



## MUCAARD-UK Trustees visit the Philippines.



Linda, Rob and Ed have all visited MuCAARD over the past year.

Ed Parry visited BISAP in Damulog in February 2010 to view progress with the KAHOY

project and MuCAARD-Phil in Cagayan de Oro, to provide website training. "Your website is the first place people go to find out about your organization" Ed explained, " and MuCAARD-Phil needed assistance with developing theirs. They are now producing and maintaining their own website in-house [www.mucaard.org](http://www.mucaard.org). Ed continued, "Visiting several of the farmers participating in the Kahoy Project was the highlight of my visit. The initial project is now fully subscribed, and a measure of its success has been that several farmers have been inspired to purchase tree seedlings from BISAP. They have planted an extra 5 hectares

this year!"

Rob Auld was also able to visit the Philippines in February. Part of Rob's work is to encourage the MuCAARD secretariat to raise funding from large organisations such as the UN or USAID. This money can only be accessed by writing and submitting project proposals. Rob was able to review and assist in this work and was hugely impressed with the quality and quantity of work executed by the MuCAARD staff.

Linda Tiongco spent Christmas and the New Year with MuCAARD members looking at the work they've been doing.

*all trustee visits overseas are made using their own personal funds*



### Mangrove Reforestation and Protection Management - 6 month pilot project



*The 30x30 sq. ft. crab culture project*

An evaluation of this project funded by MuCAARD showed that the 24has of abandoned fishpond and seaward swamp area had been fully planted. Two demonstration trials on livelihood project for Lapu-lapu fish and Crab culture were also established, as well as another fish culture set up to provide food for the crabs and lapu-lapu. The trainings were successful. The group have learnt a great deal about the problems of being over ambitious on the size of the fish and crab cages which meant they couldn't police them adequately and suffered from poachers. This resulted in them deciding to harvest their stocks early and so they didn't get the intended economic benefits. This was always intended as a pilot project and they have learnt important lessons. They have established good links with the Village Local Government Unit enabling them to plan better for the project's future including other groups and new members.

## MUCAARD-UK and MuCAARD-Philippines

### In August 2009 Christian Aid's support for MuCAARD-Phil over 23 years came to an end.

As a result MuCAARD-UK agreed to provide six months support for the operating cost of the Secretariat and the personnel cost of one staff from each of the Secretariat, BISAP, CoSEED, RIAP and POM. The objective was to give them time to develop project proposals and find funding so they could continue and sustain their programmes. Of the 43 project proposal they made, 11 were successfully approved.

MUCAARD-UK gave a grant of £11,220 which generated funding worth nearly £70,000. They are also hopeful of being successful for another 4 projects worth over P11.5m. A pretty good return on investment! POM is the only member has so far been unsuccessful. We have

agreed to support them for another six months to give them time to get proposals in to potential funders.

Imee Maginsay, Executive Secretary of MuCAARD-Phil Secretariat wrote:

*"I would heartily thank all the supporters and board members of MuCAARD-UK for keeping MuCAARD-Phil alive and kicking as of this time. Without your support, your financial support, surely the dedicated and skilled staff of MuCAARD family would have gone now for greener pasture to other organization because they have also family to feed, and volunteering without commensurate compensation is not possible at this very time of crisis. Again my BIG BIG thanks to all of you. Mabuhay kayong lahat. (Long life to you all)"*

**Plant a tree for just 50p!**

# Is Jatropha a sustainable bio-diesel?

Over the past few years the initial excitement over bio-diesels has disappeared as questions about their sustainability and environmental impact have been raised. Romy Tiongco has been encouraging small-scale farmers in Damulog, Bukidnon to plant Jatropha on land over 18°slope and does not displace food crops.

Jatropha, unlike corn, palm oil and sugar cane, has been identified as a crop that can be grown on marginal land unsuitable for food production, does not require fertiliser or irrigation, and thus would theoretically not compete with food crops for land, water and labour. It can be used to halt soil erosion and for intercropping to fix nitrogen in the soil. Furthermore, the technology needed to process the oil seed into biodiesel can be operated economically on a small-scale at community level. Given the rise in the prices of paraffin, kerosene and other liquid fuels used for household and small enterprise energy needs, biodiesel from Jatropha has been identified as possibly a more economical option for rural communities.

Damulog fits this description. Over 80% of the land is technically too steep for food crops. However the level of poverty means that many farmers plant maize which needs heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides and causes massive soil erosion. The farmers are also cutting down large numbers of trees to produce charcoal.

As Romy Tiongco commented 'The main aim is to bring productivity to idle grasslands. It can reduce soil erosion and also absorb more carbon than grass.' Damulog has refused the approach of several companies including D1BP, Philippine National Oil Corporation and two Filipino-Japanese ventures. He continued, 'farmers will not get rich because they plant Jatropha. but if they can earn something where they used to earn nothing and stop further deterioration of the environment, the project is worth pursuing.'



A small stove has been developed that uses Jatropha oil. It is much cheaper to run than calor gas and environmentally much more sustainable than wood or charcoal. The other hope is to provide enough bio-diesel to run the municipal vehicles and equipment and even electricity to some of the outlying villages. As the cost of fossil fuels soars, and the price in Damulog is always much higher than in the big cities, bio-diesel from Jatropha could provide a sustainable source of income for local farmers and reduce dependency on fossil-based fuels.

This locally based approach has the benefit of local control, local involvement and local use of the end product. It has added benefits for the global environment. It is not a get rich quick gimmick for the farmers but a step in providing some income from land which was not producing anything, or very little, before.

The waste oil cake is also a rich fertilizer and the oil has been used in Mali and other African countries as a traditional source for soap-making.

## Financial Report

**Income** It is good to be able to report that the contributions towards the work of MuCAARD-UK have increased again this "Credit Crunch Year" at a time when all charities are under pressure to maintain their financial support. In the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 total funds raised increased from £14,440 to £16,864 an increase of almost 17%. Donations from individual contributors, within that total, increased by 19%. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to this encouraging result. However, the continued weakness of Sterling means that we have had to use it to maintain our level of grants.

It is a reflection on the fact that MuCAARD has a "good story to tell", which people of good will respond to when they hear about it. It is very important that the future support base is widened and "telling the story" should be a priority in our fund-raising.

**Grants Paid** The support of the Kahoy project has featured for the third year, and a half year's grant for 2010 of £3,738 was remitted in March 2010. The second half will be sent in June of this year. The remainder of the grants sent in the year has been the support of the MuCAARD in the Philippines. This has amounted to £11,220 on a 6 months support project whilst the establishment made a vital change from reliance on core funding from another U.K. Charity. MuCAARD-Inc is now very active in seeking sources of grants from many other international charities. We also assisted this by making a grant of £2,807 to update their computer software for the financial reporting, skills, and knowledge required by international agencies.

We would thank our supporters for their continued commitment towards "Growing Sustainable Communities", particularly in the Philippines.