



President Arroyo hosts DAP 30th anniversary fete

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) was specially honored by Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with a formal dinner reception for 300 at the Malacanang Palace, 30 June 2003. Among the guests present were former President Fidel V. Ramos and first lady Amelita Ramos, several cabinet ministers who are members of the DAP Board of Trustees, and the management and staff of the DAP.

Established in June 1973, the DAP was mandated to support the country's development efforts as a change catalyst, capacity-builder, and NPO. Over the years, it has assisted in shaping new governmental policies, crafting innovative development programs, and modernizing the management of government agencies and private enterprises. DAP President Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez told the APO News that the organization will be relentless in its pursuit of creative solutions to development issues and in evolving new approaches, technologies, and programs that will respond to the challenges of the times. "Our goal is to make a dent in reducing poverty; in ensuring the well-being of Filipinos."

As a change catalyst, the DAP serves as a think tank to the government. Among the programs and approaches it has pioneered in the country are "social weather stations," experiential learning, participatory-strategic planning, value-driven leadership development, and organizational change management. The more recent techniques that the DAP has introduced are in the area of governance. Among those that have been adopted by the government are corruption vulnerability assessment, report card surveys, a signature reduction scheme, and public ethics.

In its role as capacity-builder, the DAP has enabled people and institutions, especially those in public and community services, to carry out their tasks effectively. In its bid to build a critical mass of capable public managers, the DAP offers a Master's Degree in Public Management Program. Since its inception, it has passed 162 graduates, many of whom are now occupying mid-to top-level positions in various governmental agencies. In 1975, it started the Assessment Center as the second stage of the public sector's Career Executive Service eligibility process.

The DAP has been the NPO of the Philippines since its inception. In this capacity, it spearheads the promotion of quality and productivity awareness, and their concepts and techniques, in the country in general and in key sectors of the economy in particular. With assistance from the APO, the DAP has introduced practices like Green Productivity, eco-labeling, natural farming, and integrated community development. It was one of the parties involved in the establishment of the Philippine Quality Award. It presently acts as the award administrator for the public sector.

In addition, the DAP has in place the Quick Quality Management Assessment to give interested organizations an initial appraisal of their quality



President Arroyo (front row, sixth from left) with DAP staff members

management practices and the Philippine Quality Award—Nurturing Excellence and Sustaining Transformations, an approach for developing and nurturing organizations for achieving quality and performance excellence.

Last year, seven strategic thrusts were identified for special focus in the next 10 years, with poverty reduction as the ultimate goal: 1) Democratic reforms; 2) Education for excellence; 3) Knowledge management; 4) Peace and prosperity in Mindanao; 5) Productivity for economic development; 6) Sustainable human development; and 7) Transparency and accountability in governance.

The work of the DAP is carried out through a number of operational centers. The Center for Governance, in collaboration with the government, civil society, private sector, and international development institutions, supports the development and implementation of government policies and programs that promote good governance through transparency and accountability, growth with equity, people empowerment, and sustainable development.

The Center for Knowledge Management provides knowledge solutions for enhancing national development and for continuous innovation for sustainable competitive advantage. The Center for Quality and Competitiveness, on the other hand, focuses on helping government and business organizations to improve their quality and productivity. The Graduate School of Public and Development Management offers degree courses to develop public management capabilities to deal with the development and governance problems of the country. In addition, the DAP has two regional centers, in Mindanao and the Visayas 