	Activities	Total No. of Local orga
<p>1. <b>KISLAP – Calauag</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capability Building (Monthly meeting, barangay level and federation level)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference/seminars</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Organizing &amp; Strengthening                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultations/orientation meeting</li> <li>• Affiliation of 1 organization</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Livelihood Projects                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hog fattening – sponsored by DA</li> <li>• Savings &amp; credit project</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Areas/Barangay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atulayan</li> <li>• Kinamaligan</li> <li>• Santo Angel</li> <li>• Pinagsakayan</li> <li>• Ipil</li> <li>• Baclaran</li> </ul>
<p>2. <b>Guimaras Fisherfolk Federation</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mariculture Park Project – sponsored by BFAR, Provincial Government of Guimaras, SEAFDEC</li> <li>2. Regular budgetary allocation given to FARMCs from the provincial government</li> <li>3. Establishment of a Provincial Fisherfolk Management Operation Center (PFMOC)</li> <li>4. Health Insurance (Philhealth)</li> <li>5. Fisherfolk – Registration</li> <li>6. Establishment of Provincial Fishery &amp; Aquatic Resources Management Section (Guimaras)</li> <li>7. Mangrove Reforestation Projects</li> <li>8. Scholarship Program funded by LGU – Jordan from FARMC fund.</li> <li>9. Budget for maintenance and operations for FARMC officers in Guimaras</li> </ol>	



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS AND  
WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATION**  
CALAUAG, QUEZON  
NOVEMBER 19 – 21, 2003

*THEME: RESEARCH, BASIS OF PROGRESS IN THE FISHERIES*

<i>November 19, 2003 First Day Livelihood Center</i>	<i>November 20, 2003 Second Day Munting Paraiso</i>	<i>November 21, 2003 Third Day Munting Paraiso</i>
<p><b>Morning:</b></p> <p>7:00 – 9:00 Arrival/Registration            9:00 – 10:00 Exhibits            10:30 – 10:35 National Anthem            10:35 – 10:45 Creative Worship            10:45 – 11:00 Welcome Address –  <i>Mario Villaflorida</i>            11:00 – 11:15 Introduction of Participants            11:15 – 11:45 Reporting of the different BLP            federations            11:45 – 12:30 Lecture on the Importance of            Research in Community            Organizing and Coastal            Resources Management –  <i>Mr. Glen Forbes</i> –  <i>“Tanggol Kalikasan sa            Timog Katagalugan”</i>            12:30 – 12:40 Open Forum            12:40 – 1:30 Lunch Break</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b></p> <p>1:30 - 5:00 Reporting of the different BLP            Federations and Synthesis            5:00 - 6:30 Report of the Bigkis-Lakas            President - Report of <i>Charlie            Capricho</i> and <i>Raffy Olivera</i> on            Global Involvement of BLP            6:30 – 7:00 Open Forum            7:00 - 8:00 Dinner</p>	<p><b>Morning:</b></p> <p>7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast            8:00 - 8:10 Creative Religious Ritual            National Anthem            8:10 - 8:20 Recapitulation            8:20 - 8:30 Introduction of Resource Speaker            8:30 – 11:30 Importance of Partnership between            the Government Agencies and            Organized Fisherfolk in the            Fisheries – <i>RD-IV-A Rosa F. Macas</i>            11:30 – 12:00 Open Forum            12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b></p> <p>1:30 - 3:00 Response to the Questionnaire of            International Labor Organization            Conference 2004            3:00 - 5:00 Workshop on possible Research            Agenda 2004 in Fisheries            5:00 - 5:30 Review of the Vision, Mission and            Goal of BLP and Policies of            Unification            5:30 - 7:00 Election of New BL Officers            7:00 - 8:00 Dinner            8:00 – 10:00 Meeting of New Officers of BL –            2004 – 2006</p>	<p><b>Morning:</b></p> <p>6:00 - 7:00 Celebration of the Holy Eucharist            7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast            8:00 – 10:00 Preparation/Parade/Offering of            Statement of Commitment            10:00-12:00 Judging of the winners in the Slogan            Contest</p> <p><b>Afternoon:</b></p> <p>1:30 - 2:00 Report of the Newly Elected Officers            2:00 - 5:00 World Fisheries Day Programme            Flow of Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Welcome Address – <i>Mayor Pedro Inofre</i> (Calauag)</li> <li>■ Opening Remarks – President – BLP <i>G. Rafael Olivera</i></li> <li>■ Speech of Guest of Honor – <i>ARD IV-A Esmeralda Paz Manalang</i></li> <li>■ Cultural Presentation</li> <li>■ Inspiration Message – MAO – Calauag FARMC Organizer, BFAR Region IV-B</li> <li>■ Solidarity Award/Citation for BL friends and supporters</li> <li>■ Awarding of Prizes to the winners of Slogan Contest</li> <li>■ Closing Remarks</li> </ul> <p>5:00 - 7:00 Supper            7:00 – 10:00 Celebration of Life and Solidarity</p>

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<p>6. <b>BILAPAZUR, Malasugui</b></p>	<p>4. Strengthening of Organization – Orientation of RA 8550 5. Fisherfolk Congress on December 14, 2003</p> <p>1. Seminar on Personhood, Spirituality, Organizing</p>	
<p>7. <b>Kapisanan ng Maliit na Mangingisda ng Albay (PMMB)</b></p>	<p>1. Come-up with a consolidation of various provisions of the Municipal fishery Ordinance – that all fisherfolk of Bacacay will benefit from the said Ordinance – e.g., is the use of speedboat, jet ski and other seacraft that interrupts the marine ecosystem. For the moment, the operation of Tourism is 300 m. from the shoreline.</p> <p>2. Training on Fishery Law Enforcement (FLET) 50 members were trained on law enforcement – apprehended 3 fish dealers; with compressor – 2 units.</p> <p>3. Petition to DDJ and DENR in Manila re: seashore occupancy</p> <p>4. Clean-up Coastal area – BSA</p> <p>5. Establishment of Fish Sanctuary in Uson, Bacacay, Albay, Marine reservoir area in Buanga, San Pablo</p> <p>6. Advocacy on Breakwater issue (MISIBIS BEACH RES.) – MOA</p> <p>7. Paralegal – PESANTECH – Mindanao</p> <p>8. Women: Mangrove reforestation in island barangays</p> <p>9. SEP: fish-cages &amp; seaweed culture</p> <p>10. plan for 2004: integration of PLET of Bacacay, Malilipot &amp; Tabaco – Albay</p>	
<p>8. <b>Muslim-Christian Davao del sur Federation</b></p>	<p><b>Davao del Sur</b></p> <p>1. Organization of Barangays &amp; Municipal FARMCs</p> <p>2. Developed linkages between LGUs, Religious and private sector &amp; BFAR (acquisition of Patrol Boats support for Bantay Dagat Operation).</p>	

<p>3. <b>Region I</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of FARMC – Ilocos Sur</li> <li>2. Inventory of Municipal fishing Ordinances in Region I</li> <li>3. Assist in the establishment of LAMBAKLAD in the provincial of Ilocos Sur &amp; Norte and La Union</li> <li>4. Establishment of Payao in the 3 areas Ilocos Sur &amp; Norte and La Union</li> <li>5. Mangrove Reforestation Project every month since May 2003 – Ocean Month celebration</li> <li>6. Coastal clean-up every October - fish conservation week celebration</li> <li>7. Surveillance patrol</li> <li>8. Dispersal sponsored by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur for farmers – hand tractor and water pump hose and for fisherfolk – Gillnet and motorboat</li> <li>9. Registration of fisherfolk by color coding</li> <li>10. Seminar on “Fish Examination from underwater explosions</li> <li>11. Livelihood opportunities or abalone, seaweeds &amp; mudcrab sponsored by SAEFDEC</li> </ol>	
<p>4. <b>CALARIZ</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expansion &amp; Strengthening</li> <li>2. Resource Mobilization</li> <li>3. Advocacy/Lobbying</li> <li>4. Towards Organizational Sustainability and “Independency” of the three provincial federation – CAFFED, UGMMARIZ and PINAGPALA</li> </ol>	<p>Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naic, Terante, Bacoor – 15 local organization</li> <li>• Angono, Taytay, Binangonan, Cardona, Rizal - 24 local organization</li> <li>• Los Banos, Calamba City, Binan, Sta. rosa – 28 local organization</li> </ul>
<p>5. <b>Kilusan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Lawa ng Taal</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continues Clean-up: Pansipit River &amp; Lake shore</li> <li>2. Apprehension of active fishing</li> <li>3. Moratorium – on the construction of fish cages</li> </ol>	

**10. SARFABLES –  
Maydolong, Eastern  
Samar**

2. Women in Fisheries
  - Organized 5 barangays, plan to lobby for 1 seat at the MFARMC level and to conduct 7 modules/training.
3. The church is also willing to help in the preservation/conservation of seas & forests

**Plans:**

- To organize the MFARMC and BFARMC
- Clarification of Sec. 15 of the MFO no. 202 re: 20% of permit/license fee should be remitted to FARMC and from penalties.
- To institutionalized the FLET
- Social security for law enforces
- Evaluation of MFRMC (4 year – period)
- Other plan that will be submitted to the council

1. Strengthening of network organizations – 19 coastal municipalities including women and youth
2. Strengthening and expansion of implemented livelihood projects
3. networking and linkaging (marketing, technical and financial assistance) from NGA, LGU, NGO and other agencies)
4. Identification and selection of potential second liners fisherfolk leaders
5. Organized regional fisherfolk organization (refloi)
6. Conduct 1<sup>st</sup> tuna consultative conference
7. Coastal clean up

**FARMC activities:**

1. Strengthening and monitoring
2. Coordination with LGUs, MFOs, MFDF and DAO 17
3. Re-orientation of gray areas in the implementation of FARMC.

<p>9. <b>Agdangan Fisherfolk Federation</b></p>	<p>3. Accessed to technical &amp; financial support from LGUs, BFAR, DENR</p> <p>4. Acquired lot from barangay through an approved resolution. Awarded to Muslim – Christian Organization. Davao del Sur</p> <p><b>Davao del Norte</b></p> <p>1. Accessed of technical &amp; financial support from LGUs</p> <p>2. Submitted Municipal Fishery Ordinance Municipal Development Plan in relation to the Banning of Commercial Fishing Bagnet, inland fisheries (hito culture) and 6 payao shallow shelter</p> <p><b>COMPOSTELA VALLEY Province</b></p> <p>1. Organize Fisherfolk Association and FARMCs</p> <p>2. Acquisition of two patrol boats support for Bantay Dagat Operation (1 from BFAR's for Provincial Government)</p> <p><b>Davao Oriental Province:</b></p> <p>1. Establish the monitoring and control and surveillance (MCS) support for law enforcement, fish cages, sea weeds culture, payao shallow shelter.</p> <p>2. Acquired Property for fisherfolks village</p> <p>3. Celebration of Municipal fisherfolks Day (Gov. Generoso)</p> <p>1. The establishment of MFARMC resulted to the following accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ municipal ordinance</li> <li>➤ formation of FLET</li> <li>➤ volunteerism among law enforces</li> <li>➤ livelihood projects at the barangay level: seaweeds farming, development plan for the municipal council</li> </ul>	
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	<p>2,000 trees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Continuous reporting of trawlers along municipal waters; 6 trawlers were apprehended and pending court proceedings.</li> <li>4. continued coordination with FLET team – against dynamite fishing</li> <li>5. training on rattan basket weaving for women as an alternative livelihood for members.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>12. Samahan ng San Narciso, Quezon</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Fish cage project sponsored by BFAR</li> <li>2) Strengthening of MFARMC</li> <li>3) Mangrove reforestation</li> <li>4) Cases pending in court: SBKCF vs. fishpond operator SMMB vs. Emily Perez</li> </ol>	
<p><b>13. BL Gumaca, Quezon</b></p>	<p><b>Federation level:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening thru the support of NGO (WVDF)</li> <li>2. Formation of MFARMC</li> <li>3. Mangrove plantation</li> <li>4. Law enforcement is implemented continuously but no one was punished for illegal activities</li> <li>5. Women are still active and supports the BL activities</li> </ol>	
<p><b>14. UGMMARIZ – Taytay, Cardona, Angono, Binangonan</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Resource mobilization</li> <li>2) Training and Formation</li> <li>3) Advocacy</li> <li>4) Organizational maintenance</li> <li>5) Networking – Ateneo, Miriam, De La Salle, ICA, NGOs, LGUs, Assumption, St. Joseph, government institution and agencies</li> </ol> <p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Strengthening of BFARMC &amp; MFARMC</li> </ol>	<p>BLG ng Samahan – 24 Pamunuan: konseho ng mga lider – 9 Kalihiman ng Pederasyon</p>

<p>11. San Fabian Fisherfolk</p>	<p><b>Social Services:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insurance</li> <li>2. Rebates and dividends to SARFABLES member</li> <li>3. Food for work</li> </ol> <p><b>Livelihood:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tuna handliners with Payao</li> <li>2. Reingnetter</li> <li>3. Deboning (women)</li> <li>4. Farm to market transport</li> <li>5. Tuna processing (for commercialization)</li> <li>6. Gill net</li> <li>7. Lobster fishing</li> <li>8. Communication service (tawag center)</li> <li>9. Tuna marketing</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bolas Fishermen's Association – 45 families President: Franklin Serrada</li> <li>2. Samahang ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Buaton, Tocol, Inc.- 137 families – President Leonardo Ramos</li> <li>3. Sahaman ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Sobol – 59 families President – Alfredo Basto</li> <li>4. Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Alacan – 40 families President – Rolando Pedrazev</li> <li>5. Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Bagket-Saldo – 74 families (Bolasi) President – Arsenio Halog Federation President: Arsenio Halog</li> </ol> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coastal clean-up</li> <li>2. Mangrove reforestation along the river of Bagket – 2,000 trees, Sobol –</li> </ol>	<p>Federation – 5 association 355 family (members)</p>
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<p>17. Pederasyon ng mga Maliliit na mangingisda ng San Miguel Bay</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Regular meeting</li> <li>❖ Sea patrol with patrol boat apprehension of trawl fishing, licensing and case failing</li> </ul> <p><b>Livelihood:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Aquasilvi culture (2 hrs.)</li> <li>❖ Grow floating cage</li> <li>❖ Milkfish production</li> <li>❖ Salive tilapia</li> <li>❖ Siganid, parigidig (5 units)</li> <li>❖ Gillnets dispersal, fingerling dispersals</li> </ul> <p><b>Ecological:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mangrove reforestation</li> <li>❖ AR's deployment</li> <li>❖ Clean-a-shore, poster and slogan making contest, fish conservation parade</li> </ul> <p><b>Network:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ DA, BFAR, DENR, LGUs, NGOs, POs, CWIC Org., others</li> </ul> <p><b>Training:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Hands on training on livelihood FLET, Patrol boat Operation, PCRA, RLM Training, program Development and Management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advocacy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Bangkararera (Regata SMB), radio interviewers/BLITZ, News Ads, magazines, Newsletters, Resolutions and Open Letters, Milkfish Ordinance, MFDP</li> </ul> <p><b>Others:</b></p>	
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<p>15. Calauag at Samahang Bantay Karagatan ng Calauag, Inc.</p>	<p>b) Lobbying for policy on fisheries and its implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ monthly meeting</li> <li>➤ active council of leaders</li> <li>➤ alliance building with other fisherfolk organization at the provincial level.</li> <li>➤ Active FLET and coast watch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coastal Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Existing fish sanctuary at Guinosayan Reef</li> <li>➤ Municipal ordinance as amended by resolution 672 sp. And amended by MO No. 2 series 2002</li> <li>➤ 11 barangays are in-charged</li> <li>➤ existing CRM plan (both at the municipal and barangay level)</li> <li>➤ regular sea borne patrol</li> <li>➤ 85 cases are filed in court – 45 % sentence, 30% dismissed, 25% archived</li> <li>➤ Plan to put up another fish sanctuary in Barangay St. Angel</li> <li>➤ To institutionalize the coastal clean-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 34 local organization both man and women with 995 members</li> <li>▪ 12 local organizations remained to be BL</li> <li>▪ active bantay dagat with 65 members</li> <li>▪ 24 barangay FARMCs</li> </ul>
<p>16. Region II – Davao del Sur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues organizing work</li> <li>• 27.5 hectare mangrove projects in the province of Davao del Sur</li> <li>• 12 hectares mangrove development project for the municipality of Hagonoy</li> <li>• Livelihood Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hog raising</li> <li>- Goat raising</li> <li>- Mussel culture</li> <li>- Seaweeds culture</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>14 local fisherfolk organization</p>

<p>19. BLP Report</p>	<p><b>National:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ BLP alliance with Pampano</li> <li>❖ Partnership with DA/BFAR</li> <li>❖ Membership in National Councils, NFARMC, NAPC, ACEF, CSCSD</li> <li>❖ Networking of GOs, NGOs, POs</li> </ul> <p><b>International:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Membership of WFFP Coordinating Council</li> <li>❖ Attended/represented international meeting, conferences and trainings (Loctudy, France, November 2000)</li> <li>❖ Coordinating Committee Meeting of WFFP (Sri Landa – June 24-30, 2003)</li> <li>❖ Information, Communities Technology training for PO (august 17-30, 2003)</li> </ul>	
<p>20. CASUQUE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Continues conservation of the fishery resources</li> <li>❖ Petition against illegal construction of fishpond</li> <li>❖ Bantay dagat</li> <li>❖ Coastal clean-up</li> </ul> <p><b>Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fish sanctuary</li> <li>❖ Mangrove reforestation</li> <li>❖ Fish cages</li> </ul> <p><b>Plans:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Strengthening of organization</li> <li>❖ Resource Mobilization (financial)</li> </ul>	

<p><b>18. CAFFED</b></p>	<p>Formation of BFARMC, MFARMC, IFARMC</p> <p>Training attended: conflict management training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy and Legislation training</li> <li>▪ Project management and Development</li> <li>▪ Abalone, seaweeds and mudcrab culture</li> <li>▪ Mangrove friedly shrimp aquaculture</li> <li>▪ Leadership training</li> <li>▪ National trainers and regular training</li> </ul> <p>Facilitating in 3 FARMC Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occidental Mindoro</li> <li>• Camarines Norte</li> <li>• Palawan</li> </ul> <p>Coastal Clean-up</p> <p>Livelihood: 5,000 meter net complete MFARMC, 120,000 – tahong culture, 300 pcs. – kabi chicken</p> <p>Network with: Dela Salle Taft, Ateneo, ICA, Mirriam College PWU, St. Joseph College</p> <p><b>Livelihood:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sari-sari stores</li> <li>• 10 units sewing machine</li> <li>• 15 sacks of rice</li> <li>• 2 botika sa barangay</li> <li>• 1 tahong project</li> <li>• 5 typewriter</li> </ul>	<p>15 local members, 7 area active</p>
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## Comment

# Welcome labour

There are seven existing standards (five Conventions and two Recommendations) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that were adopted in 1920, 1959 and 1966. Since then, as far as the world of fisheries is concerned, significant changes have occurred. The most important among them are the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the emergence of developing countries as the world's largest fish producers. There are now about 27 mn persons working solely in capture fisheries, worldwide.

The other significant development in the past two decades has been the emergence of small-scale fisheries as an important source of employment, income, nutritional security and foreign exchange in many coastal developing nations. Aided by new, miniaturized forms of propulsion, navigation and fish detection techniques, small-scale fishers are now fishing far beyond their traditional fishing grounds, sometimes extending to other exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and the high seas. A comprehensive standard on work is, therefore, a welcome development not only for industrial fisheries, but also for the small-scale fisheries, considering its changing profile all over the developing world.

The proposed agenda concerning a comprehensive standard on work in the fishing sector at the 92nd Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2004 (see page 46) envisages a total revision of the existing standards "in the light of the extension of fundamental principles and rights at work to all workers, as laid down in the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up." Two of the existing Conventions, for example, do not apply to the small-scale fishing vessels, namely, Competency Certificates Convention 1966 and Accommodation of Crews (Fishermen) Convention, 1966. Both are pertinent when we consider the changing seascape of small-scale fishing vessels.

Standards on occupational safety and health and social security will also be part of the proposed agenda. Under the proposed Convention and Recommendation, the ILO also intends to provide protection for persons working on both large and small fishing vessels. This is a welcome move, considering that the majority of the world's fishers work in small-scale fisheries.

ILO has circulated a questionnaire among governments, whose replies are to be prepared in consultation with the most representative of organizations of employers and workers. The most representative fishworker organizations should engage their national labour ministries to organize such consultations. That would be an excellent opportunity to participate in defining the scope of such a standard on work.

The fishing world is complex, and it is an onerous task to think of an all-encompassing standard on work in the fishing sector that applies to both industrial and small-scale fisheries. It is, however, important to have such a standard that will ensure that "fishermen, by virtue of their work, do not fall through the crack of social protection provided to other workers", as pointed out by the ILO Law and Practice report. The challenge will be to develop an inclusive standard. We believe such a standard will go a long way in protecting the interests of those who labour on fishing vessels, both large- and small-scale, especially in the EEZs of other countries and the high seas. Such a comprehensive standard on work can also be of great support to fishers in the event of capacity reduction or in situations of overfishing that could lead to displacement of fishers.

We see the proposed standard on work in the fishing sector as an important social instrument to complement fisheries conservation and management initiatives. We welcome this initiative of ILO.

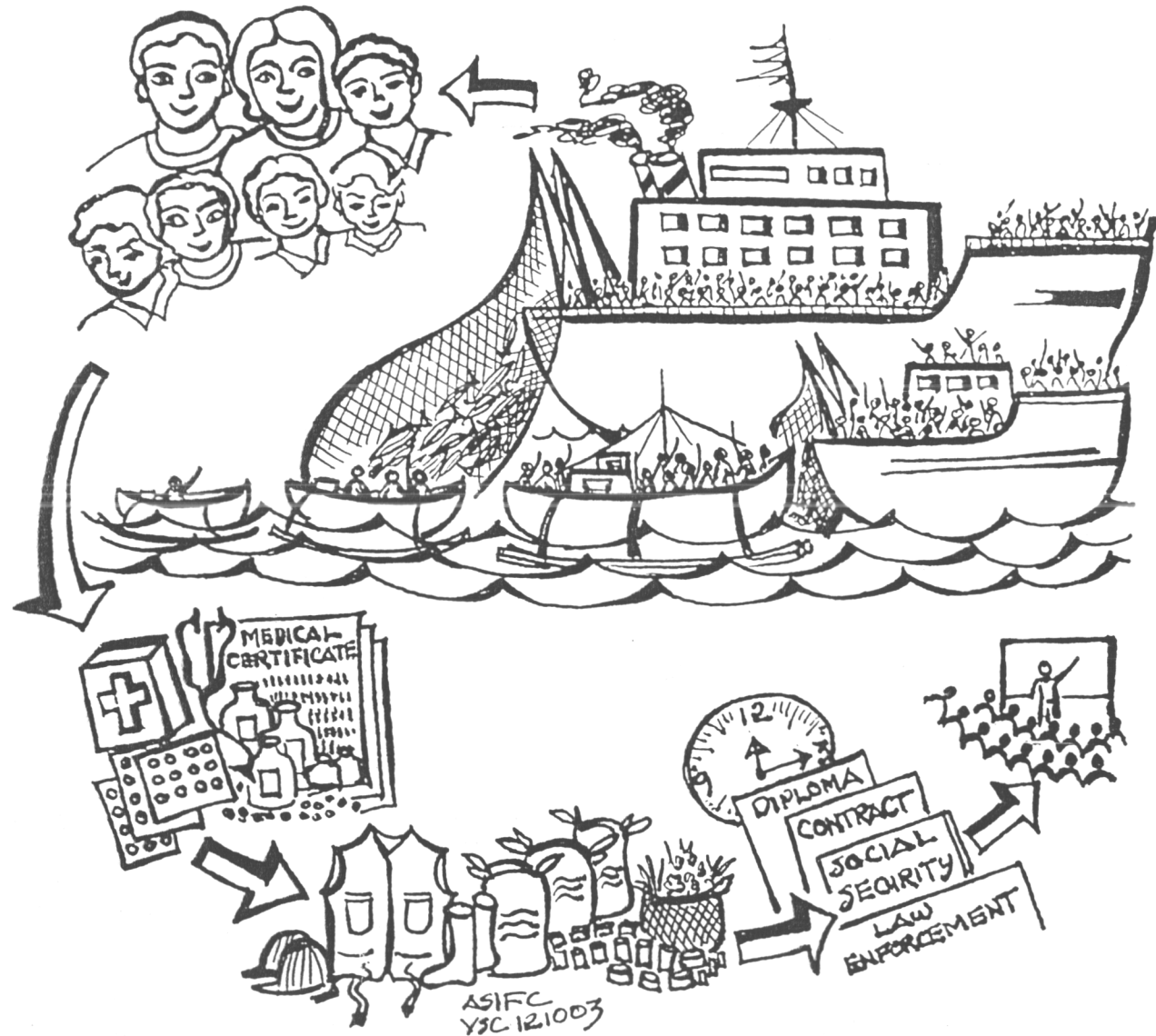
**21. Samahang  
Mangingisda ng  
Corcuera (SMC)  
Region IV**

1. BFARMC organization in 15 Barangays (105 officers)

- ❖ MFARMC federation
- ❖ Monthly regular meeting
- ❖ 1 marine sanctuary
- ❖ Formation of Local Organizations
  - Bansalangin formation
  - Sambulig formation
  - BEC formation

## BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS DELIBERATION ON THE ILO CONFERENCE 2004 ON THE CONDITIONS OF WORK IN THE FISHING SECTOR

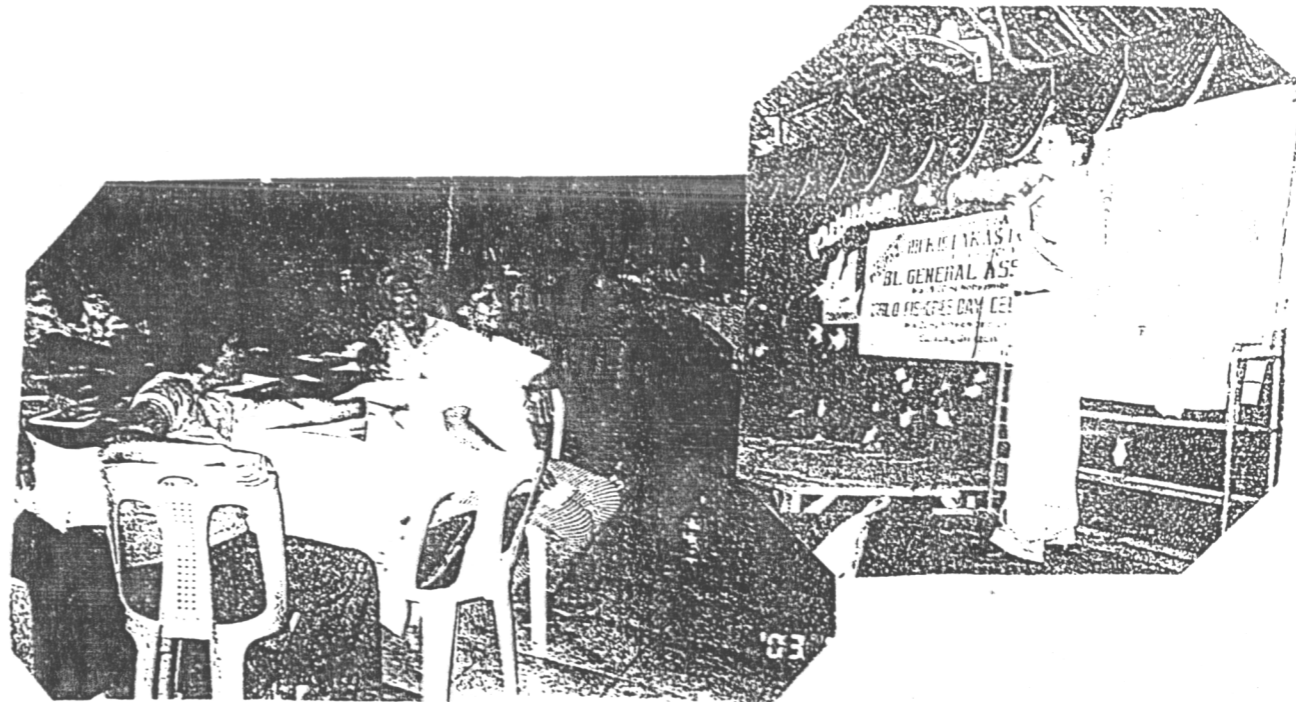
BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS, a national alliance of fisherfolk organizations in the Philippines wholeheartedly discussed the ILO International Labour Conference 92nd Session 2004 with agenda items on conditions of work in the Fishing Sector. This was accomplished during the BLP 15<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary General Assembly and Celebration of the World Fisheries Day last November 19 to 21, 2003 at the coastal town of Calauag, Quezon. There were 86 BL members who participated in this workshop together with supporters from private and government institutions.



The Agenda was presented through a symbolic drawing of different sizes of fishing boats/vessels, of people of different sexes and ages, drawings of medicines, food, medical certificate, contracts, security benefits and law enforcement was also included as part of the agenda for discussion. This was easily understood by the participants as they remarked that the discussion on the agenda will concern the work conditions of the fishworkers engaged in catching fish. Actually there was a violent reaction when we used the term fisherfolk. They suggested instead to use fishworkers, especially those who join commercial fishery which goes out to fish beyond the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** for over a week.

This timely intervention of ILO and given the objectives behind this preparatory activities challenged Bigkis-Lakas Pilipinas to open an avenue of greater collaboration with the fishworkers especially those involved in small scale fisheries. Most of the fishers are unorganized and very subservient to vessel owners or to their trustees. According to the participants as they shared their experiences, their situation is worst than fisherowners of 6 horsepower fishing boats. They have no contracts, medical care of what so ever, food is shouldered by the fishworkers, no security benefits and oftentimes they are apprehended for poaching in fishing grounds of other town and even of other countries. Some ended in jail for several months like cases of fishworkers in General Santos City, Mindanao who illegally fished in Indonesian waters. Considering the ILO 2004 conference as grand favor not only for big scale fisheries but especially for small or medium scale fisheries like in the Philippines, BLP readily support this initiative. But they were very much aware of their limitation during the discussion having no involvement with organizing fishworkers. They heavily banked on their experiences and observations of the present conditions of the Fishworkers.

Another point of consideration raised during the discussion was the fact that our present **Fisheries Code Republic Act 8550** has concrete provisions to safeguard the welfare of fishworkers on board fishing vessels such as medical care, safety, food, contract and others. But because they doubt how this is being implemented to the letter they are skeptic that these laws are only good in paper. One participants even sighed that if our present laws covering the concern of fishworkers are implemented if would already suffice. However, they still agree that to partake in this exercise of gathering data for international good is an opportunity to be able to participate and be heard. Hopefully our concerns will be included in the final draft of the policy standard by ILO, like when BL participated in drafting the **Code of Ethics for Responsible Fisheries** through the late fisher leader **Mr. Sofronio "Ka Onie" Balagtas** in Rome in 1991.



Making use of the Symbolic drawing the plenary discussion started with BLP approving ILO's effort to have a convention supplemented by recommendations. The four (4) areas of operation in fisheries used by ILO Questionnaire were considered present in the Philippines but exemption were presented especially for traditional and indigenous fishing done during daytime and only for several hours or a day. Like those fishing within the 15 kilometer limit. When the participants talk of traditional and indigenous fishing, they included fishing vessel length, tonnage, time spent in fishing at seas and types of fishing gears and operations.

On the item of acceptable fishing age, the participants agreed on the country's legal working age which is 18 years old as stipulated in our law. But they also vocally expressed of the exemptions especially those youth who are being trained by their parents to the profession, those who are forced to do fishing at a young age because their parents are disabled and likewise those who are in the schools of fisheries. But during rough/cold windy sea conditions deck-based work/job should not be allowed for youth below 18 years old.

The participants regarded medical examination for person working on board fishing vessel must be mandatory except for the exemption mentioned earlier (Day fishing of traditional boats within the municipal waters and below 3 gross tons). Therefore those who are qualified should have medical certificate and all necessary medical care, food, safety gears at sea must be provided by these commercial and industrial fishing vessels. Aside from the medical certificates, contracts for work must be strictly followed/observed.

Appropriate accommodation and sufficient food and drinking water during fishing period in the above mentioned fishing fleets must be provided to the fishworkers except in short hour fishing boats. Fishworkers on board fishing vessels operating for longer days and in deep seas within the EEZ and outside should have sufficient training and competence in safe navigation and fishing operations in accordance with international standards. The participants regarded rest of fishworkers as necessary for health and safety reasons. If possible every after fish haul, a good rest must be awarded to the fishworkers.

Likewise social security must be granted as defined in the fisheries code of countries. There must also be equal or justified sharing of the income in fishing after necessary expenses are met. This is also a way of protecting seafarers in case of unforeseen difficulties.

Bigkis-lakas Pilipinas, regards the Fishworkers as responsible contributors to food security for humankind. It is essential therefore that they also develop a sense of ownership of the fishing vessels they are boarding. This system would ensure trust and lasting working relationship between owners and workers in fishery endeavors. The caring factor of the means of production and nature which is the fishing ground ensure the life of Fisheries for coming generation. Consultation between owners and workers is vital to promote real partnership in fishery management and development. With this, other issues like seaworthiness of fishing fleets, employment of security guards in fishing vessels and Treaty and Agreement between countries affecting fishers in small scale fisheries will be easily and peacefully resolved.



# WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATION

November 21, 2003

Calauag, Quezon

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

We, the **FISHERPEOPLE** and **SUPPORT GROUPS** shall live this Statement of Commitment in honor of the **Celebration of the World Fisheries Day** this 21<sup>st</sup> of day of **November, 2003** held here in **Calauag, Quezon**.

1. Widespread campaign – to awaken the people on the importance of our Fishing Grounds, the Fisheries and the Marine Resources of the whole archipelago.
2. Continuous cleaning and rehabilitation of our **seashores, lakes, rivers** and **springs** and **water reservoirs**.
3. Building **fish sanctuaries, marine reserves** and **parks** in order to bring back the **beauty, harmony, cleanliness** and **bounty** of the seas;
4. Planting of **mangroves** and other kind of **trees** along the **seashores**.
5. Guarding the seas against those using **destructive means of fishing**.
6. Organize and strengthen **fisherfolk organizations** and **FARMC** in the **management, conservation** and **development** of our fishing grounds.
7. Pursue the enforcement of fishery laws at the local, provincial, national and global level for the betterment of the **fishing industry** and the **marine resources** as a whole.
8. Widespread **action** to stop **pollution** emanating from all sources (agricultural, chemical, industrial and domestic) in the rivers, shoreline, on land and on the atmosphere.

9. Social action to minimize **mining**, expansion of **golf courses**, **eco-tourism projects** and other **infrastructure projects** which do not adhere to the principle of **sustainable development**.
10. Launching of livelihood projects and social security benefits for the marginalized fishers.
11. Control the marketing of fish and other marine products by fisherfolk cooperatives.
12. Study the technical aspect of fishing and management of the shorelines in pursuit of the **VISION, MISSION and GOAL (VMG)** of the fisherfolk organizations.

NAME

SIGNATURE

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

_____
_____
_____
_____
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## A COVENANT FOR THE AMELIORATION OF PRO-NATURE FISHING INDUSTRY

I, as a citizen of the Philippines, occupying 212,000,000.000 hectares of the waters within the perimeters of the Pacific ocean, do hereby agree to be one in this concerted action for the sake of the fisherpeople, of the Fishing Industry, of the Women in Fisheries, of the sea of our other natural sea resources and the fishing industry. With this, I wholeheartedly commit myself to fulfill by following:

1. Everyday, I will invoke the help of the Lord for the better condition and richness of the coastal communities, fishing grounds, the marine biodiversities and the fishing industry as a whole.
2. I will manage properly our system of waste disposal that this will not flow down the rivers and finally to the sea which will eventually destroy the fishing grounds.
3. I will conserve water so that every household will enjoy a fair share of public distributed fresh water.
4. I will use environment-friendly soap and detergents in my household and also encourage my neighbor to do so.
5. I will be one with organizations whose thrust is for the care of nature especially water resources and for the good of the fishing grounds and the fisheries.
6. I will join in the concerted action for the liberation both of nature and the fisherfolk.
7. I will only vote for political candidates who support the welfare of the sea, gender sensitive, care for nature and nature-loving Fishing Industry.
8. I will sign in petitions/appeal, dispositions and agreements with objectives well being of the sea, of nature as a whole and the Fishing Industry.
9. I will convince my friends, my family, my neighbors and co-workers to favoring the support actions for the sake of the sea, the fishers, the fisheries and the fishing grounds in its entirety.
10. I will help monitor all rules, regulations and policies related to the conservation of nature and fisheries development at the local, provincial, national and global level.

CELEBRATION OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> YEAR  
OF BIGKIS-LAKAS, PILIPINAS AND  
WORLD FISHERIES DAY

November 19-21, 2003  
Calauag, Quezon

THEME: RESEARCH, THE BASIS OF FISHERIES' PROGRESS

BLUE VOTE - VOTE FOR THE FISHERFOLK AND  
A PROGRESSIVE LIBERATING FISHERIES

*THE SEAS AND OUR LIVES IS BUT ONE!  
IF ONE DISAPPEARS, THE OTHER WILL ALSO DO.  
WITH THIS BELIEF, WE VOW TO LIVE BY WITH THE  
FOLLOWING COMMITMENT:*

**For the Betterment of the seas:**

- Direct management of the fishing grounds by the real fishers
- Taking care and guarding the natural resources of the seas
- Building fish sanctuaries, marine reserves and parks
- Building of necessary fishing infrastructures for the development and progress of fishing industry
- Control of fish marketing and other bounties of the sea by organized fishers
- Rehabilitation of rivers, springs and lakes
- Orderly and correct management of garbage and waste materials in such a way that instead of becoming a cause of destruction of the environment, devise a recycling process to be of help to the people.

### **For the Progress of the Fisherfolk**

- Acknowledgement of the fisherfolks as a sector and responsible stakeholders of the fishing grounds
- Giving importance to the role of Women and the youth in fisheries and by recognizing their leadership in fisherfolk organizations
- Disseminating technical know-how to all fishers related to fishing matters
- Allotting funds for livelihood projects of the fisherfolk
- Giving support to strengthen fisherfolk organizations
- Allocation of social security benefits for the marginalized fishers

### **For the improvement of Water Resources, Forests and Land**

- Implementing organic means of fertilizer and pesticide in farming
- Maintain the remaining forested areas and vigilantly guard them from illegal loggers.
- Stop big scale mining and minimize the already existing golf courses all over the Philippines
- Reforest our mountains and farmlands and conserve the watersheds.
- Enforce strict monitoring and guarding of our natural resources

**Being a fishing sector, we are calling on all communities to pursue and support these standpoints. To the government officials and candidates of the different political parties, we are ready to support your candidacy should you adhere and heartily support this thrust in Fishery Transformation.**



## ANNOUNCEMENT

Since 1998, **World Fisheries Day** is being celebrated every twenty-first (21) of November all over the world. This is so, to acknowledge the importance of Fishery in the lives of the populace and Mother Nature in general. Rejoice and give thanks to our Fisheries!



In connection with this celebration we **valorize** all responsible and nature loving fishers and **Women in Fisheries** of the world. About 21 million fishers and more than 200 million people earn their living through the **Fishing Industry**.

In 1988, according to **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)** of the UN, through the seas and struggle of fishers, 97,985,400 tons of fishes have been harvested for the consumption of billions of people and animals on earth.

Although the sea is rich in its resources, it also faces problems related to over fishing, hazardous fishing, pollution, siltation or accumulation of toxic garbage/wastes along the shores and nuclear testings. It is of great necessity that we defend, take care and properly manage our water resources.

Many industries and likewise different sectors have been recognized by United Nations for their international importance. Now it is high time that we give honor to the great role of **Fisheries**. Let us celebrate the **World Fisheries Day.. THEIR LIVES AND OURS ARE ONE.**

In the Philippines, there are national organizations of Fishers and **BIGKIS-LAKAS, Pilipinas (BLP)** is one of them which was organized in December 1988 in La Force, Lipa City, Batangas, registered under the **Security and Exchange Commission with Register No. 16220** and presently has a membership of 30,176. This organization is supported at the national level by the **Family Center, Asian Social Institute (FCASI)** in **Manila** and in the local level by, the **Diocesan Social Action Centers** and other supporting groups. BLP is also supported by the **International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)** based in **Chennai, India.**

The BLP is also a strong partner of the **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA)** in implementing the **Republic Act No. 8550, the (New Law on Fisheries 1998)** and most importantly the **Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC).**

Since 1997, the BLP has been a member of the **World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP)** with office in **Trivandrum, India** and with members in 18 countries.

Altogether, let us celebrate the 15 years of untiring concern and sacrifices of BLP in developing the fishing communities and the national fisheries and in the **CELEBRATION OF WORLD FISHERIES DAY - November 21, 2003** here in **Calauag, Quezon.**

**LONG LIVE THE WOMEN IN FISHERIES**  
**LONG LIVE THE FISHING INDUSTRY!**  
**LONG LIVE THE SEAS!**  
**LONG LIVE THE BIGKIS-LAKAS PILIPINAS!**  
**LONG LIVE THOSE RESPONSIBLE AND**  
**NATURE-LOVING FISH WORKERS!**

## Hijacked by neoliberal economics

A fashionable neoclassical political-economic ideology has taken over the management of many fisheries

In the beginning, fish were aplenty and there were no rules upon the face of the deep, and the spirit of free access moved upon the waters. And the fishermen saw that it was good and fished as many fishes as they needed to feed their families and their neighbours. But people were multiplying and replenishing the earth, and more and more fishermen had to catch more and more fish to meet the demand of the ever-growing humanity. And governments said: let there be management, so that there would always be enough fish left in the seas to procreate. And they limited the gear, the vessels, the seasons, and the fishing areas, and they called it 'input regulation'. But, the fishermen kept fishing and their fleets kept growing, and the governments saw that it was bad. So they made licences, and their scientist thought up the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and the total allowable catches (TACs). But the fishermen kept competing, and over-capitalizing, and the fish became scarce. And the economists said unto the governments: let there be property rights. And they spawned individual transferable quotas (ITQs). And they believed that it is good and said unto the fishermen: Behold, rights' privatization is your salvation. And the governments sent the ITQs upon waters to replenish the seas and subdue all fisheries. And it was good!

This is more or less the gospel, which prevails throughout fisheries administrations in many countries. It makes some people richer and they become its devoted believers and supporters, while the many made poorer—or afraid to become so—its adamant opponents. And the consequences in almost every single case are more or less gradual concentration of fishing rights in fewer and fewer hands, often enough in the hands of major

corporate interests, at the expense of small-scale, family- and skipper-owned fishing enterprises that operate one or two small or even medium-sized fishing vessels, each.

Fisheries management is supposed to look after the health of the fish resources exploited by fishermen. This requires knowledge of fishery biology and ecology, population dynamics, and historical data of the fishery and of environmental and associated stock fluctuations in its area. As fisheries management can only manage people, it entails negotiations, legislation, technology and enforcement. There is a whole catalogue of management systems and technical and administrative methods that managers can use to try to achieve their targets. The political attitude of the powers in charge determines the choice of the system and the manner in which it is applied through licensing, quotas allocation, or limits set on effort. The system chosen influences, through allocating benefits to the different stakeholders, the distribution of the benefits derived from the resource. For example, allocating fishing rights to a large number of small-scale fishermen would call for different management methods than allocating them to a large company.

### Traditional knowledge

Old-type management by tribal and community leaders and local fisherfolk's organizations based on traditional knowledge of the resource and traditional justice, is now almost totally extinct. It has been replaced throughout most of the world by bureaucratic and technocratic mechanisms heavily influenced by political and economic considerations that, while interested in fish as marketable merchandise and a source of profits to the



## WORLD FISHERIES DAY NOVEMBER 21

Once again the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) is getting ready to observe World Fisheries Day on November 21. The fishing communities and the fisheries are in great peril all over the World. The depletion of fishing grounds continues to increase due to 35000 huge Industrial fleets and Factory Fleets in the World, Pollution through Oil Exploration, Dumping of Industrial Waste, Nuclear Waste & Toxic Materials into the sea. The Industrial Aquaculture and Destructive Gears, over fishing and overcapacity are further aggravating the problem. Those who do the fishing for commercial purposes and for profiteering are doing all these destructions. They do all these at the expense of environmental destruction, and displacement of millions of traditional fishing communities that depend on fishing for livelihood.

The fishing communities that depend on fishing for livelihood are not only displaced, but they are also losing their fishing rights all over the World. 20000 fisher people are displaced from Jambudwip, an island in India in the name of protecting the forest and developing Eco-tourism. Thousands of fisher people are facing displacement from 21 islands in Ramnad, India. The fisher people in Srilanka are being displaced by the Joint Ventures, Foreign fishing vessels. In the name of protecting the territory, every day innocent fisher people are jailed in Srilanka, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The Eel collectors with hands of France are not recognized as professional fisher people. The Galatian Women of Spain, who pick up oysters with their hands, are fighting for their rights as professional fisher women. The artisanal fisher people in South Africa are fighting for their fishing rights, lost due to ITQ. The small fisher people, artisanal fisher people all over the World particularly, in Pakistan, India, the Philippines, Srilanka, Bangladesh, Martinique, Mauritania, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Benin, Guinea, Madagascar, Pacific, Spain, France, Guadeloupe, and Canada belonging to the WFFP, are fighting for survival and the fishing rights.

Undoubtedly, the truth is that the World Fisheries can survive only through small ones. The USA and the EU must stop giving subsidies to the 35000 industrial factory ships and the industrial aquaculture in the World. We have to resist this basic approach of the WTO, World Bank and Globalization. The only way we can stop this profiteering and destruction is by campaigning for a change of law: THE FISHING COMMUNITIES THAT DEPEND ON FISHING FOR LIVELIHOOD SHOULD OWN AND MANAGE WATER BODIES AND FISH RESOURCES. THE LIFE OF THE PLANET AND THE DEPENDENT HEALTH OF THE HUMANITY MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED BY THE GREED OF A FEW. In order to achieve this please start working out a fisheries policy by each WFFP member organization like the one worked out by the National Fisheries Solidarity of Sri Lanka, as a preparation for the General Assembly due to be held in Kenya.

**World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) Secretariat, Valiathura, Thiruvananthapuram-695008, India. Fax/Tel (91) 471 2501 376, Tel: 2505216, Email: [nff@vsnl.com](mailto:nff@vsnl.com), Web: [www.wffp.org](http://www.wffp.org).**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BIGKIS-LAKAS, PILIPINAS AND  
WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATION**

November 19 – 21, 2003

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Pangalan</b>	<b>Tirahan</b>	<b>Telepono/Cellphone</b>
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2. Buenafe M. Olarte	Lebak, Sultan Kudarat	064-205-3112
3. Marlyn O. Loste	Brgy. 7, Maydolong, Eastern Samar	09208223491 (055)5711033
4. Charles C. Capricho	Sta. Salud, Calabanga, Camarines Sur	09195991524
5. Cornelio Casipit	Sampiruhan, Calamba City – (Calariz- Laguna)	(02) 640-79-28
6. Jovy B. San Andres	Zone I - Belen, Calabanga, Camarines Sur	09196823844
7. Bayani L. Sta. Ana	No. 101 Sitio Villamayor, Brgy. Pag-asa, Binangonan, Rizal (Calariz)	09176617335
8. Ernesto Capili	Sampiruhan, Calamba City (Calariz – Laguna)	09196906332
9. Rogelio M. Balanac	Brgy Anas, Calauag, Quezon	09182478024
10. Tomas Avelino B. Arcalas	Rancho, Santa. Ilocos Sur	09272334144
11. Gaudencio Cajetas	White Beach, Pagadian City	09195991530
12. Jocelyn Rupin	Aplaya Hagonoy, Davao del sur	09203442387
13. Ofelia C. Marca	KMMC – Brgy. Sta. Marca, Calauag, Quezon	301-7506
14. Danilo R. Co	Brgy. Bolasi, San Fabian, Pangasinan	(075) 5240180
15. Zoilo E. Tarasina, Jr.	Brgy. Rosario, Gumac, Quezon	09169591886
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17. Rudy A. Cabahug	Brgy. Making, Parang, Maguindanao	09165770350
18. Beatriz M. Janda	Brgy. Kan Calutan, Agdangan, Quezon	0973583574
19. Felizardo C. Lim	BLISS, Labac, Naic, Cavite	09198622687
19. Andrea Villabroza-Olase	World Vision Dev't Found. ICRM, M.H. del Pilar St., Gumaca, Quezon	09176260907/0423177402
20. Gregorio B. Basco, Sr.	Sabang, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur	09197749511
21. Rogelio D. Amatorio, Jr.	Brgy. Hoskyn, Jordan, Guimaras/Jordan Municipal FARMC Office: Municipal Library Bldg. Poblacion, Jordan, Guimaras	09163501096 Telefax (033)238-10 (033)2381331/09163501096
22. Luisito R. Fernandez	Brgy. Kinamaligan, Calauag, Quezon	09162249063
23. Loreto F. Fajilan	Brgy. Tacasan, Corcuera, Romblon	09186589199

## BLP GENERAL ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS HOMEBASE

### LUZON:

1. Ilocos Sur (1)
2. Pangasinan (1)
3. Bulacan (2)
4. Batangas (1)
5. Cavite (2)
6. Laguna (2)
7. Rizal (2)
8. Quezon (49)
9. Mindoro (1)
10. Romblon (3)
11. Camarines Sur (4)  
WIF (3)
12. Albay (3)
13. National Capital  
Region – Manila (2)
14. Pampanga (1)

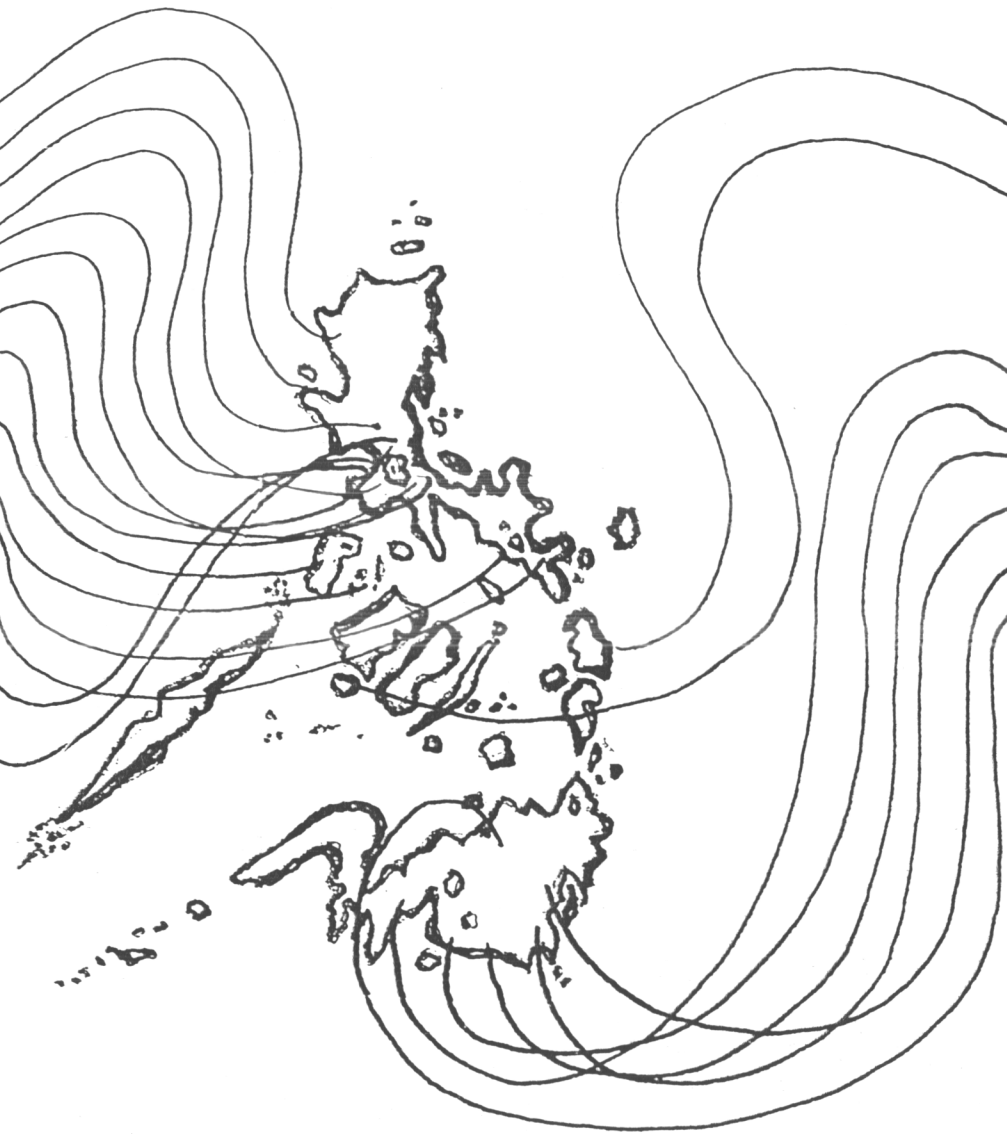
### VISAYAS:

1. Eastern Samar (2)
2. Guimaras (1)

### MINDANAO:

1. Zamboanga del Sur (1)
2. Maguindanao (1)
3. Sultan Kudarat (1)
4. Davao del Sur (1)
5. Davao City (1)
6. Misamis Oriental (1)

FCASI Staff - 5  
BFAR Staff - 2  
Local DSWD Staff - 5



58. Frederick C. Deraco	Gumaca, Quezon
59. Donaldo Corong	Gumaca, Quezon
60. Avelino Mendoza	Calauag, Quezon
61. Luis Pialo	Calaug, Quezon
62. Aniceto Alpuerto	Calauag, Quezon
63. Fernando delos Santos	Calaaug, Quezon
64. Gerry Francisco	Calauag, Quezon
65. Bro. Santi C. Masaganda, Jr.	Calauag, Quezon
66. Loreto F. Fajilon	Calauag, Quezon
67. Rodrigo Borromeo	Barangay Sogod, Bacacay, Albay
68. Enrico Dano	Vilalbota, Gumaca, Quezon
69. Edgardo Franco	Villabota, Gumaca, Quezon
70. Prescila D. Balanac	Barangay Manhulugin, Calauag, Quezon
71. Gloria Dominguez	Barangay Manhulugin, Calauag, Quezon
72. Renato Custodio	Barangay Manhulugin, Calauag, Quezon
73. Leonardo Javier	Sabang I, Calauag, Quezon
74. Rodel Garganta	SMMS I, Calauag, Quezon
75. Julieta S. buenaventura	SMMS I, Calauag, Quezon
76. Teodorico Barrera	SMMS I, Calauag, Quezon
77. Cresencio Santos	SMMS I, Calauag, Quezon
78. Maximo Pereira	SMMS I, Calauag, Quezon
79. Juliana Torres	Madlandungan, Calauag, Quezon
80. Rolando Alpuerto	Manlandungan, Calauag, Quezon
81. Gregorio Pedrezuela	Manlandungan, Calauag, Quezon
82. Winnie Noscal	Pitogo, Quezon
83. Virgilio S. Cristobal	ASI-Family Center (Angono, Rizal)
84. Betty Solleza	ASI-Family Center (Infanta, Quezon)
85. Nelida A. Cayas	ASI-Family Center (Naic, Cavite)
86. Corito Ramos	ASI-Research (Las Pinas City)
87. Juliet Sagum	ASI Family Center (Dasmaringas, Cavite)



24. Alona C. Abinales	Maydolong, Eastern Samar	(055) 5711033
25. Araceli R. Lanada	Brgy. Bagacay, Tinambac, Camarines Sur c/o Gie Tejada	09185007121
26. Gloria B. Dasal	Zone 2 Bagacay, Tinambac, Camarines Sur c/o Gie Tejada	09185007121
27. Rodrigo M. Gipit	Wawa, Malaban, Binan, Laguna (Calariz - Laguna)	09195324128
28. Conchito V. Yu, Sr.	158 South San Juan Village, Brgy. Centro, Agdao Dist., Davao City	(082)3003451/09192942916
29. Gloriosa O. Verdan	Brgy. Villa Arcaya, Gumaca, Quezon	09194004001
30. Rosa T. Abiog	Brgy. Bagacay, Tinambac, Camarines Sur	09185007121
31. Carmelito A. Villaverde	117 Rizal St., Brgy. Sabang Uno, Calauag, Quezon	
32. Aida A. Merillo	Brgy. Pipisik, Gumaca, Quezon	
33. Eugenia Lavarro	Brgy. Hagakhakin, Gumaca, Quezon	
34. Anthony Ramos	Brgy. Dos, Calauag, Quezon	
35. Jonathan F. Ferry	Brgy. Guintigiran, Corcuera, Romblon	
36. Manuel D. Balisa	Brgy. Magsaysay, Tagkawayan, Quezon	
37. Jose F. Geneblazo, Jr.	Brgy. Sabang I, Calauag, Quezon	
38. Fe M. Alcala	Brgy. Sata. Maria, Calauag, Quezon (DSWD)	
39. Nora B. Moises	Brgy. Sabang I, Calauag, Quezon	
40. Evelyn N. de Luna	Brgy. Pinagkamaligan, Calauag, Quezon	
41. Pablo P. Librero	Brgy. Sabang, Calabanga, Camarines Sur (MFARMC)	
42. Cresenciano H. de la Cruz	Brgy. Kinamaligan, Calauag, Quezon	
43. Eduardo B. Castelo	Brgy. Sogod, Bacacay, Albay	
44. Marieta Cantor	Brgy. Atulayan, Calauag, Quezon	
45. Andres C. Cantor	Brgy. Atulayan, Calauag, Quezon	
46. Alvin G. Quinto	P-4 Barobo, Surigao del Sur	
47. Benjamin S. Amarillas	Brgy. Kanluran Calutan, Agdangan, Quezon	
48. Amelita T. Apa	Brgy. Kanluran, Calutan, Agdangan, Quezon	
49. Mario Penaflorida	MFARMC Calauag, Quezon	
50. Ignacio Camacho Jr.	BL Calauag, Quezon	
51. Modesto Balanac	BL Calauag, Quezon	
52. Jaime R. Lavariaz	Binangonan, Rizal (Calariz - Rizal)	
53. Edgardo Estibar	Naic, Cavite (Calariz - Cavite)	
54. Milagros L. Chavez	Calauag, quezon	
55. Calixto Abrego	General Luna, Quezon	
56. Danilo Pialo	Calauag, Quezon	
57. Joey Noscal	Region IV-A, Diliman, Quezon City	

## WORLD FISHERIES DAY SLOGAN CONTEST

- Enrich our consciousness implement technology in the Fisheries that would safeguard the future of the populace.
- Look my friend at the progress brought to communities. Research sincerely lived by will make Fisheries truly beneficial.
- Hey! Hey! Hey! Mr. Suave. Mangroves, you don't cut to make charcoal, post and column, for our fishes will not thrive and multiply at all.
- Help our Mother Nature. Let's save the seas. Let discipline and science set us free.
- Technology and Science are needed, so life in the seas be conserved.
- In nature's bounty, people live in security.
- Fish sanctuaries are to be protected, there lies the treasure for the youth we reserve.
- Research, basis for progress in Fisheries. Clean water of the seas be regarded as treasure. Sea resources be given care that everybody's future.
- Rivers, seas, and oceans are natural richness, where we are to start progress.
- Lives of the fishing populace depends on a progressive and bountiful fisheries.
- Double our sacrifice and initiatives, bear in mind and wish everyone the best.
- For the triumph of our fishery development efforts. Never forget good manners in the management of the natural resources.
- Night and day the grace of the Lord is spread all over.
- Forest and fishing grounds are sources of our subsistence, take care and protect them for future existence.
- Research. Basis of progress in the Fisheries. If you want Fisheries to prosper, research is the answer.
- Fisheries must thrive with learning, research must be the basic of doing.
- Research, Basis of progress in the Fisheries. Give Fisheries an opportunity. Research is the key to economic sustainability
- Make researches about fisheries. Research on to the progress of communities.
- My sea! My life! Hope of the people, hands we hold!
- Research for knowledge, guard the fishing grounds take care for the future where benefits abound.
- To widen knowledge, Research is needed. Modern techniques be implemented towards the progress of fisheries.
- From God we get pity, from the sea there's the bounty, from men destruction begin from women caring springs.
- Sustainable and natural ways are keys to progressive fisheries.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**BIGKIS-LAKAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND**  
**WORLD FISHERIES DAY CELEBRATION**

November 19 – 21, 2003  
 Calauag, Quezon

Food & Rooms -----	P 122,220.00
Supplies and Materials -----	18,000.00
Streamers -----	2,400.00
Communication and other expenses -----	1,190.00
Transportation expenses of participants -----	21,602.00
Transportation expenses follow-up, ground working, etc. -----	9,625.00
Communication and other expenses -----	<u>1,380.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>P 175,037.00</b>

**Contributions:**

From BFAR -----	P 147,054.00
From ICSF -----	<u>50,000.00</u>
	<b><u>P 197,054.00</u></b>

Balance ----- P 22,017.00

**ICSF**  
**FOR DIGITIZATION**  
 DATE: 05/11/2018

(91)

54 pages