

## **TERMINAL REPORT – CSR PROGRAM, PALAWAN LEG**

### **I. PROJECT DETAILS**

**NAME:** Palawan Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

**DATE:** 22 – 25 October 2016

**VENUE:** Province of Palawan

#### **ATTENDEES:**

1. Lia L. Fernando
2. Maryh Jane P. Mabagos
3. Mariel Angelica A. Dimaano
4. Dan E. Flores
5. Miguel F. Clemente
6. Edison S. Genelazo
7. Atty. Venancio C. Manuel III
8. Kristine Heizelle B. Aclan
9. Narjay R. Calinao
10. Rose Ann B. Cruz
11. Maria Febbie R. Alcapa
12. Elizabeth E. Gandia
13. Isagani M. Tulabing
14. Gemma Aileen S. Isic
15. Michael M. Malonda
16. Rae Katherine C. Bordeos
17. Mikaela Ayeera N. Quisido
18. Ryvet P. Cruz
19. Edmon Gerald A. Loza
20. Prescila D. Sevilla
21. Socrates G. Torres
22. Julito S. Alcantara
23. Rolando P. Rimas

### **II. BACKGROUND**

TPB, in its commitment in pursuing green and sustainable tourism, included in the Corporation's annual work program the conduct of CSR activities. These activities aim to create green and environment awareness; that shall result to a greater respect and a deeper appreciation of nature and Filipino culture and heritage; not only to its participants but also to tourism stakeholders and most importantly to future generations who will greatly benefit from these projects.

For its third segment, 23 TPB personnel were selected to join the CSR Palawan leg. Participants were involved in different green initiatives such as mangrove planting, orientation on the practice of Palawenos of solid waste management, visit to indigenous people (IP) community and seminar about hygiene for the IP, creation of liter of lights and oral assessment orientation.

Before leaving for Palawan, CPBD Department, the organizer of all CSR activities, had informed everybody that there would be a seminar on hygiene during the visit to one of the IP communities in El Nido, and requested trinkets in the form of used clothes, hygiene kits and schools supplies that will be distributed to the members of said community.

### III. PLANNED VS ACTUAL ITINERARY

DAY/TIME	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	DAY/TIME	ACTUAL ACTIVITIES
<b>22 October 2016</b>		<b>22 October 2016</b>	
03:00 AM	Assembly at TPB Legaspi Towers 300	03:00 AM	Assembly at TPB Legaspi Towers 300
06:50 AM	ETD from Manila Airport	06:50 AM	Departed from Manila Airport
08:10 AM	ETA to Puerto Princesa Airport	08:10 AM	Arrived at Puerto Princesa Airport
08:30 AM	Proceed to Hotel Centro	08:30 AM	Proceeded to Sabang Wharf for Underground River Tour
09:00 AM	Proceed to Sabang Wharf for Underground River Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing</li> <li>• Underground River Tour</li> </ul>	09:30 AM	Arrived at Sabang Wharf
11:30 AM	Mangrove Paddle Tour	10:00 AM	Proceeded to Underground River Tour
12:30 PM	Lunch in Sheridan Beach resort and Spa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtesy call with Provincial Governor, Tourism officer and PENRO</li> <li>• Briefing from Provincial Tourism Office</li> </ul>	12:45 PM	Proceeded to Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa for Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing with Provincial Tourism Officer, Maribel Buñi, regarding the background of Palawan, projects and programs being implemented in the province</li> </ul>
02:30 PM	Palawan City Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitra's Ranch</li> <li>• Baker's Hill</li> <li>• Halo-Halo at Noki-nocs</li> <li>• Running Tour</li> </ul>	03:00 PM	Proceeded to Mangrove Paddle Tour
05:30 PM	Back to Hotel	04:00 PM	Proceeded to Hotel Centro for check-in
07:00 PM	Dinner at Kalui Restaurant	07:00 PM	Dinner at Kalui Restaurant with Toto Alvion, Tourism Officer of Puerto Princesa
08:00 PM	Back to Hotel	08:30 PM	Back to Hotel
REST OVERNIGHT			
<b>23 October 2016</b>		<b>23 October 2016</b>	
06:00 AM	Wake Up Call	06:00 AM	Wake up call
07:00 AM	Breakfast	07:00 AM	Breakfast
08:00 AM	Mangrove Planting	08:00 AM	Mangrove Planting
09:30 AM	Proceed to Butterfly Garden and Tribal Village	09:00 AM	Proceeded to Mitra's Ranch
11:00 AM	Proceed to Binuatan Weaving	09:30 AM	Hosted snacks at Panya Resort
12:00 PM	Proceed to Badjao Seafront Restaurant for Lunch	10:00 AM	Palawan City Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baker's Hill</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Butterfly Garden and Tribal Village</li> <li>• Binuatan Weaving</li> </ul>
01:30 PM	Orientation on the Practice of Palaweños of Solid Waste Management	12:00 PM	Proceeded to Badjao Seafront Restaurant for lunch
03:00 PM	Proceed to Market Souvenir Market at Puerto Princesa	1:30 PM	Orientation on the Practice of Solid Waste Management Program
05:30 PM	Back to Hotel	03:00 PM	Proceeded to MCA Souvenir Market
07:00 PM	Dinner at the Hotel	05:00 PM	Back to Hotel
		07:00 PM	Hosted dinner at Hotel Centro
<b>REST OVERNIGHT</b>			
<b>DAY/TIME</b>	<b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>DAY/TIME</b>	<b>ACTUAL ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>24 October 2016</b>		<b>24 October 2016</b>	
05:00 AM	Wake Up Call	05:00 AM	Wake up call
06:00 AM	Breakfast	06:00 AM	Breakfast
07:00 AM	Hotel Check Out	07:00 AM	Hotel check out
07:30 AM	Proceed to El Nido	07:30 AM	Proceeded to El Nido
12:00 PM	Lunch at Art Café	12:00 PM	Lunch at Ipil Suites
01:00 PM	Proceed to Cave Museum of Artifacts	01:00 PM	Proceeded to Rovics Hotel for luggage drop and check in to those with available rooms
02:00 PM	Liter of Light Activity/Visit to IP Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing by Tessa Sevilla-LOL Executive Director</li> <li>• Demonstration on how to make Liter of Light</li> <li>• Creation of 25 Liter of Lights</li> <li>• Seminars/Lessons about Hygiene for the IP</li> <li>• Gift Giving (soap, toothbrush, etc.)</li> <li>• Fun Play for IP children</li> <li>• Installation of 50 lights</li> <li>• Boodle Fight Ceremony</li> </ul>	02:30 PM	Arrived at Sibaltan IP Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome reception from Sibaltan IP community President, Mr. Rico Cabiguen</li> <li>• Short dance presentation from Sibaltan IP children</li> <li>• Short speech from TPB rep, MJ Mabagos</li> <li>• Demonstration and creation of "Liter of Light"</li> <li>• Fun games for the IP children such as Stop Dance, Bring Me, The Boat is Sinking (group yourselves into) and Longest Breathing</li> <li>• Hygiene Seminar for the nanays</li> <li>• Distribution of created and lighted lights to IPs</li> <li>• Visit to Balay Cuyunon Museum</li> </ul>
07:00 PM	Dinner at La Salangane Restaurant	08:00 PM	Dinner at La Salangane/briefing from Mr. Arvin Acosta, Tourism

			Officer of El Nido
07:30 PM	Proceed to Hotel Check-in	09:00 PM	Proceeded to Rovics Hotel Check in
REST OVERNIGHT			
<b>25 October 2016</b>		<b>25 October 2016</b>	
05:30 AM	Wake Up Call	05:30 AM	Wake up call
06:30 AM	Breakfast	06:30 AM	Breakfast
07:30 AM	Proceed to Lagoon • Coral Assessment • Orientation and Briefing of Sustainable Tourism in El Nido • Trail Assessment • Snorkeling Activity	07:30 AM	Proceeded to Small Lagoon • Swimming • Snorkeling • Kayaking Proceeded to Ipil Island • Coral Assessment Orientation
10:30 AM	Lunch	10:30 AM	Boodle fight lunch at Ipil Island
11:30 AM	Back to Hotel	11:30 AM	Back to Hotel
01:00 PM	Proceed to Puerto Princesa Airport	01:00 PM	Departed from Rovics Hotel/check out
09:05 PM	ETA in Manila Dinner	06:00 PM	Dinner at Ka Inato
		6:45 PM	Proceeded to Puerto Princesa Airport
		09:30 PM	Arrived in Manila
END OF CSR PALAWAN			

**NOTE:** The Palawan city tour was not conducted on the first day due to time constraints; it was moved on the second day. Lunch at El Nido upon arrival was held at Ipil Suites instead of Art's Café due to budget constraint.

#### IV. HIGHLIGHTS OF CSR PALAWAN

For this particular leg of the CSR Program, the participants were able to engage in activities that gave importance to:

##### 1. Environmental sustainability

- **Orientation on the Practice of Palaweños of Solid Waste Management at Puerto Princesa City**

The TPB employees underwent a general briefing about the City Solid Waste Disposal Management program of Puerto Princesa. After that, a short discussion was conducted while showing the garbage bins they had produced for the city of Puerto Princesa. A running tour of the sanitary landfill concluded the visit.

An ordinance was passed by the current Mayor to compel people to segregate and recycle. All waste materials, as long as it's properly segregated, are collected and brought to the Park. Some are use for composting while others are transferred to the dumpsite.

- **Mangrove Planting**

The city of Puerto Princesa recognizes the important role of mangroves in its area. Mangroves increase sedimentation, helping low-lying coasts adapt to rising sea levels. The trees have adapted to changing water levels by growing roots several feet above ground. It helps in reducing the height and power of waves generated during storms and typhoon. LGU provided 50 mangrove propagules that TPB employees planted.

- **Coral Assessment Orientation**

El Nido is well known as one of the dive and snorkelling sites in the Philippines. In order to ensure the sustainability of the area, the LGU engages in several activities to take care of its rich ecosystem; one of which is the coral assessment. The LGU provided information on the importance of corals and reasons why they are conducting coral assessment. Further, they also explained how coral assessment was done to monitor if number is increasing or decreasing.

## **2. Giving back to marginalized members of our community**

- **Encounter with Sibaltan community, Provision of Hygiene Seminar for the Mothers, Facilitation of Fun Games for the Children and Creation of Liter of Light Lamps with the IPs**

The LGU of El Nido recommended Sibaltan tribe as the beneficiary of the project for CSR Palawan leg. According to them, it is more accessible and the primary tribe who needed the lamps. The tribe leader expressed the gratitude of the community for choosing them as the recipient of this activity. He also stressed the difficulty of the IPs, who needed to walk for 8 kilometers from the mountain just to meet the TPB team and to participate in the program that was prepared for them. Ms. MJ Mabagos from TPB gave her speech where she introduced the group and the purpose of the visit to their community.

In order to manage the time, the team was divided into three clusters: the gentlemen were assigned to make the liter of light lamps; the ladies divided themselves to those who would facilitate the fun games for the children and those who would facilitate the hygiene seminar for the mothers. 50 hygiene kits were distributed to the mothers after the seminar. Prizes were also given to the winners of the following fun games: (1) "Stop Dance", (2) "Bring Me", (3) "The Boat is Sinking", (4) "Longest Breathing" and (5) "I Love You TPB" writing game.

Boodle fight was served for the 35 adult members of the community. After some ceremony and picture taking, the TPB personnel left them to enjoy the food.

The creation of 25 Liter of Light lamps took time and extended beyond the schedule. According to the Liter of Light Executive Director, Ms. Tessa Sevilla, it took them an hour and 30 minutes, which is actually a record breaking time for finishing 25 lamps.

TPB brought 25 pieces ready-made liter of lights making the total number of lamps for distribution to 50 pieces. A simple ceremony of awarding the lamps to select members of community followed. A feeling of accomplishment was collectively felt among the TPB personnel after seeing the smiles and appreciation from the members of the IP community.

Being the main agency for marketing the country as a tourism destination, a product update was also included in the program. The group was able to visit the following places of interest of the province:

- **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park**

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is a protected area of the Philippines located about 80 kilometres (50 mi) north of the city centre of Puerto Princesa, Palawan. The river is also called Puerto Princesa Underground River. The City Government of Puerto Princesa has managed the National Park since 1992. The entrance to the subterranean river is a short hike or boat ride from the town Sabang. In 2010, a group of environmentalists and geologists discovered that the underground river has a second floor, which means that there are small waterfalls inside the cave. They also found a cave dome measuring 300 m (980 ft) above the underground river, rock formations, large bats, a deep water hole in the river, more river channels, and another deep cave, as well as marine creatures and more. Deeper areas of the underground river are almost impossible to explore due to oxygen deprivation.

On November 11, 2011, Puerto Princesa Underground River was chosen as one of the New7Wonders of Nature. This selection was officially confirmed on January 28, 2012.

- **Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour**

The Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour offers an educational tour by boat through Sabang's mangrove forest. The guide paddled the boat slowly and started giving the guests information about the forest. On the shoreline, it is common to see mudskippers and monitor lizards while on the branches of the overhanging mangrove trees snakes may be

spotted. Guides mentioned woodworms or 'tamilok' as they are called locally. Tamilok is favorite dish of the locals. Before the end of the tour they offered a song to the guests.

- **Mitra's Ranch**

Owned by the family of the late Senator Ramon Mitra, this is a popular tourist destination. Located in Sta Monica Heights, this piece of paradise offers a stunning view of Puerto Princesa City. There is a viewdeck on top of the hill and it's open to everyone who wants to have a relaxing time.

- **Baker's Hill**

Another popular destination in Sta Monica Heights is the Baker's Hill. Although the site is actually a theme park, Baker's Hill is famous for the baked goodies offered at very reasonable prices. It started out as a small bakery then later on expanded.

- **Butterfly Garden and Tribal Village**

It is one of the most popular and most frequented tourist destinations in the city. Formerly known as the Butterfly Garden, this one of a kind attraction continuously draws more and more tourists for an environmental and cultural experience. This ecological garden promotes environmental awareness by means of showcasing a variety of butterflies, other insects and other endemic and endangered species. Inside the garden, you can find a diversity of flora and fauna.

The tribal village aims to give the guests a cultural background of the indigenous people called "Pal'awan". The guests had an interactive, educational and cultural tour wherein further information on the IPs are shared such as their musical instruments, hunting tools, dialect and etc. Since the IPs have their own dialect, an interpreter was present for better understanding of guests.

- **Binuatan Weaving**

Binuatan Weaving Center, or Binuatan Creations is a well-known handicraft shop that manufactures handloom woven products utilizing Palawan's indigenous fibers. Binuatan is a Cuyonin word (native Palawan dialect) for creation. The goal of the company is to transform field grasses and fibers that can be found in Palawan into useful and functional products. Here, they transform locally sourced materials like amumuting, buri, or abaca fibers into goods like placemats, hand bags, blinds, and other products. Binuatan Creations products are also exported to several countries including United States of America.

The TPB team was able to experience weaving with the guidance of the weavers who were present during the visit.

- **Balay Cuyunon**

During the conduct of Liter of Light project, a representative from Sibaltan village guided the TPB team to Balay Cuyunon which served as their museum. It is an old house made of bamboos, “pawid” and “sawali”. The ancient tools used for hunting and cooking can be found there.

- **Small Lagoon in Miniloc Island, El Nido**

El Nido is very famous with its rock and limestone cliffs, beaches and islands. The TPB team was able to visit the small lagoon in Miniloc Island, where they were able to swim, kayak and snorkel to the lagoon and enjoyed the view surrounded by beautiful formation of limestone rocks.

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