





In Memory
of
Leonardo L. Co
and
Daniel A. Lagunzad

Members
2011 Philippine Biodiversity
Expedition



Leonardo L. Co

December 29, 1953– November 15, 2010





Advertisement

[+ SPORTS](#)[+ NEWS](#)[Breaking News](#)[Nation](#)[Metro](#)[Regions](#)[Infotech](#)[Sports](#)[World](#)[iVDO](#)[Radio](#)[Newsmaker](#)[Top Stories](#)[Inquirer Headlines](#)[Full Text](#)[+ Special Reports](#)[40th ASEAN Meeting](#)[NBN Deal](#)[Water Crisis](#)[SONA](#)[Manila Hostage Drama](#)

Breaking News / Regions

You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [Breaking News](#) > [Regions](#)

UP botanist, 2 others killed in military-NPA clash in Leyte

By Elvie Roa, Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

First Posted 19:27:00 11/16/2010

Filed Under: [Crime, insurgency, Military, Philippines - Regions, Education](#)

ORMOC CITY, Philippines – A respected Filipino botanist, a forest guard and a farmer were killed in the crossfire between the military and suspected communist rebels Monday noon, the company that was running the project for which the three worked, said on Tuesday.

Engineer Manuel Paete, resident manager of the Energy Development Corporation, identified the fatalities as Leonardo L. Co, a biodiversity consultant of the Energy Development Corp.(EDC); Sofronio G. Cortez, a forest guard of EDC-Environmental Management Division; and Julius Borromeo, a member of the Tongonan Farmers Association (Tofa).

Quick Links



Breaking News : Ex-CoA auditor vows to walk naked

Advertisement



+ SPORTS

+ NEWS

[Breaking News](#)

[Nation](#)

[Metro](#)

[Regions](#)

[Infotech](#)

[Sports](#)

[World](#)

[iVDO](#)

[Radio](#)

[Newsmaker](#)

[Top Stories](#)

[Inquirer Headlines](#)

[Full Text](#)

+ [Special Reports](#)

[40th ASEAN Meeting](#)

[NBN Deal](#)

[Water Crisis](#)

Breaking News / Nation

You are here: [Home](#) > [News](#) > [Breaking News](#) > [Nation](#)

DoJ clears military in death of botanist, two others

AFP says it's good news for soldiers

By Nikko Dizon, Katherine Evangelista
Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQUIRER.net
First Posted 13:14:00 01/20/2011

Filed Under: [rebellion, insurgency, Judiciary \(system of justice\), Military](#)

MANILA, Philippines—(UPDATE) The Armed Forces of the Philippines welcomed the decision of the Department of Justice (DoJ) clearing them of the death of a botanist and two others in November last year.

On the basis of an on-site investigation, the DoJ panel concluded that botanist Leonardo Co, forest guard Sofronio Cortez, and farmer Julius Borromeo were hit by shots coming from where the communist rebels were positioned.

INQUIRER HEADLINES - REGIONS

CHR: No crossfire in death of botanist

Elvie Roman-Roa
Inquirer Visayas

January 29, 2011

ORMOC CITY, Philippines—Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Loretta Ann “Etta” Rosales said physical evidence presented during a CHR hearing on the killing of botanist Leonardo Co and his two companions tend to show Co and his companions did not die in a crossfire between soldiers and rebels.

Rosales’ evaluation runs counter to a report made by the Department of Justice clearing the military of liability in Co’s death.

The military had claimed that Co, forest guard Sofronio Cortez and farmer Julio Borromeo were caught in crossfire between communist rebels and soldiers in a forested area in Kananga, Leyte, on Nov. 15.

“What we established was, there was no crossfire,” Rosales said.

“But, of course, it was obvious that the empty cartridge cases were identified as coming from the soldiers. That came out in the presentation,” she said Thursday at the end of the two-day public hearing on the killings.

The bullet cartridges recovered from the scene were obviously from soldiers, said forensic expert Dr. Raquel Fortun.

She said based on forensic findings, bullet cartridges found on the ground near where Co died was from an Armalite rifle belonging to Cpl. Marlon Mores, while another was from a machine gun carried by Pfc. Michael Babon.

Ronan Masacupan, a ballistics expert of the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila who testified Thursday, said at least 104 trees in the scene had bullet marks. Ninety-nine of these showed guns were fired from an elevated area, where soldiers were believed to be positioned.

Rosales said the CHR would continue gathering evidence and testimony on the deaths of Co and his two companions on Nov. 15 last year.

She said another hearing would be held in February in Manila to determine who should be held liable for the deaths.

Lt. Col. Fedrico Tutaan, commanding officer of the 19th Infantry Battalion, declined to comment on Rosales’ statements.

During his testimony on Thursday, Tutaan said the military received intelligence reports on a planned attack by communist guerrillas on the Energy Development Corp. (EDC) complex. Co worked as EDC researcher and consultant.

Tutaan said the 19th IB had informed the EDC of the guerrilla threats.

Tutaan said EDC failed to report to the military the presence of Co’s group.

Arturo Veloso, EDC security officer, however, said the military strayed into EDC area that didn’t need to be patrolled by soldiers. ***With a report from Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas***

Daniel A. Lagunzad

January 11, 1957 – November 16, 2011



Dan died never knowing
that Leonard was dead;
Leonard died never
knowing
that Dan was dying

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Love of plants

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Love of plants

Love of UP

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Love of plants

Love of UP

Love of Palanan

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Love of plants

Love of UP

Love of Palanan

Love of teaching

Five Things Shared by Dan and Leonard

Love of plants

Love of UP

Love of Palanan

Love of teaching

Sense of wonder, fun and
adventure

Love of Plants

Love of Plants

Love of Plants

- Leonard was a plant taxonomist

Love of Plants

- Leonard was a plant taxonomist
- Dan was a plant ecologist and systematist

Love of Plants

- Leonard was a plant taxonomist
- Dan was a plant ecologist and systematist
- Both can cure you of plant blindness

Love of Plants

- Leonard was a plant taxonomist
- Dan was a plant ecologist and systematist
- Both can cure you of plant blindness
- Led them to explore various parts of the country

Morong,
Bataan
Subic Forest
Reserve

Palaui Island,
Cagayan

Mt. Polis,
Bontoc

Paranan,
Isabela
General Nakar,
Quezon

Mt. Makiling,
Laguna

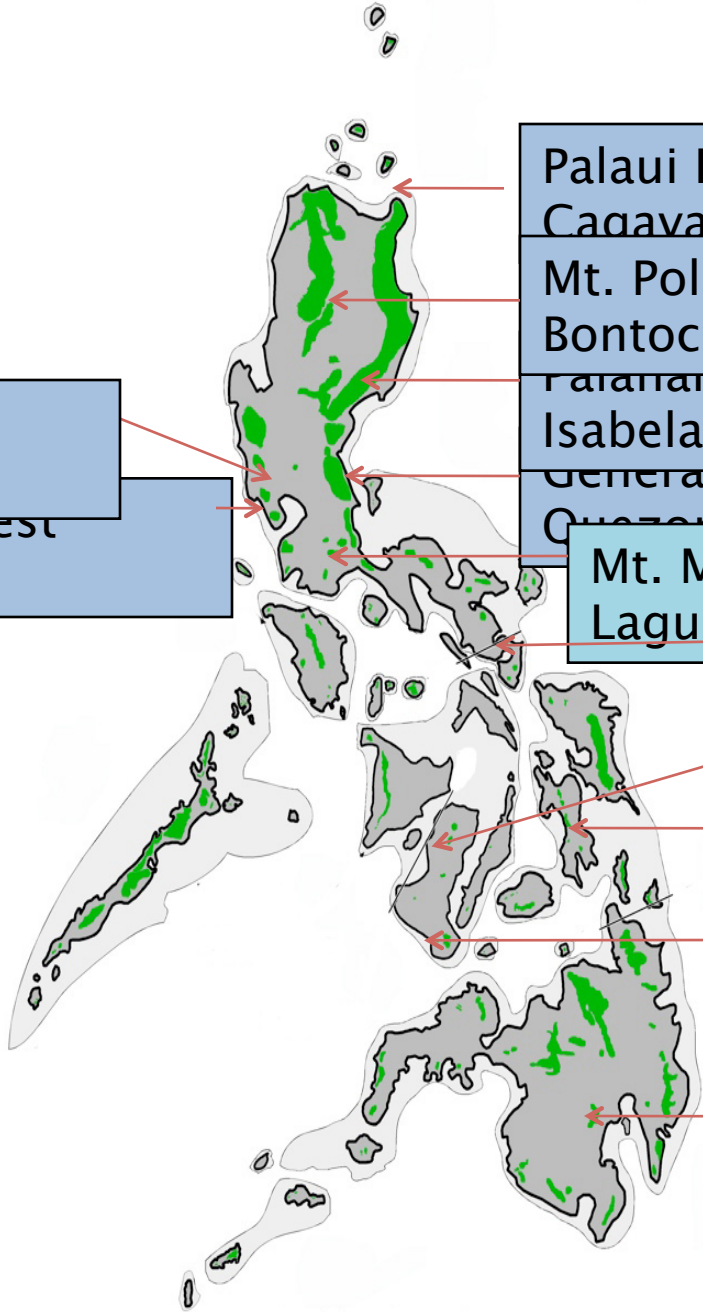
BacMan,
Sorsogon

Mt. Kanlaon,
Negros
Occidental

Kananga,
Leyte

Mt. Tamsi-Lake
Balinsasayo,
Negros Oriental

Mt. Apo, Davao,
Cotabato



Love of UP:
They call UP
home

Leonard The Student



Leonard The Student

- Entered UP in 1972 as a BS Botany freshman and never left



Leonard The Student

- Entered UP in 1972 as a BS Botany freshman and never left
- Submitted the book he published in lieu of thesis requirement in 1990



Leonard The Student

- Entered UP in 1972 as a BS Botany freshman and never left
- Submitted the book he published in lieu of thesis requirement in 1990
- Last graduate of BS Botany degree, awarded in 2008, a centennial graduate



Leonard The Student

- Entered UP in 1972 as a BS Botany freshman and never left
- Submitted the book he published in lieu of thesis requirement in 1990
- Last graduate of BS Botany degree, awarded in 2008, a centennial graduate
- Whereever work takes him, at the end of the day, he always go back to the



Dan The Student



Dan The Student



- Entered UP Diliman in 1978 as a BS Biology freshman and never left

Dan The Student



- Entered UP Diliman in 1978 as a BS Biology freshman and never left
- Went on to finish his MS Botany in 1982 and Ph D in Botany in 1995, all from UP Diliman

Dan The Student



- Entered UP Diliman in 1978 as a BS Biology freshman and never left
- Went on to finish his MS Botany in 1982 and Ph D in Botany in 1995, all from UP Diliman
- Worked as student assistant since 1978 in UP Diliman and went on to become a full professor in 2005

The U.P. Institute of Biology
UP Diliman

Institute of **Biology**
new building

**GROUND
BREAKING
Ceremony**

*National Science Complex
January 27, 2010
8:00 am Wednesday*

100 years of Biology in
UP ... and still evolving.

Logos of the University of the Philippines, the College of Science, and the Institute of Biology are visible on the banner.



With the Institute of Biology Faculty, Alumni



UPD-EDC Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring Program

BacMan, Leyte, Mt. Kanlaon, Lake Balinsasayao-Mt Talinis and Mt.

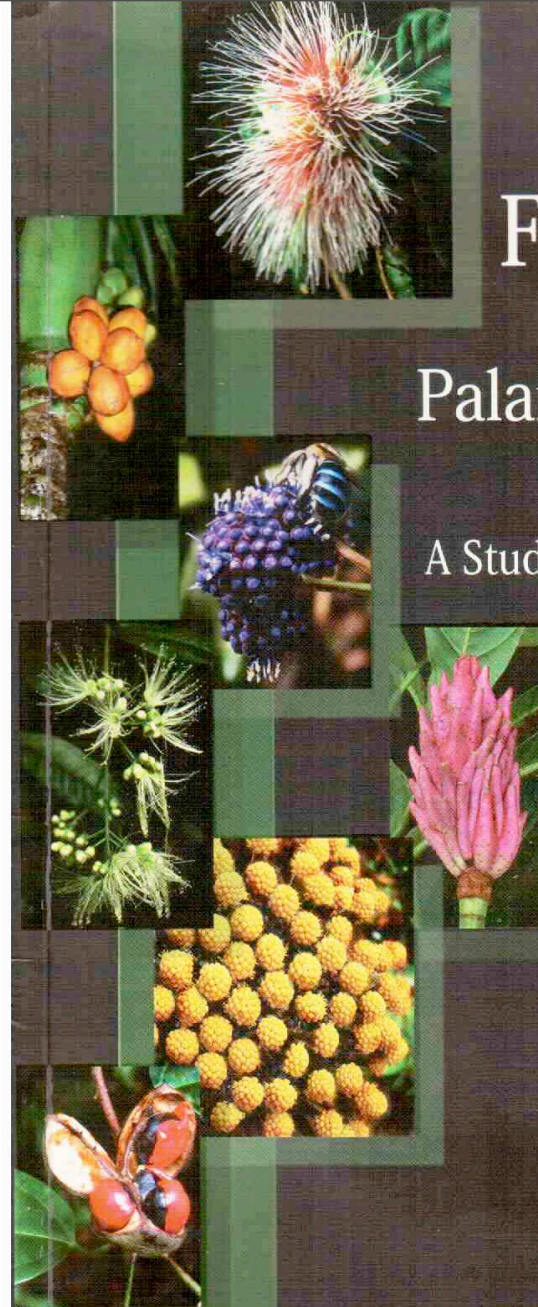


With colleagues and friends



Love of Palanan, Isabela

**Forest Trees of
Palanan,
Philippines: A
Study in
Population
Ecology. 2006.
Center for
Integrative and**



Forest Trees
of
Palanan, Philippines

A Study in Population Ecology

L. Co, J. LaFrankie, D. Lagunzad, K. Pasion, H. Consunji, N. Bartolome,
S. Yap, J. Molina, M. Tongco, U. Ferreras, S. Davies, P. Ashton



Palanan, Isabela, Aug
2002

Leonardo's Publications
(1977-2009): 18

Leonardo's Publications
(1977-2009): 18

Dan's Publications (1986-2008):
19

Leonardo's Publications
(1977-2009): 18

Dan's Publications (1986-2008):
19

Publications co-authored: 6 (5 on
Belgian)

Love of teaching



Palau Island, May 2,
2006



Palanan May 2005



Palanan, July



Bataan July
2007



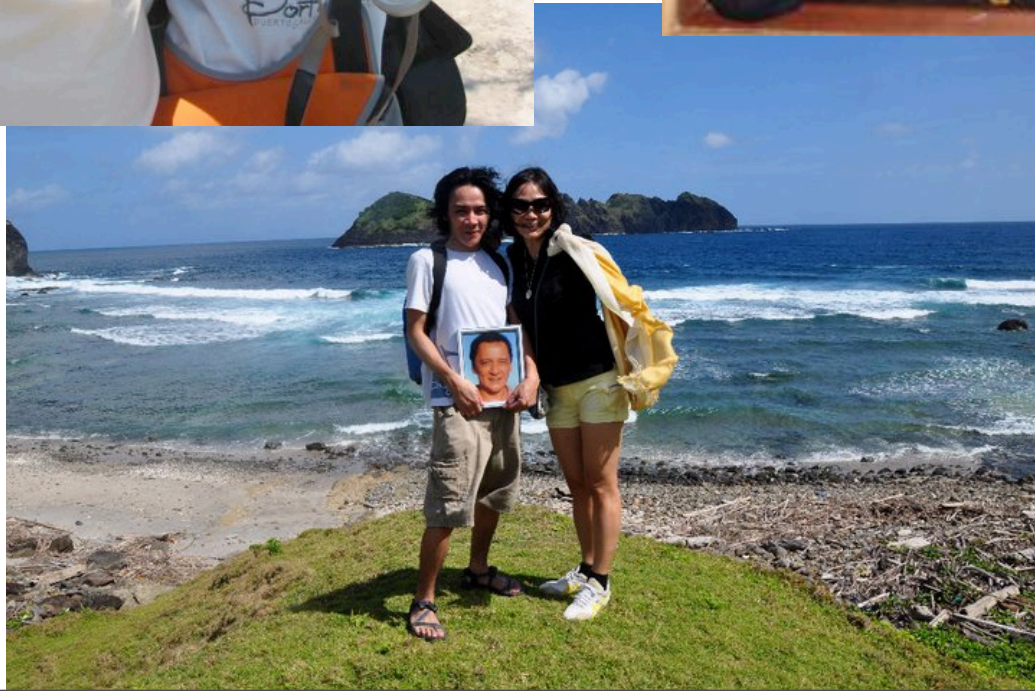
Northern Negros Geothermal Production Field,

With graduate and undergraduate students





Malabon Zoo, September 23,
2006



Sense of wonder, fun
and adventure



In one of the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan, October 22, 2007



California, September 13, 2006



Ormoc City, Leyte, October 6, 2009

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Given by the Biology Teachers Association (BIOTA), April 8, 2011

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Given by the Biology Teachers Association (BIOTA), April 8, 2011

Both have trail named in their honor:

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Given by the Biology Teachers Association (BIOTA), April 8, 2011

Both have trail named in their honor:

Lagunzad Trail Marker, Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sta. ana Cagayan, by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority , Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines, unveiled April 9, 2011

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Given by the Biology Teachers Association (BIOTA), April 8, 2011

Both have trail named in their honor:

Lagunzad Trail Marker, Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sta. ana Cagayan, by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority , Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines, unveiled April 9, 2011

Leonardo Co Trail Marker, Palau Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sta. ana Cagayan, by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines, unveiled April 9, 2011

Posthumous Awards and recognition

Both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching. Given by the Biology Teachers Association (BIOTA), April 8, 2011

Both have trail named in their honor:

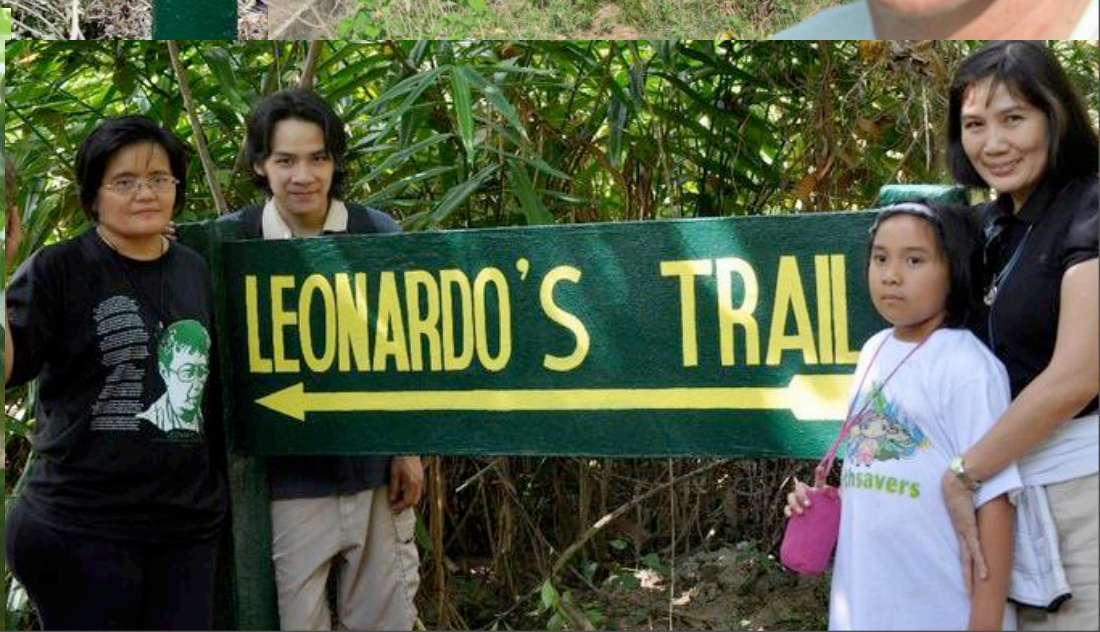
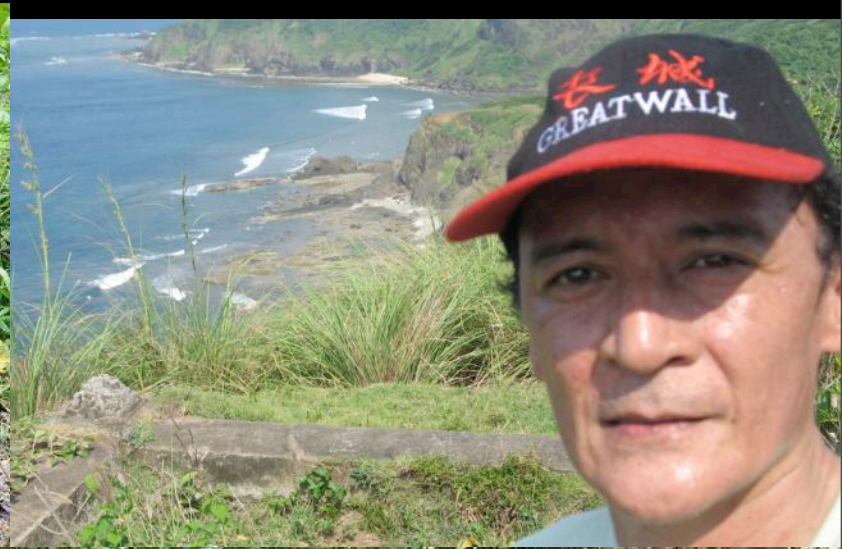
Lagunzad Trail Marker, Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sta. ana Cagayan, by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority , Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines, unveiled April 9, 2011

Leonardo Co Trail Marker, Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Sta. ana Cagayan, by the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines, unveiled April 9, 2011

Both were well loved by their students and colleagues

Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape

Two trails in the island were named after



Sir PM died in the midst of writing books, which he loves.
Leonardo died in the midst of the forest he loves.
Daniel died in the midst of the students and the Institute he loves.
They died with their boots on.

Botanists... Teachers... Researchers...

Husbands... Fathers...

Selfless... Passionate... Dedicated...

True Heroes...

our Tribute



A grateful Institute of Biology and University of the Philippines

Leonardo L.



Daniel A.
Lagunzad
1957-2010



Leonardo L.



**Daniel A.
Lagunzad
1957-2010**



**Thank you for
sharing your
“WONDERFUL
” lives with us!**

