

KINABUHI TA KALASANGAN

April Bulletin

Former Education Secretary joins APC graduation

Apu Palamguwan Cultural Education Center (APC) welcomed former Secretary of Education Dr. De Jesus to Bendum last weekend. Dr. Edilberto de Jesus was in office when APC received recognition by DepED, through a permit to operate a primary school for indigenous peoples in DO No. 42, s. 2004.

This year there were 11 graduates from APC, who received their certificates and a heart-felt congratulations from Dr. de Jesus, Datu Nestor, the tribal leader of the Pulangi people of Bendum, and Pedro Walpole, APC's Director.



As part of his speech given to students, staff and parents at the graduation, Dr. de Jesus shared the honour he felt in taking part in such a meaningful occasion, giving his congratulations to the teachers and parents who supported the graduates who 'stroved to ensure that their children obtain this opportunity to study at APC'.

Sharing his own experiences of successes and failures, Dr. de Jesus spoke about his efforts to achieve a longer period of basic education. He praised the implementation of the K-12 basic education program, and the two years of senior high school where students have the chance to enhance their employment capacity through technical courses. This and other non-formal learning opportunities, Dr. de Jesus said are part of a "life-long learning", which means that as long as we live, our learning, our

education continues as the world continues to spin".

Citing APC as one of the successes which he can be most happy about, Dr. de Jesus's closing remarks were that "what is important is that we continue to provide opportunities for our youth, our children, to realize their potential and their capacity so that the youth further become a blessing for their families, their culture, and their country."

APC announces its 2013 Conference

APC will be host to representatives from education institutions across Mindanao next month at its conference and workshop 'Developing management capacities in Culture-Based Education'.

This conference will promote dialogue about the opportunities available for indigenous education, develop an understanding of the pathway from non-formal to formal education, and to discuss the alternative learning opportunities aimed at improving the skills and capacity of indigenous youth.

As a residential retreat hosted in the cultural and community context, this 3 day conference builds on the understandings expressed during APC's 2009 conference. This conference will combine present efforts to develop management capacities with a practical, first-hand experience of the environmental and cultural setting of culture-based education at APC.

