



June 29, 2009

Press Release

Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Exhibit in Tuguegarao City

The Kalinawa Art Foundation and The province of Tuguegarao City in partnership with the Provincial Government of Cagayan thru the Provincial Museum Office, the City Government of Tuguegarao thru the Vice Mayor's Office and Department of Tourism Region 2 will bring the Indigenous Peoples' Visual Art Show and Competition to Tuguegarao City from July 06 to July 12, 2009. The event will be held at the Paseo Reale Mall, Rizal Street, Tuguegarao City.

The *Kalinawa Art Foundation* is a non-profit organization aiming to develop the Indigenous Peoples' Visual art sector in the Philippines. To implement this vision, our activities include a series provincial visual art exhibits like this one, wherein the *Foundation* partners with willing local institutions to gather together Indigenous Peoples' artists and their works into one regional venue to celebrate the visual and performance arts of their cultures.

There are several versions of the origin of the name, Tuguegarao. One is the abundance of "tarrao" trees in the area. Another is "garrao" meaning swift current, possibly of the Pinacanauan River. Another is from the word "tuggui" meaning fire. Another recorded version is, the people of the northern towns formerly called the town Twerao. Still another is that the name Tuguegarao comes from two Ibanag words "tuggui" (fire) and "aggao" (day), possibly referring to a daytime fire that happened in the town.

The original inhabitants of Tuguegarao were Itawis, a group of Malays who arrived in the island sometime between 200 B.C. and 300 A.D. The various groups of immigrants drove the Atta (very short, dark-skinned nomad with very curly hair) to the mountains. The Itawes were later taught the Ibanag dialect by the Spaniards as the medium of Christianization and trading during the Tobacco Monopoly, which explains why several Spanish words are interspersed in the local dialect. However, in the rural communities, Itawes continue to be the native tongue. The means of livelihood of the natives were fishing, hunting, farming and livestock raising.

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All Indigenous Peoples' visual artists are invited to register their works for the exhibition, competition and sale. Registration begins at the Paseo Reale Mall, Rizal Street, Tuguegarao City on July 06 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and continues on July 07 from 9 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

A number of exciting activities have been planned around this event to take place at the Venue. Mr. Ronald Tamfalan, a T'boli artist from Sarangani Province, will be presenting a workshop on Soil Art and Acrylic on Tuesday July 07 at 10:00 am. Mr. Nestor Horfilla a well-known personality in the field of culture will moderate an Artist Interaction and the arts will curate the shows. Community sale will be on July 10 and 11 at 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. The opening ceremony for the exhibit is scheduled for Wednesday, July 08 at 5:00 pm at the Paseo Reale Mall, Rizal Street, and Tuguegarao City. The public is welcome to view the art at the venue and via www.kalinawa.com. The actual exhibition will be open to the public daily from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm from Thursday July 09 up to Saturday July 11, 2009

A total of P36, 000 in prizes will be divided among four categories and presented at the Awards Ceremony on May 24th 5:00 pm at the Paseo Reale Mall. The categories are: Traditional in which pieces are based on Indigenous traditional knowledge and/or materials; Youth, an open category for artists 18 years old and below of age; Open Two Dimensional which includes any two-dimensional medium excluding photography; and Open Three Dimensional which covers any three-dimensional medium, including but not limited to sculpture, pottery, jewellery and terracotta.

We are looking forward to another exciting celebration of the cultural diversity of the Philippines.

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PEOPLE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR VISUAL ART EXHIBITION in TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN VALLEY

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