



SEPTEMBER 2014

BUILDING GREEN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILIPPINE GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL
ISSUE NO. 2

philgbc.org



Reaching Out

BY EDGAR SABIDONG

Slowly opening up and trying to reach out, fully settled and secured when under the sea, beautifully attracting and unfolding...these words aptly describing a taklobo or giant clam became our inspiration as we usher in our second edition of Building Green. As we open up more opportunities for members to share their thoughts, talents and time, we see the taklobo's opening up of its shell to reach for sunlight, so that it creates that symbiotic relationship with the environment and creatures around it. This kind of bond is what we hope to establish as our members in the Council inspire us to do more and to do better.

We would like to welcome our new members and would as well thank those past members that have renewed their membership this year. We continue to roll out our calling for those who may wish to actively participate in the different committees. Please do not hesitate to approach the PHILGBC National Secretariat.

We are fortunate to have special interviews under our CEO in Focus section: one with Angela de Villa-Lacson, ArthaLand's President and CEO, whose pioneering works in sustainable development gave rise to the two-tower and award-winning Arya Residences; the other is an engaging and wealth-of-knowledge-filled interview with the Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection and concurrent General Manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, Secretary J. R. Nereus Acosta. ■

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CEO IN FOCUS

Angela de Villa-Lacson

PRESIDENT AND CEO, ARTHALAND CORPORATION

INTERVIEWED AND WRITTEN BY ANCY PALMA AND KEN LERONA

Why Green?

Green is the new luxury. That's the Arthaland campaign. Its future proof by design. We think about our future, our planet, and the next generations. It's all encompassing. With the onset of climate change and the recent calamities, people started to think green and be one with the environment.

What's the best piece of advice you have received?

Forgive and move on. In life, one gets to have a lot of challenges and there are events that can break a person, that can make one feel not so good and do all sorts of different things. I have gone through a lot of challenges but I have overcome all of them.

What key goal, given the success you have now, that you have to achieve?

Build my own house. I build buildings and they are interesting. It's a goal that I want to do for my children. My work goal is still in the making, its making Arthaland grow.

What is your favourite quote?

"What doesn't kill you, will help you grow." I also like "everything happens for a reason."

Who is the one person you would like to meet?

Pope Francis. Another one is George Clooney, though he is already engaged. With Pope Francis, I will have to find a way to see him in Rome.

What will you say to your 20-year old self?

When I was 20, I was an achiever but very introverted. I would like to say 'explore, travel and learn.' There will always be exciting things to learn that can change your life. Be brave.

What inspires you most?

Family. Seeing families spending time together and enjoying time with each other, that inspires me. I feel happiest when I am doing things together with my children. Meanwhile, for work, I am inspired how the old cities were planned. It teaches me a lot – what works and what doesn't work. ■



CEO IN FOCUS

Sec. J. R. Nereus Acosta

GENERAL MANAGER, LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INTERVIEWED BY CHESTER DE LA CRUZ AND CRISTINA ZWOLFER
WRITTEN BY ANCY PALMA

Why Green?

According to surveys, environmental concern comes in twenty second in the hierarchy of needs. *Pero sinasabi ko, napaka-importante ng kalikasan. Kung walang kalikasan, wala tayong kabuhayan – wala tayong buhay. Hindi naman natin sinasabi na maghahanap-kita tayo; sinasabi natin, maghahanap-buhay tayo. Hinahanap mo ang kapakanan at kinabukasan ng anak mo.* (But I say, the environment is very important. If there is no environment, we will not have an economy - we will not have life. We do not say we work to live; what we say is we work to live. You work for the sake and for the future of your child.)

Who is the one person you would like to meet?

The Dalai Lama, also Whang Od – the oldest tattoo artist in Cordillera. *(When asked what he would ask them)* Nothing really. I just want to be in awe in their presence. I believe that they are our connections to our past, our spirituality. Again, I say this in constancy with the idea of connection.

What key goal, given the success you have now, that you have to achieve?

It is easy to be overwhelmed by so many issue in the government but you have to pick the low-hanging fruit. I always believe that it is better to swim in a small pond of doables than in a larger lake of probables. To me, the worst form of corruption is the corruption of the ecosystem. Our work done in LLDA, the first BERDE registered government office building, is an example of a low-hanging fruit. It's something people can see, experience, be inspired by, and ultimately emulate.

What is your favourite quote?

You cannot protect that which you do not value and you cannot value that which you do not understand.

What inspires you most?

I grew up in Bukidnon, surrounded by the richness of nature. Maybe that is why I believe that I am connected with the Earth. ■

ARTICLE

WorldGBC Asia Pacific Regional Leadership Awards in Green Building

The WGBC-APN Awards is the inaugural WorldGBC's Asia Pacific Regional Network Leadership Awards in Green Building. This is a biennial awards program that honors outstanding organizations for their commitment to sustainability, and highlights innovative green building projects.

The awards are sponsored by Shaw Contract Group, in partnership with BCSD Singapore and the International Finance Corporation.

There is a chance for the Philippines to shine a spotlight in a regional scale on either of the two (2) categories:

Business Leadership in Sustainability presented to the corporation which best demonstrates a commitment to sustainability as part of its core business model. The award acknowledges leadership in corporate social responsibility, with emphasis on policies and programs that reduce and reverse the impact of business practices on the environment.

Leadership in Sustainable Design and Performance recognizes a green building project that demonstrates innovation in achieving minimum impact on the environment and maximum impact on health and productivity.

Nominations opened last 26th May 2014. Announcement of Finalist is by early August 2014. Announcement of Winners at Awards dinner in Singapore is on Tuesday 2 September 2014.

Nominations that qualified from the Philippines are the following (in alphabetical order):

CATEGORY A

Building Leadership in Sustainability



Arthaland Corporation



FPD Asia Properties



The Net Group

CATEGORY B

Leadership in Sustainability Design & Performance



First Balfour Corporate Office



Net Lima Tower

The judging panel includes, but is not limited to, representatives from the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Business Council for Sustainable Development Singapore – Regional Network Partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. ■

Be part of the WorldGBC APN Leadership Awards in Green Building.

Contact the Awards Committee at awards@philgbc.org.

For more information on the WorldGBC APN Leadership Awards in Green Building, visit www.worldgbc.org/regions/asia-pacific/.

BUILDING GREEN

The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Green Building Council

Issue No. 2, September 2014

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Levy, Rob, and Stephanie Levy.
Online image, February 26, 2008.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rob-andstephanielevy/2311993825/>

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First Balfour Inc.

YOUTH COMMITTEE

PHILGBC Youth Committee kicks off

The Philippine Green Building Council (PHILGBC) strengthens its connection to the younger generation by the formation of its Youth Committee, which held its initial meetings in July and August.

The PHILGBC Youth Committee is envisioned to be the training ground for future green leaders in the country, serving as the avenue for students and emerging professionals to highlight their achievements in pushing for sustainability, share their insights on green building, and interact with members of the building industry who are connected with the PHILGBC. Its core group consists of young professionals from various disciplines --- from the physical sciences of architecture and engineering, to business management and neurosciences.

The PHILGBC will surely be seeing more of this committee in the coming months. And through active involvement, interactive events, design challenges, and social media networking, we can see the future of green building in the Philippines as brighter, stronger, and much more greener.

For information on how to be part of the committee, please email youth@philgbc.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

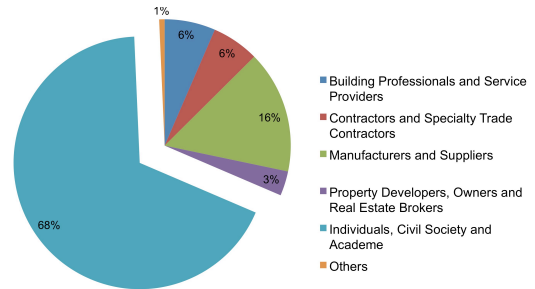
Membership Updates



2014
Ten Times Stronger
In Seven Years

280 Corporate Members
579 Individual Members
316 Certified BERDE Professionals

From 25 members in 2007 to 280 as of July 8, 2014



For information on how to be part of the committee, please email membership@philgbc.org.



NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Building Green 2014

PHILGBC joins more than 100 other GBCs all over the world in celebrating the World Green Building Week with the global theme of "Get Up, Green Up" by holding its 8th Building Green Conference on September 25, 2014.

We have invited forward thinking policy-makers and captains of the property sector to lead the dialogue in establishing and institutionalizing national and international green building programs.

PHILGBC has partnered with one of the leading event organizers, Globallink MP Events International, Inc. for this year's BG Conference. Our conference will be co-located with their Green Construct Exhibit, which runs from September 25-27, 2014. We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn about the latest green building technologies available in the market today.

BG2014 SPONSORS The Net Group, Datem Inc., Lafarge Cement Services (Phils) Inc. and International Elevator & Equipment, Inc. MEDIA PARTNERS Shelter Architectural and Design Magazine and Archikonst

For more information, please visit philgbc.org. For information on how to be part of the committee, please email convention@philgbc.org.

SUSTAINING CORPORATE MEMBERS



Upcoming Events

WORLDGBC CONGRESS | August 5 to 7, Sao Paulo, Brazil | A strategizing, learning, and connecting event participated in by over 100 National GBCs globally.

WORLDGBC-APN FORUM | September 1 to 3, Singapore | An assembly of National Green Building Councils (GBCs) from the Asia Pacific Network of the World Green Building Council.

BUILDING GREEN CONFERENCE 2014 | September 25, 2014, SMX Convention Center, Pasay City | The annual green building conference of the Council is a venue for sharing and exchanging practices and experiences on sustainability in the building industry.

WORLD GREEN BUILDING WEEK | September 22 to 26 | A global week-long celebration of sustainability in the building sector.

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