



Long Live H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
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ANTIQUÉ LIBRAIANS FORUM COMMITTEE TO SUSTAIN PHILIPPINES-THAILAND LIBRAIES FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

*Annabel J. Petingly**

Sibalom, Antique, April 21 (PNA)

Librarians of the province of Antique at their 8th Annual Librarians Forum set-up a Committee to plan ways to sustain the Philippines-Thailand Libraries Friendship Project. The Forum was graciously hosted by the Office of the Municipal Mayor of Sibalom and the Eugenia Magbanua Memorial Public Library on 15th April 2014.



The Philippines-Thailand Libraries Friendship Project was initiated by Dr. Maria (Eugenia Masa) Laosunthara in the year 2004 in



Dr. Maria Laosunthara

response to former Governor Salvacion Z. Perez's interest to see Antique Libraries "Come Alive". Dr. Maria who hails from Sibalom, Antique but resides in Bangkok, Thailand aims in her mission to help librarians in her home province to forge closer relations among themselves to share ideas, know-how and resources to better serve their clientele. The Project to date initiated under the Community Development Program of Srinakharinwirot University Library in Bangkok, Thailand has sponsored five Antique Librarians to work along with Thai Librarians for one month under its Library Attachment Program. This has brought about a broader exchange of library experiences and friendly international linkages.



Annabel J. Petingly (PNA) LAP/AJPetinglay/vlo

Dr. Maria, now 89 years old, recalls after her retirement from UNESCO almost 30 years ago, started soliciting and distributing book donations which include Antique libraries. In her trips to Antique, she has always been accompanied by three devoted Thai librarians, Dr. Aree Chuenwattana, director of a University Library as well as a library science professor; Aumporn Khaobang *"Always at your service"* reference librarian and expert in knowledge, information dissemination; and Piamsuk Thungkawee a computer expert. All three have conducted a library workshop on the use of computers in a library in San Jose, Antique.



Dr. Aree Chuenwattana



Prof. Alex Delos Santos

For the setting up of the Library Committee for the Philippines-Thailand Libraries Friendship Project, Mr. Leocadio F. Dioso was singled out to serve as Chairman of the Committee, seconded by



Mr. Leocadio F. Dioso

Prof. Alex Delos Santos, organizer of the past Librarians Forums and by Dr. Maria. Mr. Dioso is a United Nations retiree, who established in the name of his father the Pandan Leocadio Alongsagay Dioso Memorial Public Library in Pandan, 1 Antique. He serves as the Executive Director. Mr. Dioso whole heartedly accepted to Chair the Committee based on objectives recommended by the Participants of the 8th Librarians Forum.

