

The PAMULINAWEN Herstory



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Slivering the Sparks of Pamulinawen

Vigan, the birthplace of *Pamulinawen* lies at the mouth of the Abra River, considered to be the biggest among Western Luzon Rivers. As the provincial capital of Ilocos Sur, Vigan has managed to preserve its old and lucid ways amidst the humdrum of cosmopolitan life. Its architecture reflects the convergence of Chinese, European and Filipino Cultures.

The province is well known for its love songs, which shows the musicality of the locals expressing their characteristics, aspirations, and occupations. *Pamulinawen*, which means “Hardened Heart”, is the most popular Ilocano love song which equates the heart of a girl, likened to a hardened flint, because she does not heed the pleadings of a lover.

The song *Pamulinawen* is regarded as the “national anthem” of the Ilocano nation arising from its unique and insightful reflection of the Ilocano soul. *Pamulinawen* is an Iloko term for a flint or hard rock, believed to be a chip of a star or a meteor. It is considered as a very precious tools for striking fire before the advent of matches, and hence essential to the comfort and life of human being.

The song depicts the particular traits of the Ilocano such as migratory character, steadfast fidelity and devotion to spouse, and propensity to keep family members together as one clan.

In general, Ilocanos are humble, respectful, and obedient, but like the pamulinawen, they can also be boldly explosive and resolute in defending and asserting their rights. They are hardy, inured to fatigue and hardships, frugal, industrious and patient.

Pamulinawen's significance to the Ilocano character is symbolized by the "fragmentation of the soul" that results to the breakdown of families and society in general. Like the chips of meteor star spread all over the globe, Ilocanos are found in almost all parts of the world. But when the occasion calls for united and collective action to defend their honor or fight against injustice or persecution, Ilocanos can be most solid ethnic group in the country.

The Birth of Pamulinawen GAD Resource Center

In response to the need for more concerted efforts in implementing the gender and development programs and projects in Region I, the Pamulinawen Gender Resource Center was launched in 21 January 2000 as locus of actions, interactions, resources and information for the province of Vigan. A consultative Conference of the Board of Advisers and Coordinating Committee was conducted on the same day with the aim of getting the support and commitment of the Board and Committee as well as get proposals for broad plans for the GRC. The conference included the formal introduction of the members of the Board of Advisers and Coordinating Committee

and a brief presentation of the objectives and functions of the GRC. During the open forum, the members sought clarification about the role of the GAD Resource Center vis-a-vis the gender initiatives of other government agencies like PCARRD. The conference ended with a short business meeting and election of officers of the BOD.

Vision

The Pamulinawen GAD Resource Center as the locus of actions, interactions, resources and information for sustainable gender and development mainstreaming efforts of Region I is envisioned to ensure a gender-fair society where both women and men participate and benefit equally from the fruits of development.

Mission

Institutionalization of GAD in the programs and projects of organizations in Region I.

Goals

1. Enhance the capability of academe, GOs and NGOs in undertaking gender responsive programs, researches, training and consultancies.
2. Harness and pool the resources of the region to assist local government in integrating gender in their plans, programs and projects.

Objectives

General

To facilitate GAD mainstreaming in organizations/institutions and ensure the sustainability of GAD programs and project in the region.

Specific

1. To initiate programs and projects which will address gender and development concerns.
2. To design and conduct gender trainings in response to the needs of its various clientele.
3. To coordinate and undertake gender-related researchers, extension services and advocacy work.
4. To network with individuals, organizations and institutions in order to expand and enhance the center's capability in GAD mainstreaming and gender studies.
5. To assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the social impacts of gender and development programs.

Programs and Services

Through its network, the Center offers the following:

GAD Training and Advocacy

1. Gender Sensitivity and Gender Analysis
2. Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting
3. Gender Sensitive Leadership Management
4. Mainstreaming Gender in the Curriculum
5. Feminist and Gender Sensitive Research
6. Women's Health
7. Violence Against Women
8. Feminist Counseling

GAD Information Exchange

1. Library of GAD materials and Women's Studies Materials
2. Bibliography of Gender-related information
3. Publication and Documentation
4. IEC advocacy materials
5. Research Studies
6. Periodicals and Audio visual Materials

Build up of GAD Information for Regional Linkages and Referrals

1. GAD focal points
2. Resource persons, institutions and services
3. Gender statistics
4. GAD/women-training/events
5. Develop and maintain electronic-based information

Training Provided by ISP II (NCRFW-UCWS)

GST-Gender- Responsive Planning

Pangasinan State University, Lingayen, Pangasinan

May 13-15, 1998. The overall objective of this training was to equip the participants with the proper attitude, knowledge and skills to respond to personal gender issues and mainstream GAD in their work.

Feminist Research Methodologies

University of Northern Philippines on March 23-26, 1999.

The objectives of said workshop were to familiarize the participants with the principles and methods of feminist research and gain some skills in applying feminist research approaches which covered the following: a) Philosophy and elements of feminist research; b) Integration of feminist perspectives into mainstream research methodologies, and; c) gender-responsive tools in data collection.

Strategic Planning Workshop of the Board of Advisers & Coordinating Committee

March 2-3, 2000

Trainers' Training on GAD Planning & Budgeting

San Fernando City, La Union, August 16-18, 2000. The objective of this workshop was to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills in GAD planning & Budgeting to become effective trainers in gender mainstreaming.

Feminist Leadership and Management

Baguio City, December 6-8, 2000

GAD Advocacy Training

March 29-31, 2001

**Seminar Workshop on Gender Advocacy,
Techniques Lobbying/ Gender Project Monitoring**

San Mateo Rizal, May 2-6, 2001

Accomplishments 1997-1998

Advocacy

**“Launching of the Philippine Centennial Movement”
Forum on the “Role of Women in Philippine History and
National Building”
August 6, 1997**

**“Violence Against Women”
Echo of the National Congress on Women in the Archdiocese of
Nueva Segovia
Resource Speaker
May 30, 1998**

**Publication of the Maiden Issue of the Center for Gender and
Development Newsletter
June 1998**

Capability Building

**Participation in the Intellectual Course in Women Society
September 1-November 30, 1997**

**Participation in the National Symposium on “History Makes
Women, Women Make Herstory”
March 9-10, 1998**

Seminar-Workshop on Gender-Responsive Planning

Resource Speaker on the Regional Gender Situationer

Pangasinan State University

May 13-15, 1998

Research

Conduct of a Situation Analysis of Santol, La Union

August - October 1998

Accomplishments for Year 2000

Capability Building

**Values Orientation Leadership and Gender Awareness Seminar
of Local Governments**

Resource Speaker

February 5, 2000

Ilocos Norte **Women's Month Celebration** sponsored by the

Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina, Ilocos Norte Chapter

Resource Speaker

March 17, 2000

Law Enforcement Enhancement Course Class 2000-2001

Resource Person on Gender and Development

Gender Mainstreaming in UNP

Gender Concepts Integration in subject areas in Tertiary Level
(Instruction)

Building of Institutional Mechanisms- formal convening and First Meeting of GAD Focal Point of the University. GAD orientation of the Focal Point and the University's commitment to the Gender Mainstreaming efforts in support of the GAD Agenda of National Government

Extension & Networking

Referral to the DSWD and PNP for appropriate intervention measures of two cases of domestic violence

Coordination with the Committee on Social Action of St. William's the Hermit Parish for Cooperatives and Livelihood Training with Gender Sensitivity Training

Evaluation Committee Member of the GAD Friendly Regional Office among Regional Line Agencies and Field Validation Sessions and Coordination of Final Ratings in the Final Evaluation
September 29, 2000; October 9 & 16, 2000

Organizational Strengthening of Pamulinawen

Convening of the Board of Advisers and Coordinating Committee Members/**Consultative Conference** of Board of Advisers
& Coordinating Committee
January 21, 2000

First Conference of the Pamulinawen GAD Resource Center
January 21, 2000

First Conference/Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of
the Pamulinawen GAD Resource Center
May 4, 2000

Joint Meeting of the Coordinating Committee and GAD Pool
September 28, 2000

Teambuilding of the members of the CC and GAD pool
May 25, 2001

Advocacy

Publication of the 4th issues of GAD newsletter

September 1, 2000

Photo Exhibit at the NEDA I Regional office in celebration
of the 11th National Statistics Month

September 28, 2000

Launching of Gender Statistics Exhibit in Celebration
of the National Statistics Month (Month long) with the theme
: Empowering Filipino Women Through Gender Statistics

October 4-31, 2000

Visual Arts Exhibit, “Who Owns Women’s Bodies?”

in cooperation with Creative Center, INC, Ford Foundation
and Institute of Fine Arts, UNP, November 20,2000-January

6, 2001

Lecture Series

“Representative of Women in Philippine Art”

November 20, 2000

“Health & Reproductive Rights”,

November 23, 2000

Gender Mainstreaming in UNP

Gender Concepts Integration in subject areas in Tertiary Level
(Instruction)

Building of Institutional Mechanisms- formal convening and First Meeting of GAD Focal Point of the University. GAD orientation of the Focal Point and the University's commitment to the Gender Mainstreaming efforts in support of the GAD Agenda of National Government

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September 29, 2000; October 9 & 16, 2000

**Values Orientation, Leadership & Gender Awareness
Seminar-Workshop of Local Government**

Resource Speaker (Coordinator)

February 5, 2000

“Unlocking the Mysteries of Child Abuse”

Panel Reactor (Coordinator)

February, 2000

**Women’s Month Celebration of Ilocos Norte & Laoag City
sponsored by the Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina**

Speaker (Coordinator)

March 17, 2000

Law Enforcement Enhancement Course for Class 2000-2001

of the PNP, Ilocos Sur

Resource Persons & Facilitators

May 10, 2000

Awarding Ceremonies & Closing Programs of the 11th National

Statistics Month

Guest Speaker

NEDA I Regional Office, San Fernando, Iau Union

October 30, 2000

Accomplishments for 2001

Capability Building

Gender Sensitivity Training

Heads of the Provincial offices of National Government Agencies of

Ilocos Norte

August 30, 2001

“Family: The Center of Development- The Role of Mother in Molding a Wholesome Family”

Resource Speaker

December 6, 2001

Capability Building

GAD Advocacy for Coordination Committee and
GAD Pool
March 29-31, 2001

**Luzon Regional Consultation Workshop in the For-
mulation of the Philippine Agenda for Women's
Empowerment**
May 9-11, 2001

Seminar on Women and Ecology
May 15-19, 2001

**Workshop on Gender Statistics and Gender Indica-
tor System**
June 19-22, 2001

**Regional Conference on WSAP with the theme
“ Sexism in Campus”**
Siliman University, Dumaguete
July 16-19, 2001

**Workshop on Gender-Responsive Local Develop-
ment Planning**
for Caba and Santol, La Union
August 31-September 1, 2000

Demonstrated teaching on creative teaching methodologies focusing on gender and development concepts integration for the graduate school faculty during the “Enhancement Seminar on Teaching Methodologies for the faculty of the Graduate School

August 30, 2001

Accomplishments for 2002

Advocacy/Capability Building

Posting of IEC materials at the GAD Advocacy Corner
installed at the Administration Building Lobby

Presentation of a proposal for the offering of Gender Studies course (Gender and Society) as a 3-unit subject in the Masteral Level during the Policy Conference of UNP Officials

GRC Coordinator as member of the Screening Committee in the 4 regions for the Galing Pook Awards 2002

Attendance to the Seminar Workshop in Project Development Integrating GAD and Sustainable Development

Accomplishments for 2002

Advocacy/Capability Building

Resource Person and Facilitator in the **Seminar-Workshop on GAD in the Agrarian Reform communities** of Dinait, Sto. Domingo, Narvean & Pantay Ilocos Sur

Province-wide Forum on the Elimination of Gender-based Violence: Focus on the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2002

Signature Campaign on the Resolution for the Passage of the Anti-trafficking in Persons Act 2002 at the Philippine Senate

Radio plugs on the 16-day Campaign Against Gender-Violence from November 25-December 10, 2002, theme :
“Ligtas sa Karahasan ng Kababaihan”

Resource Person and Facilitator in the **integration of GAD in the extension program of th UNP**

Gender Sensitivity Training in the special course for Caregiver Education of the Center for International Relations & Teacher Enhancement

Planning and Budgeting

Coordination with the Director of the Center for International Relations and Teacher Enhancement (CIRTE) Unp for the integration of the Gender Sensitivity workshop in the Special Course for Caregiver Education

Meeting with the officials of the Provincial Government for possible areas of collaboration and partnership to undertake gender- responsive programs and projects.

GRC Coordinator joined the travel to Hawaii of the UNP President and the Director of CITRE to formalize the exchange programs between UNP and University of Hawaii Sisterhood Agreement to explore the entry point of GRC in the Wome's Studies Program of the University of Hawaii.

Program/Project Implementation

GAD integration in instruction and extension
Research on the Status of Integration of Gender Concepts in
Subject Areas in Tertiary level

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

Women & Gender Relations in the Philippines; Illo 1999

Towards Feminist Consciousness; Dr. S. Guerrero, 1997

Women of a Lesser Cost; Sylvia Chant et.al, 1995

Handbook for Developing and Conducting Gender Training for Agricultural Extension Workers; Ybanez 1995

Gender in Project and Organizations (A Casebook); Illo 1996

The Political Economy of Gender; Eviota 1992

Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration

Ecofeminism as Politics Nature, Marc and the Post Modern; Salleh 1944

Gender & Development making the Bureaucracy Gender-Responsive; Dr. Torres 1994

Madonnas & Martyrs; Hilsdon 1995

Kasaysayan Planlipunan ng Maynila; Camagay 1992

Beyond Bonding; Fabella 1993

Pangarap ng Hinagpis: Mga Awit ng Kababaihang Maralita; Santos 1991

gender Sensitive and Feminist Methodologies: A Handbook on Social Researchers; Dr. S. Guerrero 1999

Selected Readings on Health & Feminist; Dr. S. Guerrero 1999

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

Carrying the Burden of the World, Women Reflecting on the Effects of the Crisis on Women & Girls; Illo 1999

From the Womb of Mebuyan; Birondo-Caharian 1998

Si Maria, Nena, Gabriela atbp, Kwentong Kasaysayan ng Kababaihan; Arriola 1989

UP-CIDS Chronicle, Globalization: Frameworks and Issues, Philippine Politics, Mega Issues; Rose 1997

A Decade of Process Documentation Research, Reflection and Synthesis; Veneracion 1989

Guide for Women Leaders Special Course on Conflict Management and Negotiations; Center for Women's Resources 1992

A Study on Women's Participation for Sustainable Development in the Cordillera; Casambre 1994

PPGD; NCRFW

Guidelines for Developing and Implementing Gender-Responsive Programs & Projects, NCRFW-CIDA 1993

Brave Little Women: A Study on Incest; Research Team-Institute of Women's Studies/Inter-Institutional Consortium 1995

Gender Development Workshop Manual; CWS

Herstories Books on Abstracts, An International Congress on Women's Role in History and Nation Building; Hernandez

Filipino Amerasians Living in the Margins; Gastardo-Conaco 1999

Twice Blessed; Ninotchka 1992

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

In Every Woman, Asian Women's Journal to Feminist Awakening; Tengco Labayen 1998

Sarilaya: Women in Arts and Media; Mananzan 1989

The Long Stag Party; Feria 1991

Ang Pagiging Babae at Pamumuhay sa Panahon ng Digmaan; Barrios 1990

Bago Ang Babae; Anonuevo 1996

Sa Ngalan ng Ina; Santiago 1997

Pangarap at Hinagpis: Mga Awit ng Kababaihang Maralita; Santos 1991

Toward A Gender-Responsive Legislation; Santos 2000

The Feminist Challenge; Aguilar 1988

Beyond the Cult of Dissidence; Azurin 1996

Filipino Housewives Speak; Aguilar 1991

Ang Batas Laban sa Panggagahasa; WLB 1998

Why Live in Fear! Women Speak Out...; Rerera-FMM 1996

Q&A on the GAD Budget Policy; CIDA 1998

Gender Mainstreaming; NCRFW 1997

And She Said NO! Human Rights, Women's Identities and Struggles; Bautista & Rifareal 1990

Resource Collection

Phenomena & Their Interpretation Landmark Essays; Bulatao, SJ
1957-89

Raiding, Trading and Feasting The Political Economy of Philippine Chiefdoms

Study Guide to Accompany, Human Development Fifth Edition;
Zanden et.al

Poverty Revisited: A Social Psychological Approach to Community Empowerment; Otigas

Struggling with Development: The Politics of Hunger & Gender in the Philippines; Kwiatkoski

ASAA Southeast Asia Publications Series Philippines Social History Global Trade & Local Transformations; McCoy & De Jesus

Woman & Religion: A Collection of Essays & Personal Histories 3rd Edition; Sr. Mananzan, OSB 1998

The Many Faces of Violence: Abuses and Abusive Relationships in Filipino Families; Dr. Guerrero, et.al

Women & Men in the Ilocos Region 1999& 2000; NSCB

Workshop as for Gender Advocacy; 91-92 IPC-CIDA Workshop, Illo

Gender Situationer of Lettac Sur, Santol, La Union (A Study Conducted by the UNP with Support from NEDA, CIDA)

Towards a Gender Sensitive Workplace: Integrating Women's Concerns in the Occupational Safety & Health Standards, Contreras

Adolescent Sexuality; Perez

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

Body Talk Vol I: The XYZ Guide to Young Women's Health & Body; Women's Media Circle Foundation, Inc. 1999

Body Tals Vol. 2: The XYZ Guide to Young Women's Health and Body; Women's Media Circle Foundation, Inc. 2000

Body & Soul: A Multi Media Discussion on Women, Religion & Reproductive Health

Body & Soul: A Forum on Adolescent Sexuality Questions for Tomorrow's Women-A Multimedia Discussion on Women, Religion & Reproductive Health

Body & Soul: A Frum on Condom & Religion Women, Safe Sex & Religion-A Multimedia Discussion on Women, Religion & Reproductive Health

Body & Soul: A Forum on Population The Tri-People's Views-A Multimedia Discussion on Women, Religion & Reproductive Health

Body & Soul: A Forum on Divorse & Family Violence" ...Til Death do we part?-A Multimedia Discussion on Women, Religion & Reproductive Health

U.P In Search of Academic Excellence; Abad 1994

Torture Survivors & Caregivers; Center for Integrative & Development Studies 1995

Mga Tinig Mula sa Ibaba; Gimenez-Maceda

Issues & Concerns of Oversear Filipinos; Samonte 1995

Policy Issues, Responses & Constituencies-State-Civil Society Relations in Policy Making; Arciga 1994

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

Philippine Education: Promise & Performance; Manalang

The Southern Philippines Council for Peace & Development: A Response to the Controversy; Coronel Ferrer 1997

Population Human Resources & Development; Herrin 1994

Internationalization of the Bangsamoro Struggle; tan 1993

The Quest for Justice: Obstacles to the Redness of Human Rights; Angeles 1994

The 1986-87 Peace Talks: A Reportage of Contention; Diokno

State of the Nation Research Reports (The Filipino Child A Health Situationer); Santos-Ocampo 1985

Population Human Resources & Development, Vol 1-3; Herrin

Mindanao & the East Asean Growth Area; UP Press 1995

Isles of Contention; Tim 1996

Waging Peace in the Philippines: Resolutions & Recommendations for Action-March 1989

Area-based Child Survival & Development Program: An Experiment in Revolution; UPCIDA 1985

IRR of 7192

Q&A About the GAD Budget

Breaking the Silence

Resource Collection

BOOKS, JOURNALS, PAMPHLETS

Approaches to Women Managers

Development for Women (Women Management)

How We Raise Our Sons & Daughters; UNICEF

Spaces-Earthbound, Skybound; Santos

The Many Faces of Violence; Dr. Guerrero & Penano Ho

Philippine Implementation of FWCW Platform for Action
One Year After Beijing; NCRFW

Political Restructuring & Social Transformation; Francisco
& Marquez Fong 2000

JOURNALS, NEWSLETTERS

HERsay Magazine; International Communicator; LINK;
Gender Link; Women Envision; Women in Action;
Pananaw; Pantas; Policy Research Briefs; IBON Facts &
Figures; K Files; Women's Studies Newsletter;
Population Reports; PITHAYA; REPROWATCH; LILA-
Women's Asia Pacific Journal; Review of Women's
Studies; Asian Journal of Women's Studies; PHHSA
Newsletter

POSTERS

World's Women 1995; World Population Data; Women
Sheet 2000: A Global Profile of Women's Reproductive
Lives; 2001 World Population Data Sheet; Our Rights
Women's Rights Related to Police; A Life Free of
Violence; VIOLENCE Against Women; PREYODIKIT;
STOP SEX TRAFFICKING of WOMEN & CHILDREN;
Purple Rose Campaign

Resource Collection

FLYERS

Mga Dapat Malaman ng Bawat Kababaihan; A Guide for Women; Women 2001; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia; Philippine Post-Beijing Score Board Fact Sheets; Trade Intensification in Asian Economist: What it Means to Women's Work

VHS TAPES

Impossible Dream; Educating Jenny; Dear Teacher; "Sex trafficking: We're so Syndicated, Mam"; Patay Sindi: The Story of a Community Health Worker; Marketisation of Governance; Alimpuyo at Munting Pagkilos; June Bride

Issues & Challenges

- † **Urgency of clarifying their roles and responsibilities** in terms of their clientele and the type of program they should provide including the types of expertise and services that agencies could access through them.
- † **Lack of organizational ownership of achievements as well as issues** since their membership to the GRC is ambiguous. The more advance members attribute their GAD efforts not to the GRC but to their respective organizations.
- † **Lack of mechanism or system that would guide the GRC in identifying and addressing the internal needs and external demands** vis- a vis GAD in the region.
- † **Lack of coordination of activities among members.** They are then left to decide and organize their own activities to include designing their own module and technical assistance packages to respond to the demands of other agencies or institutions.

Issues & Challenges

- ‡ **Need to establish a more permanent structure** as the present one is not operational
- ‡ **Need to sustain support of top management officials and sponsors** (funding, administrative support, reduction of teaching load, assignment of personnel, etc)
- ‡ **Need to enhance capability** especially in gender/feminist research and advocacy
- ‡ **Cultural factors & organizational culture** hinder ready acceptance of gender mainstreaming in PPAs
- ‡ **Need to hone skills in formal networking/fund sourcing** for overall sustainability (program/benefit, organizational, human resources, financial)

Coping with Challenges

- ‡ **Resource Sharing** of members of CC and GAD pool in terms of their respective line of expertise to enrich and update them along GAD
- ‡ **Tapping not only LGU's but all academic institutions and NGO's** undertaking GAD related work for more integrative efforts
- ‡ **Continuing capability building** of CC & GAD Pool in other aspects of gender work (e.g. counseling, gender statistics, etc)

Learnings/Insights

To establish a project as this is a grandiose design but tempered with humane understanding and caring motivations. It takes a lot of courage, guts, drive and dedication since, ultimately, its goal is larger than humanity. The sensitivity of its subject, gender, challenges the way of life, long ingrained learnings, specifically, cherished values and attitudes of one's persona.

Engaging people, organizations and institutions to shift paradigm prick the sensibilities of people and challenge existing social structure. In an attempt to achieve solidarity, other sectors of society may be alienated with the lack of sufficient time and resources to disseminate proper information and appropriate methodologies added to administrative and logistical constraints. But as long as there is the spark that continuously enlightens the dark shadows; as long as the selfless motives of people reign supreme; as long as patience, enthusiasm and commitment of people making up academic and research institutions, funding agencies, civil society and the political will of government are sustained and strengthened, the mission and vision of gender and development agenda of all governments will see the light at the end of the tunnel. It is the dawning of a gender-responsive organizations.

Schools in the provinces like, UNP, have been benefited with capabilities to embark on new academic fields of study; i.e. gender studies, women in development, etc. to undertake gender research; to be channels for gender advocacy; and to be part of the network in pushing for the gender and development program of government. We express our deepest gratitude to the schools in Metro Manila, particularly, those which have distinguished themselves in gender studies, research, training and advocacy and the people in these institutions who shared their expertise in training us in the regions. Not to be left behind are the field offices in the regions of national government agencies which were our partners in gender programs and activities. But most of all, the NCRFW and CIDA for enabling us participate in all their programs in support of the gender development agency of the government. They are giants in the field of gender but act as big sister to us who are developing and making our voices be heard. They establish the bond of sisterhood with us, so that we feel the solidarity in pushing for women's empowerment. They complement our weaknesses with their expertise and guidance

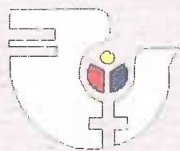
As this juncture, we would like to mention that while we enjoyed working with our big sisters, there were instances that we had difficulty in meeting deadlines caused by time constraints and administrative priorities. While we are not totally neophytes in this endeavor, relatively new knowledge and takes time to be internalized. We have to come up with a sound complementation with our existing tasks in our own organization.

For us, in the Pamulinawen GRC, we feel that our network has broadened and our potentials were harnessed to spread the noble purpose of our existence for gender equality, development and peace. We have found alliance with the gender resource centers all over the country. Little by little, we are ceaselessly creating ripples to reach out and stir the yet dormant and indifferent sensibilities to realize the goal of gender and development-**that is, the attainment of a gender fair society.**



More than Just a traditional folk song famous for its unique and interesting depiction of romantic love, **PAMULINAWEN**, in the language and culture of the Ilocanos, is the term for Flint, a hard rock believed to be a chip of a star or meteor. Considered as an essential tool in building fire before the advent of matches, this hard rock has equipped our ancestors with an essential too used in their survival.

In general, Ilocanos are humble, respectful, and obedient, but like the *pamulinawen*, they can be boldly explosive and resolute in defending and asserting their rights. In the face of injustice and persecution, the Ilocanos will join hands to defend their honor no matter what it takes.



For information and technical support, please contact:

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