

MESSAGE

From the Focal Mayor



“For all the heated talk about national security in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia, what is curiously missing in the discussions is the one issue that may just define the future well-being – or ruin – of the country and the region.

Some call the issue global warming. Scientists refer to it as climate change. It is the greatest threat facing the planet today, and it is only going to get worse unless we solve the problem.”

Red Constantino

“Graver Threat To The World Than Terrorism” (PDI, 23 October 2005)

Indeed, prudence dictates that, for our very own survival, the care for the environment should take center-stage in all of man’s endeavors. For what good will all our efforts at attaining progress come to if in one instant our land will be swallowed up by the ocean itself?

When we allow our mountains to be denuded because of logging, mining and similar activities that decimate our forests; when carbon dioxide emissions caused by factories, power plants and vehicles are left unchecked; when our wastes are improperly managed, we would be abetting global warming and all its devastating effects:

- Ice glaciers will melt, causing ocean levels to rise thereby submerging many parts of the world. The Philippines, being an archipelagic country surrounded by water, would be most vulnerable.
- Typhoons, storms, hurricanes will be more frequent and more savage.
- Drought will be more severe than ever. It is reported that 63 out of Thailand’s 76 provinces suffered severe drought costing the government \$193.2 million in damages.
- Coral bleaching will occur. The Philippines is home to 488 coral species out of the 500 known coral species worldwide. With millions of the Filipinos dependent on the sea for a living and for food, the effects of the dying of our coral reefs would be unimaginable.

Everything of course follows the natural law of cause-and-effect, which maybe best summed up by the following quote from one sage writer: *“The environment has done to man what man has done to society and what society has done to him. There is a cosmic connectedness which all of us partake, a oneness with the galaxies, with the forests and with the oceans. We cannot live in isolation from nature and from our fellow human beings. Just as we are governed by laws made by man, nature likewise promulgates her own laws for us.”*

And it is precisely for this reason that the League of Cities of the Philippines-Environment Unit was created as an instrument of information-sharing between and among the one hundred and seventeen cities and all other local government units of the country so that, together, they may help one another in putting the environment at the fore of local governance towards building better and **sustainable** communities. Please continue supporting the League’s Environment Unit. It is ours to share.

(Sgd.) EDWARD S. HAGEDORN
City Mayor, Puerto Princesa City
Chairman, LCP
Focal Mayor, LCP Environment Unit

BRIEF PROFILE
of
HON. EDWARD S. HAGEDORN

A recent Gusi Peace Prize 2005 awardee, Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, is an “*Environmental Champion*,” the very exact nomenclature given to him by the World Bank and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources during an awarding ceremony last June 2005.

He is the local chief executive of the City of Puerto Princesa who has made his people proud of their city, having transformed its erstwhile backwater image to that of becoming the country’s sustainable development paradigm and foremost eco-tourism destination.

Contrary to the old perception in Philippine politics, he proved that environmentalism makes for good politics, having been elected and re-elected for five terms now ... thereby encouraging other politicians to adopt similar environment-friendly policies and programs.

He is the most-awarded mayor in the country. Among his awards are the:

- **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL 500 ROLL OF HONOUR AWARD** given by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- **THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AWARD OF ASIA** - given for the first time to a Local Government Unit by the Asian Institute of Management in cooperation with the Far Eastern Economic Review and the Management Association of the Philippines.
- **COMMERCE AND CONSCIENCE AWARD** given by the Dwyer and Rice Foundation of the United States of America.
- **AWARD FOR BEST-GOVERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT IN THE COUNTRY** given by the Progressive Alliance of Citizens for Democracy.
- **THE PEACE AWARD** given by Pres. Fidel V. Ramos in recognition of the city’s culture of peace.
- **THE KRUSADANG BAYAN AWARD** given by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.
- **AWARD FOR TANGIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD CLIMATE PROTECTION** given by the International Cooperation on Local Executives’ Initiatives.
- **AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE** given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- **OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD** given by the Consumers Union of the Philippines.

He has three “Hall of Fames” under his belt. They are:

- **HALL OF FAME AWARD** given by the Office of the President for making his city the cleanest and greenest in the country.
- **HALL OF FAME AWARD** given by the Department Education for his Education and Literacy Program.
- **HALL OF FAME AWARD** given by the Asian Institute of Management for his local government unit having the most number of award-winning programs.

As a result of his exemplary leadership, he and his city had been written about by the Newsweek Magazine, the German Magazine “Geo,” and by the In-flight Magazines of the British Airways, the Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Air Philippines, and many other local magazines and dailies.

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn is concurrently the National Chair of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and is also happy to be nominated by his fellow local chief executives as the focal mayor for the new Environment Unit of LCP.