



Cordillera Peoples Alliance

For the Defense of Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

February 27, 2009

ADVISORY FOR CORDILLERA DAY 2009

TO ALL DELEGATES AND FRIENDS,

Greetings from CPA! As mentioned in the Cordillera Day 2009 invitation sent earlier, this advisory is issued for your guidance.

A. Cordillera Day 2009 on April 23-24, 2009

- 1. Cordillera Day 2009 is the the 25th Cordillera Day Celebration**
- 2. Decentralized celebration under a Central Theme**

As in the Cordillera Day 1995 celebration, this year's Cordillera Day will be a decentralized celebration which means one province or two adjacent provinces holding a separate, though simultaneous, commemorative activity on the said dates. As a decentralized Cordillera Day, each province and chapter will define the specific nature of its own celebration based on the urgent issues and concerns of the province. It serves as an event to further strengthen the unity and struggles of the communities to be able to confront the crisis and challenges they face.

The central theme ***"Strengthen people's solidarity. Intensify the struggle for land, life, and rights!"*** will guide the decentralized celebrations. The central theme carries key issues and concerns for this year's celebration on the following: continuing plunder of our ancestral land resources like big corporate and transnational mining; worsening human rights violations due to militarization, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, and political repression; violation of our people's basic rights to livelihood and welfare; impending charter change; and the global economic crisis and impact to our people. It is expected that each celebration will come up with resolutions and action plans on how to address these burning issues under the central theme.

B. Activities in celebration of decentralized Cordillera Day 2009

1. Baguio-Benguet cluster celebration in Bakun, Benguet

- April 22-23: Community integration and exposure of national and international delegates
- April 23: Arrival of participants at the venue
Welcome cultural night by the host community
- April 24: Main program: cultural presentations, Keynote speech, Discussion of the Cordillera and National Situation and Challenges, solidarity messages, resolutions, solidarity night
- April 25: Departure of Delegates
Solidarity Night

Local issues and concerns to be highlighted: mining including mineworker's issues, human rights violations, and agricultural liberalization.

2. Kalinga-Apayao cluster celebration in Tabuk, Kalinga

- April 23: Arrival of participants
Caucuses of sectors
- April 24: Main program: Forum on Mining and Militarization, Unity Statement, March-Rally, Cultural and Solidarity Night

April 25: Departure of participants

Local Issues: militarization and human rights violations, mining, tribal conflicts

3. Mountain Province

Venue: Sagada

April 22: Arrival of Delegates to the MAITUD (Movement for Inter-Tribal Unity and Development) Assembly, national and international delegates (can be observers during the MAITUD assembly)

April 23: MAITUD General Assembly

April 24: Provincial Multisectoral Broad Activity

April 25: Departure of participants

Issues and concerns: militarization and human rights violations, mining, agricultural liberalization, tribal conflicts, and elders

4. Abra

Tentative venue: Sallapadan

April 23: Arrival of participants and welcome program

April 24: Opening program and ritual, Speeches, cultural presentations and exchanges, Abra Situation and People's Covenant, solidarity night

April 25: Departure of participants

Local issues: mining, militarization and human rights violations

5. Ifugao

Venue: Lagawe

April 19: Gathering of the Friends of James Balao to coincide with his birthday. James Balao is a founding member of CPA, also worked in Ifugao with invaluable contribution for the rights and welfare of the Ifugao and Cordillera peoples. He was abducted by State armed forces in September 17, 2008 and remains missing until now.

Discussion on Food Security and Environmental Protection

April 22-24: Participation to municipal festivals with the local governments

Local issues: human rights and enforced disappearance of James Balao, food security, environmental protection

Final and detailed programme for each celebration will follow soon.

C. Provinces open for national and international delegates. Considering the specific nature and activity per celebration, facilitation and translation, the following provinces and cluster celebrations are open for national and international delegates at this time:

1. Baguio-Benguet in Bakun
2. Mountain Province in Sagada.
3. Kalinga-Apayao in Tabuk

Announcement in case of additional provinces will follow. National and international delegates can suggest where to attend based on the issues and concerns appropriate to their particular interest and objective in attending Cordillera Day. Provinces capable of hosting national and international delegates must constitute a facilitation and translation committee for these delegates.

C. Confirmation of Participation. Last day of confirmation of participation including the number of delegation to Cordillera Day 2008 is April 15. Also, distribution of national and international delegates will be final on this day so all are encouraged to confirm their participation earlier than April 15 including their suggestion where to go.

D. Travel and Coordination for national and international delegates

1. The center of coordination on travel arrangements for all international, national and other delegates coming and passing through Manila is assigned to our organization in Manila, Tignayan dagiti Agtutubo iti Kordilyera para ti Demokrasya ken Rang-ay (TAKDER, or Cordillera Youth Movement for Democracy and Progress). Kindly coordinate directly with TAKDER and look for Mr. Richard Gadit with the following contact details:

Rm 304, NCCP Bldg, 879 EDSA, West Triangle, Quezon City

Email address: takder@gmail.com; Tel No: (63)(2) 4138543

TAKDER will call for a briefing of national delegates. The safe travel budget for each national delegate will be determined as soon as the celebration to attend is identified. TAKDER will issue an advisory on travel arrangements and budget.

International delegates must determine their own travel and related expenses from their home countries to Manila and vice versa.

2. Each delegation is also reminded to constitute and prepare a negotiating panel in case of military and police checkpoints or similar incidents during travel. Delegates must bring their IDs, cedula or any legal identification.

E. Registration Fee and Donations. As mentioned in the invitation letter, we will be collecting a registration fee of PhP300 to help cover food expenses. We are also soliciting financial contributions and donations to help us defray expenses on logistics, food, and travel assistance for grassroots organizations and indigenous communities comprising the majority of expected participants.

F. Things to Bring

In addition to the abovementioned, delegates are encouraged to bring the following:

1. Indigenous attires and musical instruments
2. Bandana, scarf or hat
3. Mineral water and food during travel to the venue
4. Flashlight with batteries and extra bulb
5. Light clothes (summer wear), light jackets, and hiking shoes or sandals
6. Emergency food or food supplements especially for vegetarians
7. Organizational banners and streamers
8. Personal medicines

For more details and clarifications, feel free to contact the CPA office and look for Sarah or the undersigned in this address:

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Thank you.



Windel Bolinget
General Secretary