

Panay Wide Ecumenical Workshop Sharing on Church People's Disaster Response

January 24, 2014

8:00 am to 4:00pm

Patronage of St. Joseph Parish

Parish Hall

Pototan, Iloilo

Facilitated by:

Asian Rural Graduates Association ARUGA, Inc.

and

Sendai Christian Alliance Disaster Relief Network Touhoku HELP

In cooperation with the *Patronage of St. Joseph Parish*

I. Rationale

The Philippines and the world were equally surprised at the extent of damage caused by typhoon Yolanda (*International code name: Haiyan*)- the first ever typhoon with a maximum wind velocity of 315 miles/hour (also the strongest ever typhoon in history(that was experienced last November 2013.

Particularly in Panay Island, devastation was severe in Northern Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan and Antique. We, as Christians, could not remain silent as media reports the suffering of the people who were worst hit.

Also as Christians, we simply do not look at the physical damage brought about by the typhoon – destruction of lives, properties and livelihood. We have witnessed how the people, who once have their own source of living are now forced to beg for relief goods that degrades their dignity as humans.

But as we were all moved by the situation, and this compelled us to respond based on our Christian duty to serve the least of our brethren.

As we reflect on this situation, we also ask ourselves -“*What have we really become as genuine stewards of God's creation?*”

We responded by mobilizing our resources to provide immediate relief to these typhoon victims. We activated our networks within and outside of our churches to share whatever we have for the victims. Yet, much have to be done. Relief operations were meant only serve the immediate needs. We have also to be part of the rehabilitation work as this would provide the opportunity for the victims to regain their dignity as humans.

We hope that by doing rehabilitation work and internal processing of the victims, more strategic planning will be put in place in restoring the communities and provide upliftment in the lives of the people. At the same time, we have to raise their awareness as to the extent of environmental destruction our earth suffers which in turn resulted in natural disasters getting worst.

As Church people, we also need to coordinate our efforts and resources in order to facilitate effective service towards the affected communities. Typhoon Yolanda brought us a strong message. A message that, it is important to build the human infrastructure that strengthens collective efforts rather than building physical infrastructure that may not be able to withstand typhoons, storm surges, earthquakes and other forms of human and natural calamities.

It is on this basis that this endeavor is being organized.

II. Objectives

1. To gather church people of different Christian denominations from Panay Island to reflect on the experiences on the impact of typhoon Yolanda
2. To share and learn from each other's experiences and disaster response initiatives
3. To explore possibilities of having these responses organized and coordinated for effective service towards the community.

III. Activities

A one day gathering of different Christian Churches who exerted efforts in responding to the disaster in the area in Panay

Target Participants: 50 persons from different Christian Churches in Iloilo, Antique, Aklan and Capiz

UCCP Pastors from the Municipalities of Barbasa, Culasi and Tibiao
UMC from Aklan
Full Gospel Church from the Municipalities of Ibajay, Aklan
Church of the Nazarene
Philippine Convention Baptist Churches
Philippine Independent Church
Roman Catholic Church
Other interested parties

IV. Proposed Program

“Simbahan sa Panay, Maghiusa sa Pagbangon sang Katawhan! Mga Tinuga sang Diyos, Amligan!
(Church in Panay, Unite to uplift the People! Protect God’s Creation!)

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Parish Hall of the Patronage of St. Joseph Parish
Pototan, Iloilo

7:00 am	Arrival	
8:00 am	Opening Prayer	
	Welcome Address	Rev. Fr. Tomas Delicana, Jr. Parish Priest Patronage of St. Joseph Parish
	Recognition of the Participants and Presentation of Objectives	Loida Llanora ARUGA - Treasurer
9:00	Brief Discussion - Our Environmental Situation	Joefel Resol ARUGA - Chairperson
9:30	Workshop Sharing: <i>Experiences and Reflections on the impact of Typhoon Yolanda</i>	
10:30	Sharing on the Plenary	
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Input Sharing on the Efforts of Sendai Christian Alliance Disaster Relief Network Touhoku HELP in the aftermath of 2011 Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear accident in Japan	Mr. Kiyoshi Nagashima Adviser
2:00	Workshop Sharing : <i>“What can we do as church people to respond to natural disaster/s?”</i>	
3:00	Sharing on the Plenary	
3:45	Summing Up	
4:00	Closing Ecumenical Liturgy	

V. Resources

There will be no registration fee for participants. There will also be free lunch and snacks, but it is encouraged that participants bring food items for sharing. Funds will also be raised to cover the transportation of some participants.

For coordination, please contact: JOEFEL RESOL at 09105696706 or LOIDA LLANORA at 09398833283.

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