9TH IGOROT INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION
special issue April 12, 2012

IGO STAGES 9TH IIC

MASTER GOLFERS. Mayor Mauricio Domogan (center) - during the Tee OFF Ceremony, together with the officials.

The Igorot Global Organization (IGO) is staging the ninth Igorot International Consultation (IIC) on April 11 to 14, 2012 here.

With the theme "Igorots in Partnership for Development," the IIC focuses on the development of Igorot communities in Cordillera. The IGO was formally organized in 2000, and is dedicated to the sustenance of Igorot culture and existence. It also envisions the upliftment and advancement of the Igorot people to become more productive members of society. The group is also committed to share and promote the rich heritage and history of the Igorot with the rest of the world.

IGO - International President Ceasar Castro, in an interview, said that the IIC is a traditional gathering of Igorots coming from various parts of the world where they are opportuned to consult on issues, interests and concerns that are common to all participants.

Activities of the event include plenary sessions, a solidarity night, and planning and integration workshops.

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo will keynote the event before the resource speakers.

Workshops will focus on the following topics: IGO and IIC in Retrospect People Participation in governance,

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Open Golf Tourney ushers in IIC9

An Open Golf Tournament ushered in the 9th Igorot International Consultation (IIC) on early wednesday morning.

Some local government officials and Igorots residing inside and outside the Philippines who are members of the IGO participated in the event was participated.

The Ceremonial Tee-Off was done by Mauricio G. Domogan, the City Mayor, followed by Rufino B. Bomasang, Edwin Abeya and Richard Solang.

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Winners of the golf tournament pose with their trophies//

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With a big heart to help economically - challenged but deserving college students, the participants of the IGO-sponsored Open Golf Tournament were recognized in the awards and dinner night was held at Baguio Country Club Training Center on April 11.

A raffle draw was also conducted during the event. IGO - Philippines finance committee chair Salma Martin said funds raised from the draw will go to the scholarship fund being maintained by the IGO for students in the Cordillera.

The awarding of the trophies and prizes for the tournament and raffle draw is headed by Mr. Manuel C. Ano, the Chairperson of IGO-Philippines.

Below is a summary of awards during the tournament.

Meanwhile, Nick Lamsis was given a special prize as the Nearest to the Pin at hole #9; Raul Molintas as Most Accurate Drive at hole #11, and Gloria Golocan as the Most Exercised Player.

"This is a nice endeavor. While people are enjoying their passion, (for golf) they are also helping the scholars of IGO" says a 61-year old Norman Kaniteng, who grabbed 2nd Runner Up in Seniors Category Class A. He started playing golf since 2000, representing Philex Mines.

"*Basta* fund raising, we join," adds the 44- year old Nick Lamsis from Cranford New Jersey. He won as the champion in Men's Category Class B and this is his first time to win in IGO Open Tournament.

The awarding ceremony ended up by giving the major prizes for the raffle draw and picture taking of the winners headed by Manuel C. Ano, the Chairperson of IGO-Philippines. // *Jovy Gampol and Jayralyn Siddayao*

After before: Getting to know an IIC Loyalist

Everyone has his own story to tell. Everyone has his own knowledge to share. And in the person of an ageless participant of the IIC lie a lot of stories and wisdom, values and experience. With her and other elders of Igorot society, lie the collective wisdom that needs to be imparted to the younger generations.

Felicitas Umaming is a native of Sagada, Mt. Province. To date, she is the eldest participant of the IIC. With her 84 years of earthly existence, she was able to visit many parts of the globe participating in the IIC. She joined the IIC in the United Kingdom in 2002; in the USA in 2004, and in Canada in 2008. She may have failed to attend the IIC held in Australia in 2006, but she nevertheless sent a representative, one of her daughters.

The presence of Umaming in every IIC underlines her dedication and support to the programs of IGO.

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DIVISION		CHAMPION	1st RUNNER UP	2nd RUNNER UP
LADIES	CLASS B	Jane Aslong	--	--
	CLASS A	Kim Jun Young	Shin Hye Min	--
SENIORS	CLASS B	Ed Abeya	Boy Rillo	Rufino Bumasang
	CLASS A	Richard Solang	Romy Picart	Norman Kaniteng
MEN'S	CLASS C	Bernard Capuyan	Rico Garcia	Andrew Pinero
	CLASS B	Nick Lamsis	Swanny Mangaoang	Joem Rosales
	CLASS A	Sean Choi	Edwin Ganga	Dai Tsuchiya

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Public Democracy People Organization in the Context of Self-governance, Igorot/Cordillera Migrant Workers, Managing the Water Commons and Multi-culturalism.

Meanwhile, the workshops will tackle civil society participation in governance,social/health/education /sports/migrant workers, environment and climate change/ disaster risk reduction, ancestral lands and domains/natural resources/ indigenous peoples, trade and industry/investment/ tourism/agriculture/ entrepreneurship development, culture and the arts/indigenous knowledge, issues/concerns/ reforms in governance, and youth and development.

Also, there will be presentations regarding the push for Cordillera autonomy by Baguio City mayor Mauricio Domogan and Dr. Peter Cosalan.

The consultation will shift to cultural festivities on April 14 at the residence of Richard Pooten at Asin, Tuba, Benguet, with Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., the chair of the committee on national cultural communities as guest of honor and speaker.

Igorots from all walks of life and from all over the world flock to the Baguio Country Club as they join the celebration of the 9th Igorot International Consultation (IIC) conducted by the Igorot Global Organization (IGO). The consultation was preceded by a golf tournament and book launching.

Manuel Ano, the President of IGO Philippines, in his talk during the Book Launching of the book: ***Igorot by Heart*** said that he cannot find superlative adjectives to describe how they were able to finish preparations for the series of events. "Even if we are not graduates of UST, we have done it through solidarity and teamwork," added Ano.

Pureza Gomeyac Egmalis, the IIC International liason/coordinator, for her part said the participants will be enjoying the 9th IIC.

Other participants of the IIC were more than willing to share their exp ectations of the event.

Astri Ao-wat, the manager of Kinwa Etnika Handicrafts, said that IGO activity is a perfect venue for a dvertising various kinds of Cordillera products, especially for the people who will be going abroad. In this way, their products will have a chance to be promoted overseas. She also said that this event is a good venue to meet other people and old acquaintances.

Minda Ventura agrees, adding that through these products, visitors as well as foreigners will be giving some of their comments and suggestions, which would be helpful to the producers and buyers.

Meanwhile, Gloria Galocan, said that resolutions made by the IGO should be implemented, especially the scholarship program. In addition, she anticipates that more young people will participate in the event for they will soon continue the path their elders have started.

These were just some of the voices of the participants and coordinators prior to their expectations on the 9th IIC.

This shows that this activity is a place for appreciation, thanksgiving, get together, sharing, advertising, helping, and most of all the give and take relationship where everyone benefits and learn.

// Jayralyn Siddayao and Jelly Pearl Potectan

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Also, she said that she had been an organizer of the BIBAK in Calgary, Canada where she had taught the Igorots in the locale some of the Cordilleran dances.

"*Kayat ko nga han nga mapukaw ti Igorot*," she stressed. She added that she grew up as an Igorot, and she does not want to lose that identity.

"Geographically, we may be divided by mountains, but we were not different," says Umaming. She emphasized that despite the geological location of every province in the region, in terms of culture, tradition and belief, they are still all Igorots.

In a persuasive plea during the interview, Umaming asked the youths to support the IGO. "Learn what they are doing about cultural practices. *Dakayu ti sumurot kadakami*," she stressed addressing the youths of today's generation.// *Debbie Gasingan*

Kinaigorot

The thirst for identity has always be en a clear point in the quest of life. The Igorots, a group of people who have defined and will continue to define themselves in the course of time, have been consistently triumphant in asserting not only their individual identity but more significantly, the dignity of their ethnicity as a cornerstone of national development. This legacy is being passed on from generation to generation. Each generation strives to make a difference and to keep the flaming identity of being an Igorot burning. Today, this flaming spirit is further brightened as Igorots from all around the world gather as advocates of development among the Igorots. *(continued on page 4)*

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The Igorot International Consultation (IIC) is another sturdy pillar towards the realization of a well-equipped "Kaigorotan" ever ready to face the rough road to the future. This consultation is not just merely a meeting among concerned individuals. Rather; it is a sharing opportunity among Igorots drawing from each other's vast reserve of experiences. From this sharing comes the synthesis of healthy ideas that shall further fertilize the seed of development that have been sown within each Igorot looking forward for that hard-earned fruit of development, the upliftment of the quality of living among the Igorots which gives them the impetus to be partners in development. It is in this premise that this event be a jewel among all Igorots around the world who continue to live in the spirit of "*Kinaigorot". // Adrian Velasco*

IIC9, THE PROLOGUE

It's the way it always was, and it is the way it should always be: peopl e happy to see each other, people getting introduced to each other; email addresses and Facebook profiles getting flesh and blood faces, real faces getting electronic and contact details; and names from long ago matched with present-day faces (and body mass! !!!!), new names finally matched with warm handshakes and hugs.

It's the way it always was, and it is the way it should always be: people smiling, cameras clicking all over, handshakes and hugs and kisses, laughter of many tones, heartwarming interaction all over.

Even as the IIC has yet to start, the book launching of *Igorot by He art* was a happy event. The pictures we took could only try to encapsulate the joy of meeting once again. But it should serve to freeze the moment in a digital halfway house, for us to go back to when our fading memories need to be refreshed with the new names and faces (and body mass!!!!!).

For those who are not attending the event, these pictures shall remind them of what they missed, and yet at the same time make the m feel like they were here with us, sharing in the hugs and kisses, the handshakes and rowdy ribbing.

Such joyful relations will continue all throughout IIC9, as well it should set the tone as we buckle down to business, in a seriously funny kind of way, or humorously serious.

One thing is sure, though. It's going to be a blast.

// Gary Pekas

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RIBBON UNTYING. Mr. Art Tibaldo, after giving an overview, led the untying of ribbon for the Trade Fair and Exhibit. // Photo by *Elvy Taquio*

The Council of Elders Welcome Message

The Global Igorot Nation

The Igorot Global Organization's Council of Elders welcomes all of you to Baguio City for the 9th International Igorot Conference. What a great time we'll have. Igorots from all over the world gather in one place, we all get to reconnect, network, and meet new friends with the same vision of promoting Igorot well being. For many it is a chance to come home again.

This is an exciting time for Igorots, as a people we are at a very unique time in history. For the first time in our history we are approaching a demographical tipping point that could change the Igorot psyche. Consider the incessant migration away from our villages over the last 30 -40 years. People left their village to work in the mines, people went to school or work in the cities, the multitudes who immigrated to other countries. Even the people who simply married someone from the next village, then went there to live. For a long time there's been this steady flow of people leaving our villages. Those folks had children and now their children have children. They left the barrios and they multiplied. It has a compounding effect. Walk around your barrio and take a census. The vast majority of families will have members that have left the barrio and moved somewhere else. You can see how we've gotten to this tipping point. For the first time in our history we are approaching a point, maybe have even passed the point, where more people who associate the mselves as "i-Mainit's" live outside the village of Mainit; more Kabayan people live outside the village of Kabayan; more Banaue people live out side the town of Banaue than in it. Take it one step further and eventually will come the time where more people from each village live in a different country . The point is that our Igorot nation is already larger than many people imagine. We're global.

This provides some daunting challenges and some great opportunities. One of our major strengths is that no matter where we go we continue to identify ourselves as Igorot.Even outside the Philippines it is prevalent. Second generation kids, born in America and who have never gone to the Philippines, identify them selves as Igorots. BIBAK type groups exist in many major cities.Young adults are writing and publishing books about finding their Igorot identity in a foreign country.

"... the fabric of our culture will be stretched thread bare and influenced by many outside forces."

Even abroad the culture continue s in some fashion, but it is precario us. It becomes elusive but we persist a nd we consciously try to retain th at identity and teach it to our children. To a point it has worked.

So what does this Global Igorot nation mean for our future? First, it be comes very obvious that the fabric of our culture will be stretched thread bare and influenced by many outside forces. Those forces make it that much more difficult to retain an Igorot identity. You can see change already, and those of us a little longer in years see it most clearly. Times are changing, they always do. But what it does highlight are the pressures influencing our identity. We are at the tipping point where depending on how the pendulum swings, depending on our actions today, our culture either continues to strengthen or continues to fade.

Conversely this changing demographic offers an unexpected benefit. Many of our children, kids from the younger generation, young Igorots who may have grown up in the cities and especially for Igorots born overseas; more and more they identify themselves as simply Igorot. They recognize their tribal heritage but identify themselves primarily as Igorot. This concept is important. Think about it, this is really the change in phsyche we need to establish the Cordillera Autonomous Region so often talked about. The concept of all Igorots as one nation brings new strength and optimism. An Igorot Nation with many common traits as well as some unique and beautiful differences.

As we continue to grow it is becoming more important to develop networks and threads which hold us together. As the world changes we need to adapt to these new challenges. This is where the Igorot Global Organization plays an important role. This is where we provide value to the many localized Igorot organizations around the world. The IGO is an international network that links Igorots, ideas and communities. IGO provides that important connection to the people in the Cordillera and the global Igorot community.

Our gathering here in Baguio City for the 9th International Igorot Consultation is a celebration of our unity. The IIC9 provides a forum to identify and discuss the new challeng es before us. We are so happy that you have come to join us. "In Unity there is Strength" together we can accomplish great things.

Matagotago tako!