



POC Online

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Tribal Games go to Mindoro

by Shai Tamayo

Talabaan, Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental. September 25. The far out flat lands in sleepy Barangay Talabaan in laid-back Mamburao stirred to life when the truckload of katutubos arrived to compete in their first-ever tribal games (TG).

Clad in their traditional bahag, the timid Mangyan-Iraya tribespeople, sometimes called Sandugo, hit it off with somewhat rusty traditional bow and arrow skills. Enthusiasm and confidence escalated as the games progressed. By the end, their unpracticed skills breathed new life. The typically shy Mangyans were transformed into proud and inspired tribal athletes.

Some 37 Mangyan katutubos, aged 17 to 60 years, competed in four events: Standing and Squatting Archery, Archery Assault Course, Sibat (Javelin) Throwing and Foot Relay Race. The last two events were done by the shore, against the backdrop of wild waves heralding Typhoon Ondoy's arrival. Everyone enjoyed the relay race the most, watching some contenders virtually flying above the sand cutting through the wind at breakneck speed.

Nineteen champions emerged from this second phase of the TG 2009. Reynaldo Panagsagan bagged three awards, the Foot Race, first in Sibat and third in Archery Squatting.

The event was punctuated with the speeches of guests and organizers of the event: Atty. Ramon Malinao, POC legal counsel, who promoted the games venue; Elma Tejada, Mamburao Chief Tourism Officer; Rolly Inciong ACB Public Affairs Chief; Col. Jeff Tamayo, POC Board Member, PSTA Pres. and TG chief proponent. After each gave their insights on the significance of the Tribal Games with environmental awareness and biodiversity, and on the objective of strengthening the tribes, around 35 high school students from the Mamburao National High School fielded them their questions. All went home with a fresh perspective of their brother tribes, of true Olympism, of the environment and of sports.

“This is a great opportunity for us to renew our relationship with our tribal brothers, to learn from them while helping them uplift their lives and dignity,” expressed Tejada. Looking forward to the November finals, she aims to make TG regular events involving tribes from the entire island.

“...Olympism is not about just medals and sports. Olympic ideals include restoring and promoting environmental awareness and protection...” conveyed Atty Malinao.

“... rather than from the scientists from foreign lands who have studied about environment and biodiversity, we can learn more from you, our original forest caretakers, who have been doing this for centuries...” expressed Inciong to the tribespeople.

When one of the students asked what got into his head that brought on these Tribal Games, Tamayo said, “katutubos have a soft place in my heart--learned a lot from them, living with them in the mountains... besides, Kundi tayo, sino? Kundi ngayon, kelan?”

The third and last phase before the November finals, the Sierra Madre Tribal Games will feature the Dumagats in Nakar, Quezon on October 16th. Abangan!





Bridge

31ST ASEAN Bridge Club Championships to be held this December

By: Atty. Sylvia Alejandro

A very noteworthy event, the ASEAN Bridge Club Championships was formed with the objective to develop the game of bridge within the region. This objective has successfully been met through all these years. The second ASEAN Bridge Club Championships was held in Manila in 1980, and the Philippine Tournament Bridge Association hosted the 29th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships which was a resounding success with Southeast Asia's top bridge players coming to the Philippines. In 2008 it was the Indonesian Contract Bridge Association that hosted the 30th ASEAN Bridge Club Championships.

This year all ASEAN member bridge players will troop to Kuala Lumpur where the 31st ASEAN Bridge Club championships will be held and hosted by the Malaysian Contract Bridge Association on December 5-9.

The enduring friendships and camaraderie that has been engendered by this event amongst the ASEAN bridge players will be in evidence once again this coming December. It is fortunate that the Philippines under the aegis of the Philippine Tournament Bridge Association will have two teams participating in the Open team category. Team Forbes composed of Albert Quiogue, Sylvia Alejandro, Joben Jalandoni and George Francisco is one team while the other team is Team Katipunan composed of Phil & Suena Manalang, Nonot Carrion and Jehran Chua.



POC President Peping Cojuangco and Secretary-General Steve Hontiveros at OCA Incheon Meet

