



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
Region VII, Central Visayas

## **DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE**

Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



SEP 16 2015

### **DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. 605, s. 2015

#### **LIWANAG WORLD FESTIVAL 2015**

To: Assistant Superintendent  
Education Supervisors/Coordinators  
District Supervisors/OICs/Caretakers  
Elementary and Secondary School Heads

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, attached herewith is Regional Memorandum No. 557, s. 2015, entitled, "Liwang World Festival 2015".
2. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is directed.

  
**ARDEN D. MONISIT, ED.D.**  
Schools Division Superintendent

ADM/rng15



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
REHIYON VII, GITNANG VISAYAS  
REGION VII, CENTRAL VISAYAS  
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



SEP 08 2015

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **557**, s. 2015

**LIWANAG WORLD FESTIVAL 2015**

To : Schools Division Superintendents/OICs  
Regional Chiefs

1. Enclosed is a letter from Ms. Teresa D. Ruelas, Co-Founder, Co-Convener, Mission Cebu and Liwanag World Festival, informing this Office of the **Liwanag World Festival 2015** on September 24-26, 2015 at the Social Hall, Cebu Provincial Capitol, Cebu City.
2. For details, refer to the attached communication.
3. Participation of interested personnel to this Activity shall be subject to the discretion of the Schools Division Superintendents, and to the provisions of DECS Order No. 28, s. 2001 entitled "**Prohibiting the Commercialization of the DECS Organization through Endorsements and Accreditation of Goods and Services**", DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled "**Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task**" or "**No-Disruption-of-Classrooms Policy**", and all other existing DepED policies and regulations, and ensuring compliance therewith.
4. For the information and guidance of all concerned.

*Juliet A. Jeruta*  
JULIET A. JERUTA  
Director III  
Officer-In-Charge

JAJEBE,j/mgb

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Tel. Nos.: (032) 414-7324 Curriculum Learning Management Division (CLMD), Tel. Nos.: (032) 414-7323  
Quality Assurance Division (QAD), Tel. Nos.: (032) 231-1071 Human Resource Development Division (HRDD), Tel. No.: (032) 255-5239  
Education Support Services Division (ESSD), Tel. No.: (032) 254-7062 Planning, Policy and Research Division (PPRD), Tel. Nos.: (032) 233-9030;  
414-7065 Administrative Division, Tel. Nos.: (032) 414-7326; 414-4367; 414-7366; 414-7322; 414-4367  
Finance Division, Tel. Nos.: (032) 256-2375; 253-8061; 414-7321

*"EFA 2015: Karapatan ng Lahat, Pamarangalan ng Lahat"*



**LIWANAG 2015**

**MISSION**

Movement of  
Imaginats for  
Sustainable  
Societies through  
Initiatives,  
Organizing and  
Networking

16 August 2015

**DR. JULIET A. JURETA**  
Reg. 7 Regional Director  
Department of Education  
Cebu City

Dear Dr. Jureta,

We in *MISSION, the Movement of Imaginats for Sustainable Societies through Initiatives, Organizing and Networking*, are requesting your and DILG's endorsement for the **LIWANAG World Festival 2015** event, to encourage key people in the Local Governments, National Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations & Civil Society Organizations to participate in exploring what the Philippine Civil Society in the 1990s and all preceding and succeeding forces of deep change are teaching us about—the imperative role of movements, their convergence and the collectives of people in reshaping culture, the economy and politics to become a real force that makes positive societal change possible.

To show the seriousness of our intention and work in making Liwanag happen, please find attached to this letter (1) the SEC-registration certificate of Liwanag World Festival, Inc. and (2) a brief summary of the results from past two Liwanag World Festivals in 2013 and 2014. Below is background on this event.

**MISSION** is a civil society movement made up of volunteers of many professions, from various backgrounds and of different ages, in area nodes in different regions of the country. As our name suggests, we lead various initiatives that hope to transform our society into greater livability and sustainability through the fields of education, environment, culture, healthcare, women's and children's rights and welfare, agriculture, entrepreneurship, urbanization and governance. One of our major tenets is that the quality of the work of changing the world can only be as good as the quality of our own work in changing ourselves. So we tend to spend balanced time learning and growing ourselves as changemakers, aware of and responsible for our own inner character—individual and collective—as we are in influencing and shaping the character of the society we are a part of.

One of our major annual events is called the **LIWANAG\* World Festival**, a call to many like-minded people from around the country and many of our friends and colleagues outside the Philippines—those leading small, medium and large initiatives in cities, municipalities and barangays—to come together for a few days and collectively reflect on where we are, what we're learning about the world we're working to transform and about ourselves as active members of such a world. We'd like to see, collectively, what is emerging among us as new ways to be relevant, effective and cohesive in our work.

In 2013, **MISSION** hosted **LIWANAG** in Davao to call upon the most innovative and creative initiatives doing transformative work in the world. In 2014, a few months after super typhoon Haiyan hit, **MISSION** hosted

LIWANAG in Iloilo to hold a gathering of civil society organizations (CSOs), government agencies and businesses to assess, learn from each other and emerge ecosystem solutions and a stronger network of groups to better prepare for and meet the challenges of natural disasters and climate change.

*This year, it is Cebu's turn to host LIWANAG World Festival 2015.* Over the last year, as the initiators of the event, we have had many conversations, conducted a quick survey, and studied the landscape of Cebu to see what was "cooking" or what was emerging. One thing that has stood out in our inquiry and observation is that Cebu is bursting at the seams with individuals, groups, organizations and networks working to make a real, substantial and long-lasting difference in Cebu, the country and the world. Volunteerism and the desire to make a difference are at such a peak in this province, that "voluntourism" is a real thing in Cebu! The natural calamities that hit us in 2013, particularly the earthquake in Bohol and super typhoon Haiyan in the Eastern Visayas region, have brought to light many of the small & medium-sized CSOs as well as brought to our islands the attention and resources of national and international aid organizations wanting to work for the greater good of the people and the province of Cebu.

It is as we in MISSION believe happens when real change is afoot – that, as the outside world is hugely impacted by climate change, it brings with it an even larger call to bring about a deep "climate change" *within and among us*. Cebu holds the greatest potential for such a change to happen. It is in such a potential for inner change in Cebu that we are organizing LIWANAG 2015 to be a world festival with the following theme:

### **CO-CREATING A NEW PHILIPPINES**

#### ***The Next Step for Innovative Societal Movements in Transforming a Nation***

Together at LIWANAG, we will look over the historical, present and emerging landscape of societal movements in culture, economy, and politics, and we will confront ourselves with these questions: Is the world a better place to live in? Is a positive future for our children and their children seven generations over more secure? Is our planet safer, our human community more peaceful, more loving? If none of this is so, should we be shifting the way we do what we're doing or doing something completely different? And, how?

Our objectives at this year's LIWANAG:

1. **Go Inside.** Engage in a deeper inquiry around the questions that matter to us the most and understand deeply the critical forces at play in movements in order to grow and make a lasting impact on the world.
2. **Go Across.** Connect with other individuals, organizations and networks so as to experience and realize, perhaps renew, a sense of oneness and wholeness.
3. **Go Deep.** Reach a level of compassion and care for each other and others in the system that we in movements must learn to learn and work with.
4. **Go Vast.** Jump into the void, the unknown, the mystery to mine for the next discovery, the next leap of understanding, imagination and resolution that will stimulate movements to grow.
5. **Go New.** Discover and commit to the new ways to achieve the aims that we and all our movements set out for – a better world, a safer planet, a more secure and happy future for our future generations, a more loving and evolving human specie.
6. **Go Together.** Take the next step on our evolutionary path, together.

World-renowned author and analyst David Korten, describes the bright promise of societal movements and what can emerge from us in Liwanag 2015. In his article "Every Great Social Movement" (July 25, 2011, *Yes* magazine), he writes: "When ordinary people reject the cultural stories that limit their possibilities and bind them to servitude, the course of history turns. Every great social movement begins with a set of ideas validated, internalized, and then shared and amplified through media, grassroots organizations, and thousands, even millions, of conversations. A truth strikes a resonant chord, we hear it acknowledged by others, and we begin to discuss it with friends and associates. The new story spreads out in multiple ever-widening circles that begin to connect and intermingle. A story of unrealized possibility gradually replaces the

falsified story that affirmed the status quo. The prevailing culture begins to shift, and the collective behavior of the society shifts with it."

These are the specifics of Liwanag 2015, hoping you yourself or any of the leaders you work with might want to sign up:

**WHEN:** September 24-26, 2015 (8:30am-5:00pm each day)  
Additionally, September 25 (6:30-9:00pm) is a Socio-Cultural Night

**WHERE:** Social Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Provincial Capitol of Cebu

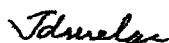
**REGISTRATION FEES** (Includes workshops, materials, lunches, snacks for 3 days and an evening event with 1 dinner on evening of Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>)

Early Bird Fee II (if you register on or before August 31st): Php 2,250  
Regular Fee (if you register on September 1st or after): Php 2,500

**REGISTRATION** is handled online at [www.liwanagworldfest.net](http://www.liwanagworldfest.net) To understand more about the Liwanag 2015 event, you can go to [www.liwanagworldfest.net](http://www.liwanagworldfest.net). More information and announcements to come.

Dr. Jureta, with your and DepEd's endorsement of the event, we hope to reach out to all agencies of change to continue to make this world a better place -- more effectively and together!

Very truly yours,



Teresa Dosdos Ruelas

Co-Founder, Co-Convener

**MISSION Cebu & LIWANAG World Festival 2015**

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W: [www.liwanagworldfest.net](http://www.liwanagworldfest.net) (presently being updated for this year's event)

\* In the fall of 1896, the Philippine Revolution, the first uprising against western colonial rule in Asia, was fought and won. Its heroes understood the importance of creating a new nation on the basis of profound inner change, resulting in an encounter with the "true light" within—an encounter that set a nation free. In this context, "liwanag," which means "light" in the Filipino language, can be interpreted to mean a profound form of awakening and creativity—individual and collective—that can address the most profound challenges that rule our world today.

## **LIWANAG PAST TO PRESENT (2013-2015)**

Asked to describe what the experience of Liwanag World Festivals, past and present, is, Jim Sharman, Executive Director of Gamot Cogon Institute in Iloilo, had this to say. "In our most creative moments, we inhabit a light-filled space, full of warmth and enthusiasm for the new that wants to be born through us and in community. This light-space allows us to see and experience the world in an entirely new way. We are enabled to see connections and possibilities in society, in nature, in all our encounters—connections and possibilities that were previously invisible. That light is LIWANAG."

This is the kind of space we open and invite people to at each LIWANAG WORLD FESTIVAL. Each unique, each powerful in leaving an indelible mark in the hearts and minds of attendees who realize, this is a time of gathering like no other. And the only way to experience and grow through it is to BE in it.

In 2013, MISSION hosted LIWANAG in Davao to call upon the most innovative and creative initiatives doing transformative work in the world. In 2014, a few months after super typhoon Haiyan hit, MISSION hosted LIWANAG in Iloilo to hold a gathering of civil society organizations, government agencies and businesses to assess, learn from each other and emerge ecosystem solutions and a stronger network of groups to better prepare for and meet the challenges of natural disasters and climate change.

Several initiatives – creative and sustainable – came about as a result of being at the past Liwanag events. To name a few:

**The Southern Negros Disaster Management Alliance (SONEDMA)** was created to bring 11 local government units together in 2 provinces – Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental – to pool the resources of its members in preventing, facing and handling any disaster or calamities that may take place in their areas. The members agreed to allocate 10 percent of their 70 percent annual Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund as contribution to a common fund, which shall be deposited as a trust fund and shall be exclusively used for common disaster risk management operations. (<http://www.archives.visayandailystar.com/2014/June/05/topstory2.htm>)

**The People's Pilgrimage** idea was crystallized at Liwanag 2013 where Yeb Saño, Filipino climate ambassador was speaker and participant. People's Pilgrimage is an open source response from the human heart to the climate crisis. It's a way for everyone – of all faiths and none – to share our hopes and fears, and call for action on climate this year. It's not owned by any one organisation it's been inspired and started by people around the world, of diverse faiths, doing everything they can to lift up the local and human stories of climate change. (<http://peoplespilgrimage.org/about.html#sthash.1T0R66RW.dpuf>)

**Emergency Pedagogy workshop and community partnership.** Some 60 leaders and members of CSOs and volunteer groups working on disaster risk management and helping children in trauma got together for 2-day workshop called “Supporting Self-Healing Forces in Children and Youth to Overcome Traumatic Experiences”. They brought in “Friends of Waldorf” or better known as Freunde – a group of doctors, educators and therapists with extensive experience of addressing trauma among children and adolescents in conflict-ridden and calamity-stricken areas in different parts of the world such as Haiti, Japan, Lebanon and the Philippines. An newly-created organization called iRelief Foundation designed to provide help to victims of natural calamities like typhoon, earthquake, and tsunami brought this methodology to their local communities in Roxas, an area badly hit by supertyphoon Haiyan.

**Bambu Bike Initiative** was born. It turns out that Bayawanons can create bikes made of bamboo. These cost-effective and eco-friendly bamboo bikes were made by the Bayawanons with the aid of John Climaco, a US-based Filipino who made a one week training to nine Bayawanon craftsmen. Today, these bicycles are made available to the public and can be seen all over Bayawan. (<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/625604/in-bayawan-bikes-get-bamboo-makeover>)

Many new partnerships were also created between organizations across sectors – foundations, day care center workers and the Philippine Navy. Leaders of relief initiatives and leaders in the military.

I asked a couple of other participants to the past Liwanags about the impact of Liwanag on their lives. This is what they had to say:

Dindin Daliva, Program Director of iRelief Foundation said: “Liwanag 2013 laid the foundation for me to be more attuned to my gifts and to what is happening in the field, woke my spirit up from slumber and kicked it into action. This opened a whole world of possibilities for me. Liwanag 2014 paved the way for the Trauma Management component of iRelief’s recovery and rehabilitation program. We were able to take a more ‘ecosystem approach’ in what we do and were able to network more freely with other players in our area.”

Jude Atilano Cabangal of the Municipality of Bayawan, Negros Oriental said, “the two Liwanag festivals provided us with lasting connections, not only to people and organizations, but also to our initiatives, aspirations and dreams.”

Today, Liwanag World Festival 2015, promises a leveling up on the skills of networking and ecosystems thinking and a shift in the way we think about, plan and activate the relationships to both the networks and ecosystems in which our societal movements are operating. It’s a new world of possibility and we want our societal activists in all major sectors of society – economy, polity and culture – to move into new configurations of thinking and being in order to fulfill their highest goals and aspirations for all our future.

Our early partners in putting Liwanag 2015 together come from vastly different sectors and industries, but share an excitement and hopefulness about this year's gathering.

"We advocate responsible planning and development. We believe in the power of public – private partnership, thus we applaud Liwanag for bringing fellow Cebuanos and friends together. Collaboration is key to achieving important changes in today's rapidly developing Cebu." Jose Franco Soberano, Chief Operations Officer, Cebu Landmasters, Inc.

"WHI has been in this journey of continually discovering, developing and successfully implementing a new health care system. Through MISSION's annual Liwanag World Festival, we hope to join with other individuals, groups and networks in forwarding a better health care lifestyle and system for all." Dr. Romy Paredes, Founder, Wellnessland Health Institute

"Handuraw proudly finds itself in the same journey under the light of Liwanag, co-creating towards the good of Cebu, country and planet." Eric Paolo Smith, Managing Director, Handuraw Pizza Events Cafe

Written by Liwanag 2015 co-program director Teresa Dodos Ruelas

[www.liwanagworldfest.net](http://www.liwanagworldfest.net)

FB: [liwanagworldfestival](https://www.facebook.com/liwanagworldfestival)

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