GALANG*news*

BUILDING COMMUNITY STRENGTH. FUELING COMMUNITY GROWTH. | JAN - JUN 2013

JAN
28-31
2013

BUILDING ALLIES IN UN WOMEN CONSULTATION | THE SULO RIVIERA HOTEL, QUEZON CITY

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, through its National Coordinator, Aida Jean Manipon, held a National Consultation on knowledge generation and exchange, including stock taking and priority setting for advancing the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the region. It was organized in partnership with the Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau (WLB), the *Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan* (PKKK), and *Nisa Ul-Haqq Fi Bangsamoro*, Inc. (NISA).

GALANG's Executive Director, Anne Lim shared stories and experiences of grassroots LBTs as a panellist during the session entitled 'Constituency Building and Rights Claiming by Marginalized Groups of Women'. Debbie Dabu, leader of GALANG partner LBT people's organization (LPO), Lesbian Alliance Movement: *Lakas ng Kababaihan Para sa Karapatan* (Strength of Women for their Rights), also took part in this activity as her organization's representative.

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FEB 06 2013

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE LBT SECTOR | UNIVERSIDAD DE MANILA, CITY OF MANILA

For the third consecutive year, GALANG was invited to speak to the Social Work 110 class (Social Work and Social Deviation) of Universidad de Manila (UDM), College of Social Work. Once again, GALANG welcomed the opportunity to gain allies in the academe and introduce itself as a progressive organization and how it addresses the challenges faced by the LBT sector. Towards the end of the presentation, the organization's community organizers challenged the UDM social work students to become active participants in fighting for equal rights.

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MAR 05 2013

FGHR PROGRAM OFFICER VISITS GALANG & LPO PARTNERS | KRUS NA LIGAS, QUEZON CITY

Hoa Duong Piyaka, Program Officer of The Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR), visited GALANG and its partner LPO based in Barangay Krus na Ligas. Hoa met with the LBT leaders of *Ugnayan ng Nagkakaisang Lesbyana Laban sa Diskriminasyon* (UNLAD) (Association of United Lesbians Against Discrimination), Lesbian Alliance Movement (LAM): *Lakas ng Kababaihan Para sa Karapatan* (Strength of Women for their Rights), and Lesbian Alliance Bagbag (LAB). They gathered at the residence of UNLAD President, Aubrey Naagas, where LPO leaders talked about their respective organizations and experience as LBTs. One of UNLAD's officers shared with Hoa their organization's dream of becoming visible and recognized as an integral part of their community. Hoa, in turn, shared stories of growing up as a Vietnamese immigrant in the United States.

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MAR 22
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22, 23
2013

LPOs ORGANIZE COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES | QUEZON CITY (KAINGIN 1, URBANO, POOK LIBIS)

LAM, LAB and UNLAD held feeding activities for indigent children in their respective communities as part of the line-up of LPO-planned initiatives for 2013. LAM named their activity *'KALAKAL MO! GOTO KO!'*. Envisioned as both a community outreach and an income generating project, the activity encouraged children from Kaingin 1, a depressed area in Barangay Pansol, to trade their scrap materials for tasty *goto* (rice porridge). LAB and UNLAD, on the other hand, intended their feeding activity as a means to introduce their respective organizations and promote visibility of LBTs in their communities. LAB chose Urbano, one of nine depressed areas in Barangay Bagbag, for this initiative; while UNLAD, in partnership with *Samahan ng Magkadaup Palad* (SAMAGKADAUP), a community association that focuses on barangay development projects, selected Pook Libis, one of seven depressed areas in Barangay UP Campus.

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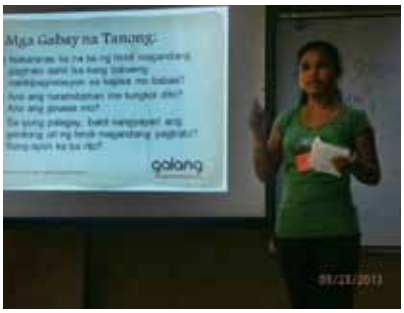
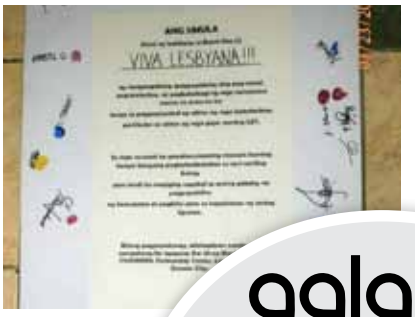
MAR 23 2013

SEXUALITY WORKSHOP TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH | PHILDHRRA PARTNERSHIP CENTER, LOYOLA HEIGHTS





In celebration of women's month, GALANG organized an activity entitled '*Kilalanin ang Sarili: Oryentasyon Tungkol sa Sekswalidad at Kalagayan ng mga Lesbyana* ('Know Yourself: An Orientation on Sexuality and the Situation of Lesbians')'. The objective of the activity was to inform LBTs about GALANG and its equal rights advocacy, as well as provide an update on the situation of lesbians in the Philippines. Furthermore, GALANG also aimed to provide LBTs a deeper understanding of themselves through concepts about sexuality.

All of GALANG's grassroots LBT partners must undergo this one-day orientation. This batch of participants had 29 LBTs from the organization's partner communities. They named their batch 'Viva Lesbyana'.

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STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES IN THE ILGA-ASIA CONFERENCE | THE PALAZZO HOTEL, BANGKOK

GALANG's Advocacy Officer, Gyky Tangente, participated in the 5th International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Asia Regional Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand. Themed 'The Phoenix Rising', the conference allowed Gyky to get acquainted with the different practices of LGBT groups across Asia. Through her participation in the various workshops and parallel events, Gyky also had the chance to share GALANG's work among urban poor LBTs in the Philippines. In addition, as a member organization of ILGA-Asia, GALANG was able to take part in the election of ILGA-Asia's Board for the very first time.

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APR 29 JUN 07 2013

BRIDGING TESDA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO LBT YOUTH | TESDA WOMEN'S CENTER | TESDA LINGKOD BAYAN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Striving to dismantle the barriers to gainful employment and skills development of LBTs, GALANG organized exposure visits to service providers for the benefit of LBT youth.

GALANG accompanied 28 LBTs to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Women's Center in Taguig City on April 29, 2013, and 19 LBTs to the TESDA Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center in Quezon City on June 7, 2013.

The LBT youth were oriented about the programs and services currently offered by the training centers, thanks to the support and cooperation of Senior TESDA Specialist and Assistant Head of TESDA Women's Center's Research and Advocacy Unit, Laura Dancel, TESDA Quezon City District's OIC Director Pena G. Medina, and TESDA Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center's Senior TESDA Specialist, Juan Asuncion. The aspiring trainees were also toured around the facilities where different skills trainings, such as plumbing, automotive mechanical assembly, commercial cooking, housekeeping, and biomedical equipment servicing were held.

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MAY 17 2013

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE BY BRIDGING JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO LBT YOUTH | PESO OFFICE, QUEZON CITY HALL

In line with the celebration of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHO), GALANG organized an exposure activity at the Public Employment and Services Office (PESO) in Quezon City Hall for its partner LPOs' LBT youth. The orientation on available job assistance services was led by PESO Officer-in-Charge, Carlo Magno Abella. The LBTs also got to see the facilities and receive hands-on assistance on how to access PESO's job matching services. A total of 14 community-based LBT youth participated in this activity.

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MAY 17 2013

LAM PRESIDENT SHARES HER STORY OF ABUSE WITH PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE | CAMP KARINGAL, QUEZON CITY

'Isyu Mo! Isyu Ko!' was organized as part of the series of Gender and Sexuality workshops for Human Rights Regional Officers and Police Precinct Officers of the Philippine National Police. The aim of the workshop was to sensitize law enforcers on issues and concerns of the LGBT sector in the Philippines and to train them in the proper handling of cases concerning LGBTs. LAM President, Ma. Cristina "Brando" Valencia was invited as a resource person for this session where she got to share experiences of police brutality and abuse towards lesbians like her. GALANG staff and two LPO leaders were in attendance to show support for Brando.

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CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH | UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN | BAGUIO CITY

To celebrate the pride month and commemorate the birth of the modern LGBT movement during the Stonewall Riots in New York City, two pride marches were held – the University of the Philippines (UP) Pride March and the Baguio Pride March.

Already in its 5th year, the UP Pride March, which was held last June 27, 2013, was organized by UP Babaylan and the UP Diliman University Student Council, with the theme, 'Live Free. You're Safe in UP.' 53 people joined the GALANG contingent as it marched around UP Diliman's Academic Oval. A small program was held at the Palma Hall steps after the march. Gyky Tangente of GALANG, April Bacarces of UNLAD and Jessilda Quiñones of Batasan Hills gave their solidarity messages in support of UP Pride.

Meanwhile, the Baguio Pride March held last June 30, 2013 was organized by the Baguio Pride Network. The event, which was themed 'Stand up. Stand out. Stand Proud. Building a world that is free and equal.' was attended by 13 delegates from GALANG and partner LPOs. GALANG and representatives of the three partner LPOs – LAM, LAB and UNLAD – shared their solidarity messages at the Pride Party later held at Kikan Restobar. Baguio Pride March is now on its 7th year.

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JUN 29-30 2013

GALANG PARTICIPATES IN UNDP DIALOGUE ON BEING LGBT IN ASIA | THE LINDEN SUITES, PASIG CITY

'Being LGBT in Asia: A Participatory Review and Analysis of the Legal and Social Environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Civil Society' was organized through the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The objective of this event was to raise awareness of the political, legal, social and institutional environment in which LGBT people in Asia live.

Different LGBT groups in the Philippines were invited, including GALANG, which was represented by its Executive Director, Anne Lim. GALANG was able to share its works, highlighting in particular its evidence-based advocacy through LPO building, as well as the importance of looking at the connections between sexuality and poverty.