



PHILSUTECH

NEWSLETTER

PHILSUTECH Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City, Philippines

July - December 2019 Vol. XX • No. 19

Sen. Villar assures continued support



Sen. Cynthia Villar

Food, which she chairs, would conduct a public hearing to shed light on the reported failure of the Sugar Regulatory Administration in the implementation of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA).

The senator added that SRA's reported shortcomings in the implementation of the SIDA resulted to the consistent reduction of the P2 billion annual allocation for the sugarcane industry, as mandated by the SIDA.

"I urge you to participate in the hearing and help our government's legislative branch exercise its oversight function," she told the delegates of the 66th Philsutech Annual National Convention at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City on August 14, where she was the guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Principally authored by Villar in the Senate and by former Negros Occ. 3rd District Rep. Albee Benitez in the

Senator Cynthia Villar assured sugar industry stakeholders of her continued support, as she outlined the measures that she is doing to help the industry.

She disclosed that the Senate Committee on Agriculture and

Lower House, the SIDA allocates P2 billion annually for the development of the sugarcane industry.

Of the amount, P1 billion is earmarked for infrastructure support, like farm-to-mill roads, P300 million for block farms, P300 million for socialized credit, P300 million for research and development, and P100 million for scholarship grants.

"Oversight is one of the important functions in governance. We in the legislative branch pass the laws, and we have to see to it that the laws we passed are properly implemented," she explained.

Sugar industry leaders hoped that the Senate probe will identify the causes of the delay in the implementation of projects covered by the SIDA allocation, so that corrective measures and proper coordination with other concerned government can be done to ensure that the mandated P2 billion fund goes to the rightful beneficiaries, particularly the marginalized sugarcane farmers.

The senator emphasized that the government is sensitive to prices of basic commodities like sugar, because the government's popularity depends on keeping prices of basic goods acceptable.

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PHILSUTECH Officers & Board of Director for FY 2018-2019 pose with Sen. Cynthia Villar.

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Message from the Cebu Provincial Government



Hon. Horacio "Raci" Franco
Provincial Board Member, 4th District of Cebu

Greetings from the Cebu Provincial Government, particularly from our Governor, Hon. Gwendolyn Garcia! She couldn't come due to a prior commitment, so she asked me to come instead.

She sends her regrets. Actually she mentioned that, in her nine years as previous governor, she has never missed this Philsutech convention. Hopefully, next year she can come.

There's no denying that, indeed, we are in the Age

of Disruption. Agricultural life is really affected by our vulnerability to natural disasters which are exacerbated by climate change, and the increase in the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods and typhoons, among others, resulting to the degradation of agricultural, coastal and marine eco-systems.

Although our country has responded to these challenges thru a series of policy and legal initiatives, these are mostly focused on mitigation efforts.

We need to strengthen our capacity for adaption, adjustment to our agronomic practices and agricultural procedures. Capital investment must also be made, in response to climate change.

As a developing country, this is particularly important for our sugarcane production due to our low adaptive capacity, vulnerability to hazards, and ineffective forecasting and planning systems.

It is apparent that this 66th Annual National Convention of Philsutech is already geared towards this important mission, as embodied in the theme "PHILSUTECH: Leveraging Change in the Age of Disruption".

It appeases stakeholders and government that institutions such as Philsutech are taking care of these particular challenges to our industry.

In behalf of the Governor, Gwendolyn Garcia, let me convey our commitment of jointly realizing the shared goal of developing an adaptive and resilient sugar industry in our country.

Welcome to Cebu!

Hon. Horacio "Raci" Franco
Provincial Board Member, 4th District of Cebu



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The PHILSUTECH NEWSLETTER is a semi-annual publication published by:

PHILIPPINE SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

PHILSUTECH Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100, Philippines

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Welcome Address of Atty. Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza PHILSUTECH President (FY 2018-2019)



Atty. Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza
PHILSUTECH President (FY 2018-2019)

Welcome to the 66th Annual National Convention of the Philippine Association of Sugar Technologists, Inc. (PHILSUTECH)!

We are here today at this event not only to renew ties and camaraderie, but also to share the latest technology and best practices in the industry and, most importantly, to discuss pressing and significant issues which will have a deep impact on the sugar industry in our country in the coming years.

This year's convention theme, "PHILSUTECH: Leveraging Change in the Age of Disruption", is Philsutech's first bold step to face and address head on the various issues and challenges that the sugar industry in our country is facing today.

To borrow the words of Sugar Regulatory Administrator Hermenegildo Serafica, "For a century old industry, we are no longer sure if our time-tested resiliency can still bail the sugar industry out of the atmosphere of disruption."

We are all aware of the pressing issues facing our industry today... the scarcity of field workers, or the tapaseros who help the farmers plant and harvest sugarcane, the unpredictable weather condition which affects the quantity and quality of our sugarcane harvest, the massive conversion of sugarcane plantations into other uses, and the rising cost of fuel and spare parts which increases the cost of transportation of our canes from the farms to the mills.

We also have new laws, such as environmental laws and new health and safety law, which prescribe more stringent rules for the sustainability of our business.

And now we are facing yet another challenge, which is the move of our government's economic managers to liberalize the importation of sugar into our country. This, for me, is one of the biggest disruptors.

Unless we move fast, our industry might suffer the same fate as other agricultural industries, like coconut and rice.

We know very well that imported sugar is much cheaper than locally produced sugar, but is also of good quality. This is the reason why the government is thinking to liberalize sugar importation so that it can maintain the cost and stability of our sugar supply, and hopefully benefit the general public.

We therefore need to face this challenge head on, like becoming more competitive in terms of productivity, price and quality of sugar produced, so that our government will have no reason to pursue this plan.

To do this, we have to revisit our ways of doing things.

We need to improve our cane varieties and farming practices.

We seriously need to consider the mechanization of our planting and harvesting processes, so that we will be more efficient and less dependent on the availability of manpower.

We have to improve our logistics and transportation system.

For the millers, we need to make our plants more efficient and effective, by introducing new technology, and by adapting new more effective processes for the consistency of our product volume and quality.

We need to innovate and think of better ways to improve the efficiency and capacity of our plants and our product quality, while maintaining, if not reducing, our production cost.

Most importantly, we need to take care of our people, who are the most important assets of our company. We have to engage and coach them and make them feel at home in these different times in our experience.

We are still very fortunate that our sugar industry remains solid, strong and formidable in all aspects of our society, whether political or economic.

And I credit this to the past and present leaders of Philsutech and the various sugar industry organizations and federations who remain proactive, steadfast and resilient amidst all these challenges that the sugar industry has faced in the past, as well as the challenges that we are facing now.

I therefore urge each and every member and delegate who are present now to be more active to participate in the activities of our organization, so that we can become more stable and resilient to surpass and positively influence the disruption in our industry today and in the future.

In a nutshell, we need to be relevant in order to stay in business.

Once again, in behalf of Philsutech, we welcome you all to the 66th Annual National Convention!

Atty. Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza

Sen. Cynthia Villar's Speech



Sen. Cynthia Villar

As you all know, I am one of the principal authors of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2015. As part of the oversight function of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform which I chair, we are monitoring its implementation to ensure that it is benefiting its intended beneficiaries.

I passed the law to boost the sugarcane industry, which contributes P70 billion to the country's economy annually. Moreover, an estimated 700,000 Filipinos are directly employed in sugar production.

The industry really plays a vital role in the country's economic development, so we provided the legislative support with an annual allocation of P2 billion for its development.

However, there have been glitches in the implementation of programs under the SIDA. Thus, the national government decreased the allocation. And now they are saying that, if SRA does not shape up in efficiently implementing the program, they might slash the SIDA allocation to only P67 million for 2020.

It's the practice of the Department of Budget and Management that, if you underspend, your allocation for the next year will be slashed, because DBM believes that perhaps you don't need the money, since you did not spend it. Every year that you underspend, DBM will cut your budget.

Early on, I warned SRA not to underspend. When the Senate session opened last month at the start of my second term as Senator, I prioritized the sugar industry by filing a Senate Resolution to conduct an inquiry on the reported failure of SRA in its implementation of the SIDA Law.

Sen. Migz Zubiri also filed a similar resolution. So tomorrow, August 16, we will have a Senate hearing where SRA will be made to explain why it has not been effective in the implementation of programs under the SIDA Law.

I invite you or your representatives to attend the hearing and help the government in its oversight function. We have to ensure that the agencies tasked to implement the law are doing their jobs, because if we don't monitor them, our industry will not prosper.

Oversight is one of the most important functions of legislators. It's not enough that we pass laws. We have to make sure that the laws which we passed are implemented properly. Otherwise, the passage of those laws will be useless, if they are not implemented well.

According to the DBM, SRA is the primary agency involved in the implementation of the SIDA programs, but it has no capacity to spend its allocation. There are numerous programs where the funds can be spent to benefit the farmers and other industry players. How come there is underspending?

The retail price of sugar now is very high. We can't understand if the high retail price is because of your high production cost or if there are people manipulating the prices in the market.

If the Department of Finance feels that the price of a certain commodity is too high, it will propose the liberalization of that product. In fact, there is a move, thru legislation, to liberalize the importation of sugar.

If the prices of basic goods are high, it affects the popularity of government. If government can't influence the industry to see to it that their products are priced reasonably, then they will move for liberalization.

Hopefully, it will not happen. Together, let us protect the sugar industry. We will do everything to make sure that your cost becomes reasonable so that the retail price will also be reasonable for our consumers.

Without you asking, I am financing a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies to study why our production cost of sugar in the Philippines is



(L-R) PHILSUTECH Board Chairman Dean L. Guevarra, Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew C. Cortez and President Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza present the plaque of appreciation to Sen. Cynthia Villar for being the keynote speaker.

higher than the production of sugar in Thailand.

The study aims to identify our problems, so that we can address them using the funds from the SIDA and we can act on the shortcomings in our production methods, so that we can produce sugar at the same cost as our competitors.

We should not accept that the Thais are better than us in agriculture. The Filipinos are exceptional farmers, too. We simply need to study more to solve

our problems.

Your convention theme “Leveraging Change in the Age of Disruption” is in line with what is happening. Indeed, in this age of disruption and challenges, we need to leverage some things in order survive, overcome and rise to the challenge.

As a group, I hope Philsutech will continue to be very well-organized, involved and responsive. Keep up your good work and more power to all of you!

Sen. Villar assures ...from page 1

“If consumers complain of high prices of basic goods, and the concerned industry cannot bring prices down to reasonable levels, government will propose the liberalized importation of these products to bring prices down,” she further explained.

Villar lamented that the cause of the high retail prices of sugar cannot be pinpointed, whether it is due to high production cost or price manipulation by some sectors, because there has been no study to delve into such issue.

“On my own initiative, I have

commissioned a study to be conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies for a comparison between Philippine and Thailand sugar production, so that we can learn how to produce sugar at the same cost as Thailand,” she further disclosed.

With the these “PHILSUTECH: Leveraging Change in the Age of Disruption, the Philsutech convention gathers all industry stakeholders in the country to learn about the latest technical innovations and updates.

More than 1,000 delegates and

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Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez (left), Corporate Secretary & Admin Manager Haydee V. Rivera and Pres. Larry Carranza escort Sen. Cynthia Villar upon her arrival.

SRA Report

Atty. Guillermo Tejida III



Atty. Guillermo Tejida III of the Sugar Regulatory Administration's Legal Department receives the plaque of appreciation from Philsutech overall Convention Chairman N. Cortez, Pres. Lazaro L. Carranza & BOD Chairman Dean L. Guevarra.

The Philippine sugarcane industry has 28 sugar mills, 12 refineries, 12 bioethanol distilleries and nine bagasse-based power generating plants.

The total area planted to sugarcane is 409,714 hectares, while the number of sugarcane farmers is 88,752, 85% of whom are cultivating farms of less than five hectares.

For Crop Year 2018-2019, sugar production was 2.072 million metric tons, while the industry also produced 296.5 million liters of ethanol.

The average production was 53.04 ton canes per hectare, with an average sugar yield of 100.7 50-kilo bags sugar per hectare or 1.9 LKg per ton cane.

Negros accounted for 63% of sugar production, followed by Mindanao with 20%. Luzon, Panay and Eastern Visayas contributed 9%, 6% and 2%, respectively to national sugar production.

The sugarcane industry is fortunate to have in place several legislations which can be considered as drivers of growth.

Among these are the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law, which imposes a P12 per liter excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages while levying only P6 per liter for beverages using local sugar.

We also have the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2016, which allocates P2 billion annually for the development of the industry, the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, which provides incentives for renewable power producers like biomass power plants, and the Biofuels Law of 2006, which mandates the use of a certain percentage of ethanol in gasoline and diesel fuels.

Despite these legislative support and enablers, the industry still faces numerous threats, such as

proposal for full deregulation of sugar importation and trade, the conversion of large tracks of sugarcane farms into pineapple and banana plantations, and declining agricultural productivity due to climate change and other factors.

To overcome these challenges, the industry has to engage in massive mechanization to address the labor shortage and increase farm productivity. The industry must also adopt new improved farm technologies, such as drip irrigation system, to increase farm yields. Further, the industry must strive to make its sugarcane production more cost-efficient.

As to the implementation of projects under the P2 billion annual allocation from the Sugarcane Industry Development Act, almost 90 kilometers of farm-to-mill roads were constructed from 2016 to 2018, while two bridge projects in Tarlac and Batangas are in the pre-implementation stage this year.

Under the block farm program, 212 block farms covering 8,650 hectares and involving 6,220 farmers were organized and accredited from 2016 to 2019.

On SIDA's Socialized Credit Program, SRA endorsed P457.6 million to the Land Bank of the Philippines from the 2016 General Appropriations Act. The amount is broken down into P206.4 million for individual farmers, P6.9 million for block farms and P190.4 million for service providers.

Land Bank approved P98.9 million for individual farmers and P6.9 million for block farms, for a total of P105.8 million. Out of the total approved amount, only P48.6 million was released, broken down into P46.54 million for individual farmers and P2 million for block farms.

On the other hand, SIDA's Scholarship Program, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, has benefitted 696 students, 160 of which have already

SRA report ...from page 8

graduated while 536 are still currently enrolled in their respective courses in all sugar-producing provinces in the country.

The Scholarship Program's counterpart, which is implemented in collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, has benefitted 3,846 scholars.

For SIDA's Research, Development and Extension

Program, SRA has conducted trainings and seminars on Variety Improvement, Pests and Diseases Management and Capacity Building.

SRA has also undertaken the upgrading of the soils laboratories, water management and performance testing of the drip irrigation system and other extension and production support services.

Sen. Villar assures ...from page 7

more than 120 product and service exhibitors participated in the confab, which is considered as the most-awaited event in the entire Philippine sugarcane industry, and which also attracted guests and exhibitors from other sugar-producing countries.

The event formally opened on August 14, with Villar as the guest of honor and keynote speaker. The Sugar Regulatory Administration, thru Atty. Guillermo Tejida III, delivered a report on the status of the industry on August 15.



SRA Board Members Atty. Roland Beltran and Atty. Dino Yulo (seated 2nd & 3rd from left), together with leaders of the millers associations and planters federations, pose with Sen. Cynthia Villar.

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Nominations are now open for outstanding members awards!

The nominations for the 2020 Don Carlos L. Locsin Award and the Philsutech Outstanding Members Award for each of the five divisions are now open.

Named in honor of Don Carlos L. Locsin, the co-founder and first president of Philsutech, the DCL award was started in FY 1991-92.

It is conferred on persons who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in sugar business management, sugar economics, education, scientific and technical research, development and innovation in sugar processing technology, and other very significant contribution towards the promotion of the interest and general well-being of the Philippine Sugar Industry.

On the other hand, the Outstanding Members Award aims to recognize members who have made exceptional contributions in their specific fields of expertise in the sugar industry.

Such fields of expertise should be in the five Philsutech technical divisions, namely:

1. Agriculture and Farm Engineering
2. Factory Engineering
3. Process
4. Bio-Energy and Environmental Management
5. Management

Every year, one awardee will be chosen for each of the five divisions.

The general criteria for the nominees are:

1. Should be an active Philsutech member, who has paid his membership dues for at least three consecutive years from the date of nomination;
2. Has served as lecturer, trainor or speaker on any sugar industry-related topics;
3. Has demonstrated a broad knowledge of his field and enhanced the same through various research and innovations;
4. With excellent contribution to the sugar industry in his field of expertise; and,
5. Has developed and introduced new method or process that protects the workers' condition and the environment (except for Management Division)

Each division has a separate set of specific criteria, a copy of which can be secured from the Philsutech Secretariat.

Companies and organizations in the industry can submit at least one nominee, from among their employees or members, for each of the five divisions.

For your nominations and/or further information, please contact the PHILSUTECH SECRETARIAT at Telefax (034) 434-3013 / 4348127, Tel. No. (034) 434-1591 or email philsutech@gmail.com.

Deadline for submission of entries is March 1, 2020.



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Sen. Villar assures ...from page 9

Other plenary speakers were management trainer Anthony Pangilinan, Chairman & Chief Disturber of Business Works, who discussed “Disruption, Change and Me”; MFT Group of Companies Chief Executive Officer Ma. Francisca Tan, who talked about “The Next Generation Technology and a Millennial Rising through the Age of Disruption”; and Dr. Efren O. Vito, Region 7 supervising Labor and Employment officer who spoke on the topic “Compliance in the Eyes of DOLE”.

Aside from the plenary sessions, the convention also featured technical papers and product presentations, in smaller break-up sessions, in the Agriculture & Farm Engineering, Bioenergy & Environmental Management, Process, Management and Engineering Divisions.

Ms. Shiela Rose L. Martin won the Best Technical Paper Award with her entry titled “Comprehensive Environmental Management System for Sugar Factories & Distilleries”. Engr. Fernandito C. Moleta’s “Achieving

Optimum Efficiency in Filtration Operation” bagged the 2nd Place, while Jojit A. Demaraye, Haydee P. Villariez, Chona R. Untal, Julius F. Chua, Bernie G. Dequinto and Rosalyn T. Luzaran’s “Ratooning Capability of Recently Released PHILSURIN HYVs” was adjudged 3rd Place.

Another highlight of the convention was the conferment of the 2019 Don Carlos Locsin (DCL) Award to an industry stakeholder who has made exemplary contributions to the industry, and the Philsutech Member

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PHILSUTECH Past Presidents with Sen. Cynthia Villar



Sen. Cynthia Villar engages the PHILSUTECH officers and sugar industry leaders in a candid discussion before the opening ceremony.



Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez delivers his message.

Sen. Villar assures ...from page 11

Award for outstanding members in their respective fields of expertise.

This year's DCL Awardee was former Sugar Regulatory Administrator Ma. Regina B. Martin, for her numerous contributions which benefitted the Philippine Sugar Industry.

For the Outstanding Member Awards, Philsutech honored Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton and Engr. Feliciano M. Perater, both from BUSCO, for their contributions in the fields of Process and Bioenergy & Environmental Management, respectively.

The annual confab was not only all about technical matters, as members and exhibitors also have the chance to enjoy themselves in the friendly golf tournament at the Cebu Country Club and the Safari-themed Exhibitors' Night on August 13 and the Gala Night on August 15.

A talent competition on singing and dancing spiced up the Exhibitors Night.

Nalco Philippines was adjudged as the best singer, with David Brown and NGC Transmission bagging the second and third places, respectively.

In the dance contest, NSK International Singapore bested the other entries, while PIX Power Transmission settled for second place and First Pilipinas won third place.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bernabe emerged as the Best in Safari Costume

in the Male and Female Categories.

On August 16, the convention was capped by the general assembly and the oath-taking of the new set of Philsutech officers headed by Dr. Andrew Neil C. Cortez.

Noel Hernandez, of Davao MDDCFI, won P20,000 as the Early Bird

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Dr. Efred O. Vito, Region 7 supervising Labor and Employment officer, speaks about "Compliance in the Eyes of DOLE".



Management trainer Anthony Pangilinan, Chairman & Chief Disturber of Business Works, discusses "Disruption, Change and Me".



2019 DCL Awardee Ma. Regina B. Martin and husband Louie with PHILSURIN family.



2019 DCL Awardee Ma. Regina B. Martin and husband Louie with sugar industry leaders.



2019 DCL Awardee Ma. Regina B. Martin and husband Louie with SRA family.



MFT Group of Companies Chief Executive Officer Ma. Francisca Tan, who talked about "The Next Generation Technology and a Millennial Rising through the Age of Disruption", receives the Plaque of Appreciation from Philsutech officers.

Sen. Villar assures ...from page 12

Winner, a raffle draw for delegates who registered early during the general assembly.

Philsutech's raffle draw was also held during the closing program, with Uptown Industrials Sales from

Mandaluyong bringing home the top prize of half a million pesos (P500,000.00).



For the Outstanding Member Awards, Philsutech honored Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton and Engr. Feliciano M. Perater, both from BUSCO, for their contributions in the fields of Process and Bioenergy & Environmental Management, respectively with Busco family headed by Ronnie Asuncion, Resident Manager.



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Sen. Villar assures ...from page 13

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Finalists in the Male Category of Best in Safari Costume



The judges in the competitions are (L-R) Jeanne Cortez, Kaye Rivera and Christine Luague.



Finalists in the Female Category of Best in Safari Costume



Philsutech President Carranza and Overall Convention Chairman Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez enjoy the “Night of Music & Lights”.

Sen. Villar assures ...from page 14

DANCE COMPETITION WINNERS



First Place - NSK International PTE. Ltd. (Singapore). The award was presented by Overall Convention Chairman Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez and Jeanne Cortez, Chairman of the Board of Judges



Second Place - Pix Power Transmission with Ms. kaye Rivera, one of the judges.



Third Place - Central Pilipinas Power Automation, Inc. with Ms. Christine Luague of WFH, one of the judges,

SINGING COMPETITION WINNERS



First Place - Nalco Philippines



Second Place - David Brown Philippines



Third Place - NGC Transmission



Cebu Chamber of Commerce president Virgilio G. Espeleta (3rd from left), assisted by (L-R) Philsutech Overall Convention Chairman Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez and wife Jeanne, President Atty. Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza, Pearly G. Guevarra and husband Chairman of the Board Dean L. Guevarra, cuts the ribbon to officially open the product exhibits.

Philsutech officers accompany Cebu Chamber of Commerce president Virgilio G. Espeleta in viewing the product exhibits.



Philsutech 66th Annual National Convention





The Philsutech DCL Award Committee members (L-R) Primitivo Rivera, Linley Retirado and Chairman Mario Palma (extreme left) confers the 2019 Don Carlos Locsin Award to former Sugar Regulatory Administrator Ma. Regina B. Martin, with her husband Louie, during the opening ceremony of the 66th Philsutech Annual National Convention in Cebu City last August 14.

DCL Awardee 2019

Challenges are opportunities in disguise. This adage fits like a glove on the 2019 Don Carlos Locsin Awardee, who was thrust into the epicenter of the sugar industry during the years when the industry faced the ASEAN trade integration storm.

This year's DCL Awardee led the sugar industry as it battled through the storm, emerging with a head "bloody but unbowed". That achievement is something that any man can be proud of, more so if it was achieved by a woman.

Our awardee made history as the first lady administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

Her reputation as a highly productive and technologically-savvy sugarcane farmer and as a long-time trusted and responsible officer of the Asociacion de Hacenderos Silay-Saravia caught the attention of then President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, who appointed her to lead SRA. He couldn't have made a better choice.

She was the main catalyst in the passage of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA) of 2015, a law which strengthened the industry and made it better prepared to face the challenges of trade liberalization.

She tirelessly attended the numerous congressional hearings on the proposed law. Her comprehensive knowledge and contagious passion for the industry, combined with her innate wit and charm, convinced lawmakers to pass this landmark legislation which benefits all sugarcane industry stakeholders. She also led the consultations in the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of SIDA.

The fragmentalization of previously productive sugarcane farms due to the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program did not stand in her way, as she sought to regain the productivity of these parcelized landholdings.

In partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform, she organized the lands of these agrarian reform beneficiaries into block farms, which has been institutionalized with the necessary financial and technical support in the SIDA. Under the law, block farms were entitled to 15% of the annual P2 billion SIDA-mandated allocation.

Even the international community took notice of the block farm program, as numerous countries expressed interest in the program during its presentation at the 47th Council Session of the International Sugar Organization (ISO) in Antigua, Guatemala in July 2015.

The ISO is an intergovernmental organization based in London which is made up of sugar producing countries, including the European Union.

Created by the International Sugar Agreement of 1968, the ISO aims to promote the trade in and consumption of sugar by gathering and publishing information on the sugar market, research into new uses for sugar and related products, and as a forum for intergovernmental discussions on sugar.

This year's DCL Awardee also holds the distinction of being the first woman to chair the International Sugar Organization Conference in London in 2014. She was also a plenary presenter in the 24th ISO Seminar in November 2015, the second consecutive year that she gave a presentation in the prestigious organization's council session.

Her representation of the country was not limited to industry gatherings abroad. She also spearheaded the sugar industry's annual Sugar Mission to Washington D. C. from 2010-2016. These trips, where Philippine sugar industry leaders meet with US lawmakers and executive officials, are aimed to maintain the country's access to the US sugar market.

In one of those trips in 2011, she candidly admitted to US Department of Labor officials that child labor exists in the Philippine sugar industry. Her candor paved the way for the US government to provide a US\$15 million fund for programs to eradicate child labor in the sugarcane farms.

This US\$15 million fund supported the ABK3 LEAP Project implemented by the World Vision Development Foundation, which targeted 52,000 children and 25,000 households within a four-year period, by providing direct education and education support services for children 7-15 years old, sustainable livelihood to parents and families, as well as youth employment and other social services.

In September 2014, she led the Philippine delegation to the 3rd Philippine-Brazil Bilateral Consultation Meeting, where they worked out an exchange program for the acquisition of Brazilian sugarcane varieties that are suitable for Philippine farms.

In that consultative meeting, she spoke on technical cooperation and exchange of technology on fermentation and yeast isolation, methodology and equipment design for a field trash recovery system, access to equipment design for mill power generation, impact assessment models on bioenergy and biofuels, and varietal cooperation on good ratooning, climate resilient, high yielding varieties of sugarcane.

She also headed the country's delegation in the World Sugar Expo 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, where foreign participants were impressed with the gains made by the Philippine sugar industry and expressed their interest and willingness to work with the Philippines.

She was hugely instrumental in the formulation of the Sugarcane Industry Roadmap, which organized the industry towards a unified direction for sustainability and global competitiveness.

As SRA Administrator from 2010 to 2016, she was co-chair of the Sugar Board, chairperson of the Philippine Sugar Corporation, Vice-Chair on Bioethanol Concerns of the National Biofuel Board, and a representative to the National Renewable Energy Board.

Her stint at the SRA marked the period when raw sugar production reached 2.46 million metric tons in Crop Year 2013-2014, the highest in recent memory.

Many industry stakeholders are also quick to point out that, during her term, the composite prices of sugar hovered in the neighborhood of P1,500 per bag and were favorable to sugarcane farmers.

When the Bureau of Internal Revenue imposed the collection of advance Value Added Tax on raw sugar, she was at the forefront of the fight to retain raw sugar's exemption from VAT.

The sugar industry, thru the efforts of this year's DCL Awardee and her strong connections with then Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas and President Benigno Aquino III, succeeded in stopping the collection of advance VAT on raw sugar.

It is no wonder, then, that in 2013, when the Commission on Audit faulted SRA for collecting and releasing P24.8 million for the industry's anti-smuggling operations to the Sugar Master Plan Foundation, sugar industry leaders, particularly the Sugar Alliance of the Philippines, immediately ran to her defense and justified SRA's collection and release of the funds for anti-smuggling operations.

Again, in September 2015, when SRA was attacked by some industry sectors for reclassifying sugar intended for the world market to the domestic market, the Sugar Alliance defended SRA, explaining that the move, which granted conversion rights to the producers and not to the traders, consequently benefitted the sugar producers.

Aside from her deep involvement in the sugar industry, our awardee was also an exemplary citizen who actively participated in other socio-economic and civic organizations.

She has served and continues to serve in various capacities as an officer of the Sugar Industry Foundation, Incorporated (SIFI), the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption – Philippines, the Association of Foundations, Peace Advocates of Negros and Planters Against Plunder of the Sugar Industry, among others.

She also engages in civic works in Silay and Magalona areas, as an officer of the SIMAG Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit social development organization which endeavors to uplift the quality of lives of sugar workers and their families in the Silay and EB Magalona areas,



2019 DCL Awardee Ma. Regina B. Martin and husband Louie pose the Philsutech officers.

Kabuhi Foundation – Silay City, Silay Health Foundation, Silay Parish Council, Silay City Government Planning Council, Silay Development Council and the Municipal Agricultural and Fisheries Council of EB Magalona.

From the challenges of the ASEAN trade integration and the problems of child labor in the farms, our DCL Awardee steered the sugar industry towards safer shores with the passage of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act, the institutionalization of block farming, the crafting of the Sugar Industry Road Map and the implementation of a US\$15 million US-funded program to address child labor in the farms.

She holds the distinction of being the first lady SRA Administrator and the first lady chairman of the ISO Conference in London, aside from bringing honor and glory to the country in numerous international industry gatherings.

During her watch at the SRA, she has also demonstrated her courage in facing and conquering all the threats against the sugarcane industry, such as the imposition of VAT on raw sugar and the daunting decisions on sugar reclassification.

And even beyond her term, she continues to serve the industry as Director General of the Philippine Sugar Research Institute.

For all these achievements, Philsutech proudly confers the 2019 Don Carlos Locsin Award to former SRA Administrator Ma. Regina Bautista-Martin!



Philsutech Past President pose with the 2019 DCL Awardee Ma. Regina B. Martin and husband Louie.

Response of DCL Awardee



First, let me share with you the quote, "To whom much is given, much is obliged."

I started out in the sugarcane industry as a farmer. I hoped to be a physician, but God had other plans. And I was given so many opportunities to be a successful sugarcane farmer that, up to this day, 35 years after, I still have the passion of working to help others, that others may, too, be successful.

Second, let's work on doing more with less.

Right now we are faced with the greatest challenge of the liberalization of imported sugar. Quite daunting, but I have faith in our collective strength as an industry.

A united sugarcane industry is a force that cannot be disregarded. One aspect of our industry, that is widely recognized, is our ability to act as one, when confronted by our outside threat.

Now, more than ever, we need that unity... that oneness... that collective might.

Let us put aside our squabbles and differences and focus our synergy in addressing the challenges before us. Together, we should resolve to consolidate, cooperate and collaborate to be competitive.

I interviewed Millie Kilayko, the direct granddaughter of Don Carlos C. Locsin, and I was

privileged to read among his plans.

When Don Carlos Locsin retired, he invested his retirement fund in his "Project Foresight". It was a development plan for the Victorias Mill District, and he spoke very much about block farming.

When he mentioned that, I was more encouraged. He spoke of wanting to improve productivity, and I am very much challenged, because of this.

Lastly, may I remind everyone that, if you want a good crop, you need a good seed.

Because I am now the Director General of the Philippine Sugar Research Institute (Philsurin), I would like to campaign for your support. We need all your support financially, so that we can move forward.

If you want to improve your production by at least 20 percent, have a better seed. Come to Philsurin and be a member.

I am humbled, honored and challenged to continue the passion in helping the sugarcane industry to become profitable and productive.

Madamo nga salamat to Philsutech!

MA. REGINA B. MARTIN

*Former Administrator, SRA
Director General, PHILSURIN*



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2019 Philsutech Outstanding Members Awards



2019 PHILSUTECH Outstanding Member Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton (4th from left) with (L-R) Awards Committee members Ms. Jocelyn Sorrilla and Ms. Susan Benitez, Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez, Pres. Larry Carranza and Board Chairman Dean Guevarra



2019 PHILSUTECH Outstanding Member Engr. Feliciano M. Perater (4th from left) with (L-R) Awards Committee members Ms. Jocelyn Sorrilla and Ms. Susan Benitez, Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez, Pres. Larry Carranza and Board Chairman Dean Guevarra



2019 PHILSUTECH Outstanding Members Engr. Feliciano M. Perater (Bioenergy & Environmental Management) and Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton (Process)

Since 1992, Philsutech has conferred the Don Carlos L. Locsin Award to persons who have distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements towards the promotion of the interest and general well-being of the Philippine Sugar Industry.

One exceptional sugar industry player is honored every year, with former Sugar Regulatory Administrator Ma. Regina B. Martn as the 2019 DCL Awardee.

However, the Philsutech Officers and Board decided recently to also give recognition to members who have made exceptional contributions in their specific fields of expertise in the sugar industry.

Every year, one awardee is chosen for each of the five Philsutech technical divisions, namely Agriculture and Farm Engineering, Factory Engineering, Process, Bio-Energy and Environmental Management, and Management.

For this year, two Philsutech members in the persons of Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton and Engr. Feliciano M. Perater,

both from BUSCO, were recognized for their contributions in the fields of Process and Bioenergy & Environmental Management, respectively.

Engr. Cleotilde P. Gubaton, the Process Division Awardee, is a Chemical Engineer who has been the Process Superintendent for 10 year of BUSCO Sugar Milling Company, where she has worked for the past 27 years.

Last May 22, she was a resource speaker in Philsutech's Advanced Technology in Energy Management and Utilization (ATEMU) seminar, and she has also been invited as resource speaker on the subject "Savings Through Innovation in the RVF Mud Filtration" during the 24th International Technical Sugar Conference in Bangkok, Thailand on August 1, 2018.

The topic which she authored and presented in Thailand won Second Place as Best Technical Paper during Philsutech's 65th Annual National Convention in August 2018. One of her studies also won

Third Place as Philsutech's Best Technical Paper in 2010.

On the other hand, Bioenergy & Environmental Management Awardee Engr. Feliciano M. Perater is also from BUSCO Sugar Milling Company, where he has been working for almost 20 years.

A 1977 graduate of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Cebu Institute of Technology, he is an Electrical Engineer (1987-17th Place) and a Professional Mechanical Engineer (2016).

He has also taken up 18 units on Master of Science in Environmental Management at the Liceo de Cagayan University, Cagayan de Oro City.

He started out as Statistics Section Head of BUSCO in 1980, and worked his way to the top as BUSCO's Officer-in-Charge of Genera Administration Group & Compliance Manager, the position that he is presently occupying.

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66th PHILSUTECH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION Golf Tournament Winners (Cebu Country Club - August 13, 2019)

Overall Champion (Lowest Gross) - NELSON ROA

Overall Champion (Lowest Net) - ROY QUIMA



66th Philsutech Annual National Assembly Golf Tourney Winners

66th PHILSUTECH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Golf Tournament Winners

(Cebu Country Club August 13, 2019)

Overall Champion (Lowest Gross) - NELSON ROA

Overall Champion (Lowest Net) - ROY QUIMA

DIVISION A

Champion	MANOLITO BASMAYOR
1st Runner-up	SONG CHUL MOON
2nd Runner-up	IAN STRUGGLES

DIVISION B

Champion	RONNIE ALIDO
1st Runner-up	REY ANONUEBO
2nd Runner-up	ROY GAYOBA

DIVISION C

Champion	RICO DOCENA
1st Runner-up	LINLEY RETIRADO
2nd Runner-up	ARNEL AMPARO

Special Prizes:

Nearest the Pin Hole #3 - **NELSON ROA**
Longest Drive Hole #8 - **NESTOR ALIPATO, JR.**
Accurate Drive Hole #16 - **ARNEL AMPARO**



Division C 1st Runner-up Linley Retirado (left) and Division C 2nd Runner-up & Accurate Drive Hole #3 awardee Arnel Amparo



Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew C. Cortez fixes his sights on the ball for the ceremonial putt.



Pres. Larry Carranza, Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew C. Cortez and Fabcom Phils. Pres. Mr. Rey Navarro are ready to march to the green.



President Larry Carranza is all set to tee off.



(L-R) Jose Gamboa, Rey Navarro, President Larry Carranza, Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez, PP's Arnel Amparo, Linley Retirado, Golf Tournament Chairman Roy Quima and Alan Varga, Member.



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Cortez is new prexy for FY 2019-2020



Overall Convention Chairman Neil Andrew Cortez receives the Plaque of Appreciation from Board Chairman Dean Guevarra (left) and President Larry Carranza.

Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez, Vice-President & Director of Philsutech's Management Division, was elected as the new Philsutech President for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 during the General Assembly of the Association on August 16 at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City.

A licensed psychologist in California, as well as a registered psychologist in the Philippines, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of Sagay Central, Inc. since 2013 to the present. Cortez finished his B. S. Psychology studies, Cum Laude, at

the Ateneo de Manila University in 2006. He earned his degrees in Master of Arts in Psychology and Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology in 2010 and 2015, respectively from Fuller Theological Seminary, School of Psychology in Pasadena, California, USA.

Dr. Atty. Domingo Lazaro Caranza, the immediate past president, assumes as Chairman of the Board.

He is the Human Resource Director of URC Sugar and Renewables Group. Before enlisting with the URC group, he has worked with multinational corporations, such as DOLE, Del Monte, Nestle and Coca-Cola.

The other elected officers for FY 2019-20 are Directors Sherry Ann R. Jarder (Bio-energy & Environmental Management), Marifi T. Escabusa (Factory Engineering), Marlowe A. Lugador (Process) and Jose Maria R. Valmayor (Agriculture & Farm Engineering).

Ferdinand F. Salon, the HR and Corporate Shared Services Director of Bioeq Energy Shared Services ROHQ and Holdings Corporation in Makati, was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Management Division. He has almost 30 years of experience as an HR, general services and shared services practice in various industries.

Serving their second year as Vice-President and Director are Damaso T. Agudelo, Jr. (Bio-energy & Environmental Management), Joseph A. Penuela (Factory Engineering), Gigi F. Hofileña (Process), Charlotte G. Balbuena (Management) and John Joseph G. Ledesma (Agriculture & Farm Engineering).

Danilo G. Villanueva and Haydee V. Rivera are still the Association's Treasurer and Corporate Secretary & Administrative Officer, respectively.

Officers & General Assembly



Outgoing Board Chairman Dean Guevarra delivers the closing remarks message.



President Larry Carranza welcomes the members to the General Assembly.



Ms. Jinah Cuenca, chair of the Committees on Proceedings and Academe, renders her report.



PP Primitivo Rivera, member of the Nomination Committee, reports in behalf of Chairman PP Eduardo Concepcion.



Turn-over of the outgoing BOD 2018-2019 under President Larry Carranza to newly elected President Neil Andrew Cortez

Officers and General Assembly ...from page 24



PP Mario Palma, chair of the Trust Fund Committee, updates members on the status of the fund.



Giovanni L. Kilayko, chair of the Election Committee, announces the winner of the election of Board of Directors for FY 2019-2020.



Ms. Jocelyn Sorrilla proclaims the winners of the Best Technical Paper Awards.



Raffle Committee Chairman & Treasurer Danilo Villanueva (left) and PP Mario Palma award the P20,000 prize to Noel Hernandez of the Davao MDDC for winning the raffle draw among the early registrants during the General Assembly.



Pres. Larry Carranza receives the Plaque of Appreciation from Board Chairman Dean Guevarra.



BOD and Officer FY 2018-2019



The officers and newly-elected directors conduct a special board meeting immediately after the General Assembly.



PhilSutech Officers and Board of Directors for FY 2019-2020 take their oath of office before PP Danilo Jugno as inducing officer. (L-R) Gigi F. Hofleña, Joseph A. Penuela, Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez, Charlotte G. Balbuena, Marlowe A. Lugador, Sherryl Ann R. Jarder, Jose Maria R. Valmayor, Marifi T. Escabusa, John Joseph G. Ledesma, Damaso T. Agudelo, Jr.,



Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez
PHILSUTECH President (FY 201-2020)

Thank you very much for your support!

A few years ago, I knew next to nothing about sugar production. I read the official Philsutech Sugar Processing Handbook and it became my only bible to deepen my knowledge on sugar production in the industrial side of the sugarcane industry.

My experience and impression of Philsutech is that it is a place for us to learn from each other, to mentor one another and to encourage each other.

I recognize that, yes, there's completion and there are business considerations, but we are not just that. We are also a forum to improve ourselves and improve one another.

That is the vision that will continue to guide me.

With this image in mind, let me end with this quote from the

Message of Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez

PHILSUTECH President (FY 201-2020)

philosopher Hegel, who said that the philosophy of thought moves forward with three elements.

We have the thesis, which is what everyone thinks about right now, and we have the anti-thesis, which is new ideas, different ideas, fresh ideas, and ultimately they come together to form a synthesis.

That is how ideas move forward.

I believe that is the challenge of what we are facing today.

We have our thesis. We have our ideas about how things have been done, how things are being done right now, but we also have to be open to the anti-thesis, the different ideas, the new ideas, the fresh ideas, and I hope we will all come to a wonderful synthesis to help our sugarcane industry... every member, from the farmer all the way to the consumer and to all other industries that are involved.

I know that this is not something that can be achieved in one year, but I am grateful for the support of our now Chairman of the Board Atty. Domingo Lazaro L. Carranza.

I will miss dearly the outgoing Board, but I will still be speaking with you and I hope you can make yourselves available.

And of course I look forward to working with the new Board to at least do our small part to move our industry forward.

I will do my best, and I will do my best to encourage our Board to also do our best to serve you and serve our industry and serve our country.

Thank you very much!

Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez

66th PHILSUTECH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION GRAND RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS

AUGUST 16, 2019, WATERFRONT HOTEL, LAHUG, CEBU CITY

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THIRD PRIZE	#1885	P 50,000.00	Mr. Alvin P. Sanchez Brgy. Matina, Ormoc City, Leyte	Solicitor: Mr. Freddie Fernandez (Hisumco)
FOURTH PRIZE	#5000	P 20,000.00	Ms. Ma. Nelma A. Aurel URC-SONEDCO, Kabankalan City	Solicitor: Ms. Elsie Monteclaro

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2.	#1321	EXEQUIEL J. MARANON	Palanes Pob. 2, Sagay City	John Ledesma
3.	#1685	REJOHN MENGUEZ	OPTION-MPC, Sagay City	Gil A. Magbanua
4.	#4435	KONSTRUCTION ENG'G SERVICES	#56 Pleasantville, Taculing, Bacolod City	Ramon A. De la Cruz
5.	#3675	PROGREEN AGRICORP	26F Alliance Global Tower, Uptown Bonifacio Taguig City	Ferdinand B. Masi

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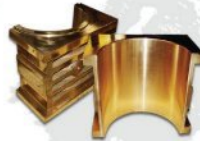
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