



Indigenous Information Service

E-Newsletter published by Tebtebba * 15 February 2021

Sustained Dialogues: Key to Resolving Ongoing Indigenous Peoples Issues

After the 4th session of the Dayalogo series with various national government line agencies, participants from the different indigenous peoples' organizations all over the Philippines did a Dayalogo Series assessment activity wherein its results, gains, and accumulated lessons were shared, analyzed, and discussed.

"Naging mabunga ang ating mga Dayalogo (The Dayalogos had been productive)," Bapa Ponyong Kadlos of Buhi Hanunuo Mangyan Incorporated (BHAPI) enthused. *"Nakapagbigay ang gobyerno ng kalinawan sa kanilang mga polisiya at alituntunin, pati na rin ng mungkahi sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanila (The government line agencies were able to provide clarifications on their policies and regulations as well as recommendations on how to engage their designated offices),"* Kadlos added.



No. 1 Roman Ayson Road, Baguio City 2600, Philippines
Tel No.: +63 74 4447703 * Email: tebtebba@tebtebba.org
Website: www.tebtebba.org

In the same light, Julimere Ken Gandor of Erumanen ne Menuvu Kamal posited that the series of dialogues provided indigenous peoples a way to reach the said government agencies. *“Nagkaroon ng oportunidad na maipaabot sa mga ahensya ng pamahalaan ang mga problema (We were given an opportunity to present our issues to the different government line agencies),”* he affirmed. He mentioned that the Department of Agriculture (DA) offered his community an explanation on the cadastral survey that occurred within their ancestral domain in Carmen, North Cotabato and even requested for a local dialogue with them. Also, he mentioned that the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) asked for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) consultation with his people.

Datu Berino ‘Boy’ Sumin of Manobo Lumadnong Panaghiusa (MALUPA) agreed that the Dayalogo series was a huge help for them, as well.

“Mula nung nagkaroon ng dayalogo, mga dalawa o tatlong araw lang ang agwat, nagkaroon ng sagot. Parang suwerte rin sa amin dahil nung natapos ang dayalogo, pumunta ang DAR, Arakan municipal government, at ang opisina ng National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) dito sa Indigenous Peoples’ Hall namin para kami ay kausapin. Ang DAR Regional Office sa Arakan, sa pakikipag-ugnayan ng Tebtebba, ay nakipag-usap sa amin para tingnan ang Certificate of Land Ownership (CLOA) issue. Naging matagumpay, nabigyan lunas ang problema sa ancestral domain (Ever since we had these dialogues, only two or three days after, we were provided with a solution. It was as if the dialogues made us lucky

because right after they were completed, DAR, Arakan municipal government, and NCIP representatives visited us here at our Indigenous Peoples’ Hall. Through the communications made by Tebtebba, the DAR Regional Office in Arakan contacted us to look into the CLOA issue),” Sumin said.

During the first Dayalogo, “Indigenous Peoples’ Agriculture and Food Sovereignty,” conducted on 19 November 2020, MALUPA shared that CLOAs were awarded to non-indigenous peoples for parcels of lands within their ancestral domain in Arakan, North Cotabato despite the domain having an already approved CADT since 1988.

“The meeting with DAR, triggered by the Dayalogo, was successful and the said ancestral domain issue was resolved,” Sumin added.

In the said joint discourse that occurred after the Dayalogo, Sumin detailed that the community leaders stressed four (4) essential points, namely (1) “collective CLOA must be under the unified ancestral domain [title],” (2) “the CLOA [that is] under the ancestral domain must be exempted from tax payments, (3) “lands within the ancestral domain are not for sale,” and (4) “free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) [from the ancestral domain’s indigenous community] must be observed [and accomplished before any activity is deemed permitted].”

Similarly, Kidoma Alya of Pidlisan Tribe Organization (PITO) concurred on the productive results of the Dayalogo series. She cited PITO’s presentation during the first Dayalogo regarding

their irrigation difficulties in Fidelisan, Sagada, Mountain Province. Alya related that the said issue was promptly addressed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), conducting a validation activity right after the said Dayalogo event.

Alya also shared that they found the Dayalogo successful as they were able to do their presentation and learned about the issues from different indigenous communities in the country. *“Nasabi namin ang part namin na hindi na-cut off ang signal. Nakinig kami sa issues and concerns ng ibang grupo. (We were able to do our presentations because we had adequate phone reception. We listened to the issues and concerns of the different groups, as well).”*

Jocelyn Araja of Nagkakaisang mga Tribu ng Palawan (NATRIPAL) appreciated how the Dayalogo series creatively made it possible for indigenous peoples in the country to keep in touch with each other and share their experiences. *“Matagumpay [ang Dayalogo series] dahil sa kabila ng pandemya at kasalukuyang kalagayan natin aynaging creative ang Tebtebba sa ganitong gawain upang magbalitaan, magbigay ng update at palitan ng karanasan ang mga partner (The Dayalogo series was a success because despite the pandemic and our current situation, Tebtebba initiated a creative way for us to stay informed, provide updates, and share experiences with the different partners),”* she said.

“Mainam ang mga dayalogo na kasama ang mga government line agencies sa national level dahil sa pamamagitan nila (Dayalogo), baka sakaling makilala ang mga

isyu lalo sa aktwal na karanasan ng mga katutubo. Magandang maipagpatuloy ang pagsasagawa ng mga dayalogo sapagkat dito malalaman kung may kongkretong aksyon galing sa gobyerno (The dialogues with the national government line agencies were good because, through these dialogues, the different agencies may come to acknowledge our issues especially the actual experiences of the indigenous peoples. It will be beneficial to carry on with these dialogues because it is through these discussions that we would come to know if concrete actions would be done by the government),” added Jennevie Cornelio of Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG).

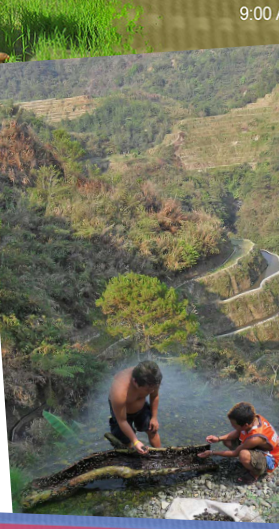
In the same gathering, partner organizations shared their own lessons learned from the said series. Everyone agreed that there was a need to further widen and deepen the scope of their own data gathering. They concurred that such adequate, comprehensive, and recorded information presented in creative ways during these dialogues could aid better lobbying with the different government agencies, allowing faster solutions to their issues, as well as acknowledgement of their indigenous practices and knowledge systems. The necessity of preparing written scripts and audio-visual aids was also recognized especially because of the unstable internet and telecom signals that hampered consistent and clear discussion during the said dialogues. Many also suggested that a longer time be allotted for each individual presentation.

“Kailangan ipagpatuloy ang mga ganitong pag-uusap. Mahalaga na may mga initiatives. Hangga’t hindi pa






DAYALOGO:
Indigenous Peoples
and **Agriculture** and
Food Sovereignty



Thursday, 19 November 2020
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN

DAYALOGO:
Indigenous Peoples
and the **Protection** and
Sustainable
Management
of our **Environment**




Thursday, 14 January 2021
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN

Organized by:  With the support of:
 


DAYALOGO:
Health and
Basic Services
"Addressing Indigenous
Peoples' Needs and Priorities
during COVID-19 and
Post-COVID-19 Recovery"

Thursday, 21 January 2021
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN

DAYALOGO 4:
Supporting
Indigenous Peoples'
Education and
Capacity Development

Thursday, 28 January 2021
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN


Organized by:  With the support of:
 

nagigising ang lahat at nasosolusyunan ang mga problema, ipagpatuloy lang natin ang mga dayalogo na ito (We need to continue these dialogues. It is essential to have these initiatives. While not everyone acknowledges and provides solutions to these problems, we need to continue doing these dialogues),” asserted Timuay Ronaldo ‘Jojo’ Ambangan of Erumanen ne Menuvu Kamal as he urged everyone to continue active participation in the Dayalogo series initiative. Everyone agreed that localized versions of the dialogues were also good additions as these would permit extensive discussions of various community-specific issues which may, then, be given faster resolutions as well.

Participants also relayed that results of the Dayalogo series were shared with their respective communities. Bernice See, Tebtebba Project Coordinator of the Indigenous Navigator Initiative in the Philippines, summed up the process as the creation of a “feedback mechanism” where participants echoed back results of each of the four (4) Dayalogo events to their specific organization’s members and corresponding communities. Everyone acceded, however, that the presence of

all relevant national government line agency representatives during these dialogues was crucial. Nonetheless, the overwhelming support and attendance of the NCIP, through the leadership of Chairman Allen Capuyan, during the entire Dayalogo series, hugely contributed to the overall success of the said initiative.

With support from the European Union, through the Indigenous Navigator Initiative, SwedBio, and Pawanka Fund, the Dayalogo series is a continuous Tebtebba initiative that aims to assist sustained, collaborative, and constructive dialogues between Philippine indigenous peoples and various government agencies towards a better implementation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. 

Doris Borna Mae Esteban
Tebtebba Indigenous Information Service

*Edited by: Helen Biangalen-Magata and
Bernice See*