



**PHILIPPINE
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THE WILD BIRD CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES held the 2nd Philippine Bird Festival on September 22-23, 2006 at the Crossroad 77 Convention Center in Quezon City.

The two-day event, with the theme **Endemik: Dito Lang sa Pinas'**, (Endemic: Only Here in the Philippines) highlighted the diversity of endemic bird species in the Philippines and attracted more than 3000 visitors, majority of which were students from Metro Manila.



The opening ceremonies were led by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Angelo Reyes, former DENR Sec. Elisea Gozun, Bukidnon Congressman Miguel Zubiri and Mirant Foundation Executive Director Roberto Calingo. The program hosts, Anna Gonzales and Jomike Tejido, started off with a Pledge to the Environment followed by short speeches by Bird Festival Chairperson Alice Villa-Real, WBCP president Michael Lu and the special guests. The WBCP presented Philippine endemic kingfisher prints by National Museum artist Renato Aquino to the special guests. Other guests in attendance include Protected Areas & Wildlife Bureau Director Mundita Lim, WWF-Philippines Executive Director Lorenzo Tan, Alaminos City (Pangasinan) Mayor Hernani Braganza and Balanga City (Bataan) Mayor Melencio Banzon.

The WBCP believes that by holding the bird festival they can reach a wider audience and increase environmental awareness. Through the support of Mirant Foundation and contributions of WBCP members and friends, we were able to hold the festival at the 2300-seater convention center without charging admission fees to the general public and provided exhibit space to the environmental organizations free of charge. Other sponsors including the Energy Lounge and Soul Shop provided food during the opening ceremonies, the Figaro Foundation provided free coffee, Yehey.com and Trabaho.com advertised the festival on their websites.



PARTICIPATING EXHIBITORS were Katala Foundation, Conservation International, WWF-Philippines, Haribon Foundation, Isla Biodiversity Conservation, Cebu Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Polillo Island Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, DENR-NCR, Kaakbay CDI (Citizens Development Initiatives), Happy Earth, Center for Environmental Awareness and Education, Children's Environmental Awareness and Action Foundation, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Casper and Friends Aviary and Rescue Center, Philippine Bird Photographers, Ecorescue Volunteers, Winner Foundation, Miriam-PEACE & Mirant Foundation.



THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES include Birdwatching Basics by Alice Villa-Real and Nicky Icarangal, the very popular Birdquest Activity by Anna Gonzales and Robert Alejandro, the drawing activity and shadow play by Robert Alejandro, story-telling by Penny Velasco, a modern interpretation of the tinikling (a traditional dance inspired by the Barred Rail) by the Street Dance Kids and an animal conservation show by the My Zoo Foundation. Coloring and face-painting activities were held throughout the day. Bird mascots provided by the Katala Foundation and Cebu Biodiversity added more color to the festivities (Philippine Cockatoo) and Cebu Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (Black Shama). In the function rooms, lectures by the Katala Foundation, JC Gonzales & Carmela Espanola and the Philippine Duck forum by Kaakbay CDI were held at the adjoining function room. Selected short films from the Moonrise Film Festival were shown as well. On the last day, the closing ceremonies was attended by DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Cora Davis and Regional Technical Director Pitay Hinojosa. As a follow-up activity, a guided birdwatching trip to the University of the Philippines was conducted the following weekend





THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE was composed of the creative and hardworking members of the WBCP who volunteered their time and talent to make the festival a resounding success.

THE EVENT WAS COVERED by members of the media from ABS-CBN News, GMA-7 News, NHK-TV (Japan Cable News), Manila Bulletin, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Business World.



IN THE NEAR FUTURE, we hope to conduct mini-festivals outside the metropolis as well as invite bird clubs in the region to take part in our bird festival.

