

Activities

Philippine Centre ITI (Asia/Pacific)

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The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, with Cecilia Guidote Alvarez



Activities 2014-2016

The Philippine Centre of ITI uniquely works in close coordination with all its committees for synergized national and international activities that are linked to the UN family and other private sector partners in its dynamic use of theatre and its electronic off-springs to reach millions in an initiative to strengthen artistic activities while promoting a culture of social justice, peace and sustainable development. This has been possible because of the ITI Philippine President and Director of Earthsavers UNESCO DREAM Centre, Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez through her dynamic leadership of instituting Cultural Caregiving Services to vulnerable groups, performances and complementary broadcast and theatre repertoire.

Since Yerevan, all the proposals of the ITI Centre have been fulfilled or are in the process of execution. The Philippine Centre has highlighted International Theatre Institute in the global arena. Philippine ITI President has been personally invited by the UNESCO Director General, Dr Irina Bokova to be a panelist in the 1st UNESCO ICT World Conference for Persons with Disabilities where she has suggested the fusion of technology and all art disciplines in a training module infused with content to confront climate change in Delhi, India in November. This was followed by an Interfaith, Intercultural South-South Dialogue on Protecting the Oceans to address the impacts of climate change with the Ocean Security International at the UNFCCC Summit in Lima, Peru which was officially presented at the COP20 Media Centre showcasing music, paintings and poetry focusing on protection of the ocean as carbon sink.

The UNISDR prize of \$5,000 was announced for a Global Playwriting Contest that was showcased at the COP21 Conference in Paris. The Philippine Centre through its Secretary General, Dr. Isagani Cruz, organized the competition with 31 entries from all the continents. Members of the jury included Dr. Cruz with International Theatre Institute Director-General, Tobias Biancone and IPF President, Andrea Zagorski.

The winner from Slovenia, Barbara Anderlič, came to Paris and was presented with the UNISDR prize. She was also interviewed at the official UN Media Centre. Joining Mrs Guidote-Alvarez was CIDC Social Change Network Vice-President, Viktor Sebek of Colombia; Pakistan CEO of Climate Institute, Nassir Khattak; Kenya Presidential Adviser, Ali Mohamed; and Tzu Chi Foundation Vice-President, Debra Bordeaux. The international panel was chaired by Philippine Climate Change Commissioner Heherson T. Alvarez.

At the COP21 Conference in Paris, the ITI-Earthsavers booth was hailed as "the most colourful and a big hit" in showcasing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through paintings and poetry of handicapped artists and digital arts creation by out-of-school youth. The booth also featured video performances of the Earthsavers Ensemble with the Seoul Institute of the Arts capped by relevant messages with songs by Mr. Peter Yarrow from the famous folk-singing group Peter, Paul and Mary.

Philippines had the unique distinction to mark the UN Day for Persons with Disability on the 3rd of December

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2015 where Mrs Guidote-Alvarez was interviewed at COP21 by the Climate Change Studio, besides being selected as the lone Southeast Asian Panelist in a UNESCO Headquarters ceremonial panel discussion of inclusivity and connectivity led by UNESCO Director-General Bokova.

All these are accessible in the UN archive. The link below is attached:

December 5, 2015 Link

<http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/events/2015-12-05-12-00-earth-savers-movement-cultural-communications-in-confronting-climate-change/earth-savers-movement-cultural-communications-in-confronting-climate-change>

December 3, 2015

COP21: Cecile Guidote-Alvarez (International Day for Persons with Disability)

Paris was successful in forging the global deal for survival of humanity and planet earth but the task of fulfilling the agreement to prevent Armageddon can be undertaken by a creative army of artists-teachers in the ITI to conscientize, inform and motivate about the collective action required to affirm life. Thus, in Manaus, Brazil, it is planned to give a dramatic reading of the global warming play on climate change "A Continental Divide".

Throughout the year, the committees are active. CIDC-Social Change Network with the Communications Committee runs our multi-awarded Radyo Balintataw of classics and contemporary plays from different parts of the world and original soap opera on relevant themes like women's rights, air pollution, drugs, the plight of indigenous communities, the elderly and other health issues. We have introduced plays translated in our language from Cyprus, China, the Arab monodrama winning plays, Nigeria, Mexico, India, Indonesia, Korea, Chekhov, Shakespeare and Strindberg .



The Communications Committee, co-chaired by Jose Laderas Santos and C.J Andaluz, teach indie films, comics as illustrated theatre and broadcast. For World Theatre Month, the Youth Theatre Practitioners Committee chaired by Frank Rivera and assisted by Sonny Valencia, will hold the Text Poetry Competition which will encourage youth theatre festivals in high school and college campuses. It will also provide the 1st Outstanding Youth Text Poetry Award. These will give them the rationale to secure the travel funds for them to participate in Manaus.

International Dance Week is supervised by Prima Ballerina Lisa Macuja, chair of our Dance Committee with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Her Ballet Manila in 2 theatres in a carnival site popularizes classical ballet and new ballet based on local themes and folklore. A nationwide workshop festival is held to celebrate the event. There is also a creative dance competition coordinated by Gigi Velarde David, dance committee secretary, based on local social issues and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Music Theatre Committee chaired by Gardy Labad has experimented with music drama in a cockpit site. Musical theatre on history, like the Japanese occupation and the life of Pope Francis, has been presented these past 2 years. Opera is kept alive by co-chair Fides Cuyugan Asensio. We have held a broadcast competition to keep alive a native music theatre tradition, the Kundiman.

The Educational Theatre Committee chaired by Nick Lizaso, also a member of the board, is assisted by Arthur Cassanova in colleges and communities. Monodrama has been popularized by our Committee Chair, Fray Paolo Casurao, who brings it to the community including prisons complemented by creative industry workshops to generate livelihood. A competition for monodrama is planned in the mid-year.

Festivals are organized by every province and city featuring their foremost industry or product. The Bambanti Festival in the province of Isabela



Left: Cecile Guidote Alvareyh with the Director General of UNESCO and other UNESCO Artists for Peace.

Right: Cecile Guidote Alvarez and the Earthsavers.

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Cecile Guidote Alvarez in action at COP22



coordinated by Nilo Agustin was given a high approval rating. Recently, a featured rap-musical on climate change written by Frank Rivera involved a thousand youth participants from different municipalities of the province supported by the governor and the provincial board.

The highlighted project with UNESCO approval is the planned Music Theatre Peace Concert with artists from claimant countries on the conflicted China Sea and the Spratly Islands on the West Philippine Sea. The event is a cultural diplomatic initiative to lower the decibel of confrontation and aggressive behavior. It is proposed late this year before the COP22 event of the United Nations in Morocco.

We have a Design Technical Committee chaired by Joey Nombres and a Philippine linked OISTAT event on costumes held in a heritage site in Vigan. Our Centre is also active in the UNESCO Movement, Unite4Heritage.

Our Techno Arts Camp modelled for UNESCO on climate change last July 2015 with collaboration of the Seoul Institute of the Arts is being reprised at the Isabela State University for a regional modeling that will continue in early 2017 to celebrate the 50 years of the Philippine Centre of ITI with ASEAN-Pacific participants in pursuit of our function as ASEAN-Pacific Sub-Regional Centre of the ITI as designated in Yerevan.

Director-General Bokova, in her message applauded the Philippine project and its director with this

message "The first Techno Arts Camp for persons with disabilities, being organized by the Earth Savers UNESCO Dream Centre /Artist for Peace with the Seoul Institute of Arts, is a ground-breaking initiative that deserves to be watched closely. It builds on the Conference on the Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities, organized by the Government of India and UNESCO in November 2014, and the World Education Forum in Incheon this May. It will not only empower vulnerable youth with the opportunity to use technology creatively, but also give them the chance to acquire new skills and together, to feel more integrated and confident. In action-research style, learning modules will be developed that can then be shared widely. This innovative partnership also encourages youth to express themselves on the impact of climate change on their daily lives, and to appeal for everyone, together, to act to protect our shared planet. I thank the Earthsavers Dreams Ensemble and Cecile Alvarez for their generous vision and all partners involved in this initiative. I wish every success to all those who are part of this wonderful adventure that enriches each and every one us."

Contact details

Earthsavers UNESCO DREAM Centre / Artist for Peace
International Theatre Institute (ITI)
ASEAN-Pacific Bureau
Gotesco Regency Twin Towers B, Unit 1203,
Natividad Lopez Street, Ermita, Manila 1000
Telefax: +632 524-6662
Mobile number: +63915-898-3947 or
+63999-977-7771
dreamcentrepilippines@yahoo.com.ph