

Project title	<p style="text-align: center;">Bridging Cultural Differences through Environmental Preservation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Josephine Barbi M. Balilia, Philippines</p>
Summary	<p>Isabela is touted to be a melting pot of culture being a home of various ethnic groups. It is also endowed with vast natural resources making it known as the rice granary of the North. However, this rosy scenery is endangering to tarnish because of the umpteenth catastrophes that visit the province every year. Another added burden is the apathy and indifference that has been engulfing the vicinity. With this, I have come up with a tangible antidote to eradicate the contagious disease of ignorance.</p> <p>I want to highlight more on the youth since I believe that young generation will be the one reaping what the older generation have sown. To make my project more enticing I have tried to combine the issues of cultural diversity and environmental conservation.</p> <p>Isabela is a haven of three ethnic minorities namely: Ilokano, Ibanag, and Gaddang. These ethnic groups have different language, culture, and tradition that a lot of people might have ruled out so at times prejudice and misconceptions arise and worst conflict. I want that through this environmental proposal it can harmonize or solidify the union among the three groups since I believed that camaraderie among the citizens is the best weapon to combat such heartless calamity.</p> <p>My main aim is to invite secondary and tertiary students who came from different ethnic minorities to come up together in a 7-day environmental seminar and excursion. This is a doubled-edged sword project because it can bridge the cultural gap among the ethnic minorities and at the same time they can work together to implement their projects.</p> <p>The seminar aims to seek action plans from the participants. They will discuss the recent predicaments in their area and they will propose solutions then implement it after the conference. If they have done the project they will be invited again to join in to the next workshop then present their findings. Furthermore, there would also be competitions that will be simultaneously conducted such as debate, essay writing, slogan and poster making with themes anchored toward environmental preservation. Some renowned environmental advocates and groups will be invited to give an inspirational talk and there would also be film viewing. At night, participants will witness cultural immersion with amalgamation of environmental sustainability. There would be an environmental presentation in the form of cultural night. Each school will have two representatives, a boy and a girl, representing some ethnic minority in the province. They will present creative attire representing the culture of their town while observing environmentally friendly materials for the garment.</p> <p>After those aforementioned activities participants will prepare their way for a 2-day environmental excursion in some outskirts of the province</p>

	<p>to have a tree planting activities and to help the organizers in facilitating a dialogue and seminar with the locals about climate change since I have observed that more often than not when calamity strikes they were the ones who were severely ruined. The dialogue aims to identify dilemmas that villagers encounter and we will provide them adequate and substantial solutions to it. We will also encourage them to plant more trees around their milieu and tell them to refrain from doing some vices that contribute to earth's decay such as the slash-and-burn method, littering, improper garbage disposal and the like. Hopefully this project proposal will be a reality. I know I can hit two birds in one stone. I firmly believed that it is not too late to make a difference in the community the only problem is when to begin. So please let me be an instrument of the change I have in mind.</p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be able to unify various ethnic minorities through implementing environmental projects. 2. To be able to come up with effective and efficient solutions to the pressing issues of global warming. 3. To be able to develop a sense of camaraderie, friendship, and understanding among the participants while discussing issues on environmental diversity. 4. To be able to educate and discuss with young generation about the detrimental effects of climate change and it's impact in the society. 5. To be able to empower and inspire them by giving them equal opportunities to speak up their minds, ideas, and thoughts in different mediums such as roundtable discussion, café world, debates, slogans, poster making, essays, cultural event, and excursions. 6. To be able to get them involved in civic activities that promotes clean air, proper waste management, tree planting and the like. 7. To be able to raise awareness amongst the young generation
Target	Secondary and Tertiary students
Period	October-November 2011 (subject to change)
Details	<p>What: Bridging Cultural Differences through Environmental Conservation Seminar and Excursion When- October-November 2011 Where: Our Lady of the Pillar College-Cauayan Who: 100-150 Secondary and Tertiary students from different ethnic minorities How: There will be a rigid screening process to be conducted by the committee.</p> <p>Participants will be ask to write essays, give photos, make slogans, draw posters, propose a premise, and others. After which 150 students will be selected from the pool of applicants. They will attend a 7-day youth camp that seeks to motivate and encourage them. They will</p>

	<p>attend various discussions, workshops, and competitions that will help them in understand better how tremendous the jeopardy that nature could possibly bring. They will engage in 2-day environmental immersion that seeks to inspire them that at such young age they can help in saving a community in their own little ways. It will be an eye-opener and a confident booster to young people. I believed that would be perfect chance for them to broaden their perspective and go beyond their limits. I stalwartly believed that youth-- with their ardor, enthusiasm, and wisdom -- are still believed to be the hope for the future. What the youth seems to lack now is the proper motivation and driving force to trust that they can make an impact in society.</p>
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