

THE TAGAYTAY DECLARATION ON PHILIPPINE LAKES

Whereas, lakes sustain life by providing goods, services and aesthetic and spiritual values;

Whereas, lake ecosystems are fragile and their integrity bears on the quality of life;

Whereas, economic, social and cultural development should be pursued in a manner compatible with wise use of lake resources;

Recognizing the principles of the World Lake Vision, Dublin Principles on Integrated Water Resources Management, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention, The Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (Philippine Agenda 21), The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and other relevant international and national commitments as guides in developing and implementing effective and efficient management for the Philippine lake basins;

Acknowledging the need for environmentally sensitive and responsible development is important and urgent in the light of increasing population and concomitant pressures on lake basins as life-supporting ecological systems;

Acknowledging the sovereign right of our people, especially the marginalized sectors, in the utilization of lake resources while maintaining the integrity of the lake basin;

Cognizant of the need to forge strong partnerships among a broad base of stakeholders for sustainable participatory management and protection of lake basins;

Convinced of the importance of systematic collection, storage, retrieval and packaging of data and information on lake basins for management strategies and policy formulation;

Affirming our support and commitment to the principles and the call for action on the above-mentioned international and national declarations for the improvement of the quality of life of Filipinos;

Therefore we **WILL**, to the best of our abilities:

ENGAGE in collaborative efforts with various sectors of our society, to ensure integration of environmental concerns in the design and implementation of social, economic, and cultural development activities;

SHARE our expertise to assist our countrymen in the development of their indigenous capacity in the proper management of Philippine lake basins;

CONSIDER and **SUPPORT** policies, programs and projects that are especially designed to protect, rehabilitate, manage or enhance the lake ecosystems, the quality of life, and resources, thereto related;

PURSUE a common vision for Philippine lakes: **Living lakes teeming with fish and rich in biodiversity, managed by empowered stakeholders and a source of pride of the Filipino people.**

ADVOCATE the genuine and sustainable development of the environment around Philippine lakes within an atmosphere of peace, freedom, equity and justice;

INSTITUTE organized action for the promotion of the objectives of the First National Congress on Philippine Lakes (LakeCon 2003) namely: (1) Identify major lake-specific issues that will serve as inputs for R&D planning and policy advocacy; (2) Identify research gaps in lake resources management; and (3) come up with a Philippine Lake Vision that will embody the national agenda on lake resources management;

Now THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that we, the participants of LakeCon 2003, do hereby voluntarily ORGANIZE ourselves into a network on Philippine lakes to generate the binding force that will ensure sustained efforts to save our lakes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HEREBY AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES THIS 28TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2003 AT THE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES (DAP) TAGAYTAY CITY, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.