



# Philippine Resources

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**Philippine Petroleum  
Exploration Charting  
Stormy Waters**

**Diwata at  
three**

**ADB offers Philippines  
US\$ 1.8 billion**



# Diwata at three

By Patricia A. O. Bunye

**O**n the occasion of the third anniversary celebration of Diwata-Women in Resource Development, Inc. on 29 July 2015, I was very pleased to look back at what we have accomplished in a relatively short time.

My three years as the founding President of Diwata have been among the most challenging and rewarding I've ever experienced, both professionally and personally. When Ambassador Delia Albert first gathered women professionals from the different fields and disciplines of resource development for a series of lunch meetings at her office at SGV, many of us did not know what was in store for us.

What initially began as informal gatherings to share our thoughts and occasional frustration with the mining industry catalyzed into a decision to formally organize ourselves as, among others, a positive platform for the promotion of the responsible development of the Philippines' resources and of initiatives, to protect the land and its communities, particularly our indigenous people – their livelihood, health, education, and culture.

Apparently, the idea to organize women professionals from mining, energy, oil and gas and allied industries had always been foremost in Ambassador Albert's mind, having seen how women drove the agenda of the then Minerals Development Council, which she headed in her capacity as Special Envoy for Mining.

During the regular meetings of the MDC, she noted the "effective participation of

women representatives from the member agencies of government and private sector who worked assiduously in carrying out the clearly stated national policy of 'revitalizing and promoting' the mining industry."

The choice of our name, "Diwata", was a stroke of pure inspiration on the part of Rochelle Hilario, one of our original members. In Philippine mythology, Diwatas are "nature spirits who could cast blessings upon those who bring benefits and could be called upon ritually for positive growth, health and fortune".

I would like to think that Diwata members have been able, in our way, to cast blessings on those we worked with since the group's inception.

Within about six months from our first meeting, Diwata was incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit corporation and formally launched at the Ayala Museum on Mandela Day, 18 July 2012. Time again, Ambassador Albert reminds us that July 18 was chosen as our launch date.

July 18 is the birth date of Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and freedom fighter, who always reminded that, to develop a country, it is necessary to develop both its natural and human resources. It is a cause that Diwata has embraced and devotes itself to.

One month after our launch, and after the issuance of the controversial Executive Order 79 embodying the administration's "mining policy", we organized a forum entitled "EO 79: The IP Women's Views" held on 30 August at the Asian Institute of Management, giving voice to the women IP leaders from B'laan, Subanen and Palawan.

Their comments were organized in a white paper which was later submitted to the Minerals Industry Coordinating Council.

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their upstream energy strategies. Companies are refocusing on core assets while putting large investments through a much tougher vetting process.

Amid tight cash flows, marginal and low-return projects will have to be placed in the back burner if not outright cancelled. The Philippines still have to hit the elusive black gold bonanza outside of the Northwest Palawan basin.

Deepwater petroleum resources, which the Philippines hope to strike big, are fraught with technical operational complexities, cost enormous sums of money, and threatened by externalities arising from the conflict with China.

Instead of clouding the service contract system with its resource nationalism tendencies and bureaucratic inefficiencies, the government must ensure that companies have contractual stability in their high-risk investments. ■



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The forum was later included in Chapter 12 (“Mining the Earth’s Treasures”) of a Grade 9 textbook entitled “Exploring Life Through Science – Science 9”.

On 14 November 2015, in partnership with the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), the Embassy of South Africa and Gold Fields Philippines Corporation, we held a forum on “Mining as a Means for Development”, featuring the Deputy Mining Minister of South Africa, Mr. Godfrey Oliphant.

In 2013, we marked International Women’s Month with a photo exhibit on 19 March 2013 at the Yuchengco Museum entitled “Kababaihan: Tanglaw ng Minahan”.

To celebrate our first anniversary, on 23 July 2013, we partnered with the Bulong Pulungan, an established monthly ‘kapihan’ organized by veteran women journalists at the Sofitel Manila to present “Everything You Wanted to Know About Mining But Were Afraid to Ask” aka “Geology 101”.

We trained the spotlight on our “rock stars”: three geologists and a mining engineer who gamely shared the unique rewards and demands of their respective professions.

As our contribution to PMSEA’s 60th anniversary, we had an afternoon of “Conversations with Mining’s Dirty Dozen” on 20 November 2013, featuring Mel Alonzo and Mercedes Suleik, authors of the book “Mining’s Dirty Dozen: The Legacy of the First Mining Engineering Graduates of the Philippines, together

with Ms. Edda Villaluna Henson.

On 11 April 2014, Diwatas from different companies reflected on the growing role of women in the mining industry in a panel entitled “Women as Game Changers in Resource Development” presented at the Philippine Mining Luncheon.

“Tanging Tanglaw: Turning IP Women into Solar Engineers”, now one of our flagship projects, was formally launched on 08 May 2014 with our partners PMSEA and the Land Rover Club of the Philippines.

Our guest of honor, Mr. Bunker Roy, founder of the Barefoot College in India, and one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential Persons in 2010, spoke on how illiterate, unskilled grandmothers could be trained to become solar engineers.

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## DIWATA’S 2-Year Accomplishment Report 2012-2014

DIWATA is a non-government women’s organization advocating the responsible development of the Philippines’ wealth in resources, principally in extractive industries such as mining, oil and gas, quarrying, and other mineral resources from the earth for processing.

### 2012



**Diwata Launch at Ayala Museum**  
**JUL 18**

Diwata-Women in Resource Development, Inc. (Diwata), founded by Amb. Delia Domingo Albert, provides a platform for the promotion of responsible development of the Philippines’ resources and initiatives to protect the land and its communities, particularly indigenous people – their livelihood, health, education, and culture.



**EO 79: The IPs’ and Women’s Views**

In Partnership with the Asian Institute of Management, the first Diwata forum featured women IP leaders from the B’laan, Subanen and Palawan tribes as resource persons on Executive Order 79.



**Mining as a Means for Development**  
**NOV 14**

Conducted in partnership with the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), the South Africa Embassy and Gold Fields Philippines Corporation during the Annual National Mine Safety Convention.

### 2013



**Kababaihan: Tanglaw ng Minahan**  
**MAR 19**

A photo exhibit on women in the mines in celebration of International Women’s Month at the Yuchengco Museum with the GREAT Women (Gender-Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women).



**Everything You Wanted to Know About Mining But Were Afraid to Ask (Geology 101)**  
**JUL 23**

Bulong Pulungan, at the Sofitel Manila, featured Diwata “rock stars”: three geologists and a mining engineer in an interactive engagement with members of the media.



**Conversations with the Daughters of Mining’s Dirty Dozen**  
**NOV 20**

Featured Mel Alonzo and Mercedes Suleik, authors of the book “Mining’s Dirty Dozen: The Legacy of the First Mining Engineering Graduates of the Philippines”, and Ms. Edda Villaluna Henson.

### 2014



**Philippine Mining Luncheon: “Women as Game Changers in Resource Development”**  
**APR 11**

Diwatas from different companies reflected on the growing role of women in the mining industry. Dr. Geraldine McGuire spoke via Skype.



**RTN Mine Visit and Mandela Day**  
**July 17-19**

For its second anniversary, Diwata headed to Bataraza, Palawan to check on the rehabilitation practices, sustainable development programs and community projects that have given RTN and Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC) a distinctive position in the industry.



**Diwata on the Rocks: “A Roadtrip to Rizal Province”**  
**AUG 9**

The Land Rover Club of the Philippines (LRCP) took Diwata members for a ride to explore Rizal: Rapid City Realty Development, CEMEX Plant and Teresa Marble.



**Turning IP Grandmothers into Solar Engineers**  
**SEPT 16**

Sending off the first batch of IP Solar Grandmothers to attend the Barefoot College in India. A Diwata partnership with the Barefoot College, Embassy of India, PMSEA and LRCP.



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Upon returning to their respective villages, each pair of solar grandmothers will be responsible for solar electrifying 100 households. The solar grandmothers will also assume the responsibility for installing and maintaining the solar panels and lamps for a minimum of 5 years.

“Diwata on the Rocks: A Roadtrip to Rizal Province” on 09 August 2014 was another opportunity for Diwata to collaborate with the Land Rover Club of the Philippines.

Diwatas and the members of the Land Rover Club spent a fun Saturday marvelling at the geological riches of Rizal Province, a mere half an hour ride from Metro Manila.

We celebrated our second anniversary with a trip to Bataraza, Palawan on 17-19 July 2014 to learn from the rehabilitation practices, sustainable development programs and community projects of Nickel Asia Corporation and Rio Tuba Nickel Corporation.

We also spent Mandela Day in Puerto Princesa City with the Batak tribe and representatives of the South Africa Embassy. A similar mine visit was held on

08-10 March 2015, when we marked International Women’s Month with a forum at OceanaGold’s Didipio Mine in Nueva Vizcaya.

On 16 September 2014, we sent off our first four “solar lolas” to the Barefoot College in Tilonia, India, where they spent 6 months learning how to fabricate, repair and maintain solar panels, as well as other livelihood activities such as making sanitary napkins and mosquito nets.

While in India, they had the extraordinary experience of meeting with the Executive Director of United Nations Women, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

In addition, they had the benefit of working with women from all over the world. More than just learning about the technical side of solar engineering, they learned to live and interact with women of different cultures and backgrounds, even without the benefit of a common spoken language.

As someone who saw the solar lolas on the day they left for India and welcomed them when they arrived at the NAIA six months to the day later, I was amazed at the confidence and pride they radiated upon their return.

To say that they were transformed by training is an understatement. When they left, they were shy, tentative and perhaps even frightened at the prospect of being so far from home for the first time.

The women who stepped off the plane on 16 March 2015 were self-assured, dignified and articulate, answering our questions with aplomb and with much prodding.

The change in them that I personally witnessed is perhaps the best testament that Diwata and its project partners can do something good.

The story of our first four solar lolas is so compelling that they have been widely featured in major newspapers and magazines, and at least two mining companies have expressed interest in sending solar lolas from the communities where their mines are located.

Much of 2015 has been devoted to raising funds to fully implement Tangiang Tan in our 2 pilot communities (Bamban and Gala, Zambales), including hosting a fundraising dinner in June at which the solar lolas were presented to the communities.

With the support of generous companies and individuals, we are nearing our funding target we have set for the pilot communities (Php2.6M for each community of 100 households) and hope to complete the installation of the pilot communities before the end of the year.

We hope that, by showcasing the successful implementation of this business model in our pilot communities, we will encourage more companies to adopt it as a template for their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs.

One of the last projects I led before I ended my term as President, was a project on 02 June 2015 which we co-sponsored with the University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Science (UP-NIGS) on McKinsey & Company.



The ever popular Solar Lolos.

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# ADB ready to make US\$1.8 billion available to Philippines

**D**uring a recent meeting in Manila, ADB President Takehiko Nakao, announced that the bank was ready to boost its sovereign lending from the present US\$1.8 billion over the three years 2015 to 2017, to about US\$3 billion between 2016 and 2018.

“ADB will continue to support infrastructure needs; programs to strengthen senior high school education, job creation for youth, and social protection; deeper capital markets; improved access to finance; and development in southern Philippines including Mindanao,” Mr. Nakao said.

“We are pleased to see the recent progress made by the government in its public-private partnership (PPP) program and will continue to support its implementation.”

One of the recent examples of PPP projects, assisted by an ADB private-sector loan of \$75 million, is the Mactan-Cebu International Passenger Terminal Project, for which construction commenced in June.

Philippine Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who met with Mr Nakao, thanked the ADB for its continued partnership with the Philippines.

“Our country has more than proven its

mettle throughout the past five years in writing a comeback story of growth through better governance. Deepening support from ADB in sustaining these reforms is critical—we need quality education and infrastructure to fuel further inclusive growth,” Mr Purisima said.

In May this year, ADB’s Office of Infrastructure together with its co-advisor the Development Bank of the Philippines, was pointed as Transaction Advisor for North-South Railway Project South Luzon (Manila to Legaspi with extensions to Batangas and Matnog).

The pre-qualification process has been

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report entitled “Reverse the Curse: Maximizing the potential of resource-driven economies”.

The report was presented by Mr. Suraj Moraje, Managing Director of McKinsey Philippines. It was followed by a very frank and engaging discussion moderated by Dr. Caloy Arcilla and a panel composed of former DENR Secretary Horacio Ramos, MGB Assistant Director Elmer Billedo, GE Philippines’ Jocot de Dios and Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan.

Members of the audience, some of whom candid enough to admit that they were anti-mining, likewise contributed to the very open and stimulating discussion.

Diwata has always believed that among its most important missions is to raise the level of discussion of resource development issues by focusing on facts and not rhetoric. It also believes that it must avoid “preaching to choir” or talking only to the “already convinced”.

Thus, with the rich material provided by the McKinsey report (available at <http://tinyurl.com/ok9qogq>), it will embark on regional/provincial roadshows, beginning with another forum on the “Reverse the Curse” study in Surigao in September.

Through these roadshows, we hope to involve regional stakeholders, specifically local government officials and Regional Development Councils in mining districts for them to learn from the experiences of other countries how to balance the effects of mining and optimize the benefits therefrom.

It has been an honor and a privilege leading Diwata for the last three years, including through its birth pains. I can only wish our new President, Yody Marzo, all the best as she takes Diwata forward. ■



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