



## Narra Youth Organization for Environmental Conservation

By Rommel M. Cruz

The Narra Youth Organization for Environmental Conservation (NYOFEC) is an organization of young environmentalists in Narra. One of the objectives is to train the youth to become effective environmental educators and catalysts for change. It was formally organized in September 2000 during an Orientation-Seminar on Environmental Awareness sponsored by the Philippine Cockatoo Conservation Program or PCCP. The said seminar aims to heighten awareness among the youth on environmental threats and problems by providing them basic information on environmental conservation and protection, and to create a core group that will advocate its aim to preserve nature. After the seminar, a 12-member core group was realized.

The members attended trainings and lectures on environmental education. One of the major outputs of the group in 2001 was a youth encounter with the Japanese Environmental Club (JEC) and Students Environmental Club (SEC) of Puerto Princesa City. Part of the activities of said youth encounter was the Pre-testing of the first NYOFEC Kalikasan Activity Book in Panacan Elementary School with youth participation

from SEC and JEC. Free copies of this activity book is still available, just feel free to visit us at PCCP office, Narra Gymnasium, Narra, Palawan.

In the succeeding years, the Information-Education and Communication (IEC) campaign caravan from different schools and communities in Narra was also launched and intensified. Last year, an orientation-seminar on environmental awareness and recruitment for aspiring young environmentalists was organized. This was participated by Katala Conservation Club (KCC) of Dumarán, Palawan and Young Editors Guild of Narra National High School (NNHS). This year, intensification the IEC campaign is to be undertaken. This includes radio exposures and guestings as effective strategies to reach a wider audience. Other activities to be done this year are workshops for theater arts, IEC caravan, publication of Kalikasan Activity Book, Volume 2, and youth participation in the Alabukay Festival in Dumarán, Palawan.

In four years of environmental advocacy, the organization has managed to hold different activities for the youth. Now it has a plan to train the youth in decision making on environmental situations for it believes that the youth has the right to be involved and be heard in all aspects of society.