

## **PROMOTERS AND MOTIVATORS OF ROAD-SHARING RECOGNIZED IN 2016 BAYANIHAN SA DAAN AWARDS**



Promoters and motivators of “walkable and bikeable” communities across the country were recognized in the 2016 Bayanihan sa Daan Awards, held at the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang Palace on January 29, 2016. The Bayanihan sa Daan Awards, which is currently on its second year, aims to recognize pioneering initiatives of local and national government agencies, civil society, media, academe, private sector, biking organizations, and bus operators.

Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., environmental lawyer and convenor of the Bayanihan sa Daan Movement explained the concepts of “bayanihan” and the importance of road sharing. “Sharing the road is not a change, not a movement, but a mindset. This is about us working together in the spirit of cooperation. And because of this, we thank all of our partners,” Oposa said.

In his message, Oposa also mentioned the upcoming Road Sharing Exercise to be held on February 7, 2016, under the leadership of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). The said exercise will provide separate lanes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles within Metro Manila. The centerpiece of the activity will be the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard spanning from Intramuros to the SM Mall of Asia complex.

“Why do it in Metro Manila? Because if we start there, it will resonate all over the Philippines”, Oposa added.

DENR Assistant Secretary and Concurrent Environmental Management Bureau Director, Atty. Juan Miguel Cuna, highlighted the initiatives of the DENR, particularly in

addressing air pollution and climate change. These include the installation of ambient air quality monitoring stations in Metro Manila, as well as a Memorandum of Agreement among the EMB, Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Coalition of Clean Air Advocates Philippines (C-CAAP) to promote and advocate cleaner air. Likewise included is the DENR's push to promote low carbon strategies in non-motorized transport such as biking and walking as cleaner and healthier alternatives to support the country's efforts to bring air pollution levels down and help address climate change.

“Our roads are meant to be shared. It is a global solution to a global problem. Let us continue to work together in achieving cleaner and healthier lifestyles,” Cuna said.

Honorees from local government units included Antipolo City Administrator Robert Nacienceno, Antipolo City Councilor Arnel Camacho, Iloilo City District Engineer Rodney Gustilo, Negros Occidental Provincial Environment Officer Atty. Wilmon Penalosa, and select officials from Quezon City and Pasig.

Honorees from national government agencies included Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Rogelio Singson, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras, MMDA General Manager Corazon Jimenez, Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Director Maria Alicia Bonoan (for Secretary Dinky Soliman), LTFRB Chair Winston Ginez, DPWH Regional Director Reynaldo Tagudando, and Atty. Cuna of the EMB-DENR, among others.

Honorees from the academe, private sector and media were also recognized during the event. These included Dr. Ricardo Sigua, Director of the UP Institute of Civil Engineering, Karen Damayo of Negros Oriental State University, Mr. Paul Marin and Mr. Jayjay Vanstone of Foundation University in Dumaguete City, Ms. Mara Juliano of Ayala Southvale Homeowners Association in Cavite, Cherie Mercado of TV5, Juan Sarmiento of Philippine Daily Inquirer, among them.

Officials and personnel from various bus companies and transport groups like Nova Auto Transport, Dominion Bus Lines, ES Transport, Jayross LS Tours, Dela Rosa Transit, and the Integrated Bus Operators Association were also recognized.

As part of the initiatives of the Bayanihan sa Daan Movement to promote bikeable communities, various individuals and biking organizations were also recognized. These included Mr. Boy Siojo of Firefly Brigade, Mr. Rosar Crisostomo of the National Biking Organization, Mr. Atilano Cabangal, proponent of the Bayawan Bamboo Bike Initiative, and Mr. Jireh Javier from iFold Philippines, among others.

The Bayanihan sa Daan Awards is a cooperative undertaking of representatives from the Share the Road (Bayanihan sa Daan) Movement, Office of the Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection (OPAEP), DENR, DPWH, Department of Transportation and Communications, MMDA, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Pasig City Government,

Climate Change Commission, Partnership for Clean Air, Clean Air Asia, Inclusive Mobility Network, and other partners. ###