

**All systems go for “2<sup>nd</sup> Bayanihan sa Daan Recognition Ceremony”  
at the Malacañang Palace**

Promoters and motivators of “walkable and bikeable” communities across the country will once again be recognized in a special ceremony aptly dubbed as “Bayanihan sa Daan Awards” at the Kalayaan Hall in Malacañang Palace on January 29, 2016.

Now on its second year of recognizing pioneering initiatives of the road-sharing principle to help address traffic congestion, the high cost of transportation and air pollution, the “Bayanihan sa Daan Awards” will recognize leaders and initiatives from the following categories: national government agencies, local government units, media, academe, civil society, private sector, biking organizations, and bus operators.

The road-sharing scheme aims to set aside half of the road for non-motorized transportation, safe and covered sidewalks and all-weather bike lanes, and the other half for an organized transport system. While less than two per cent of the Filipinos own cars, yet all of the roads are devoted to cars and motorized vehicles.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje expressed his support for the event saying that the DENR welcomes this move by the Bayanihan sa Daan Movement by Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection Neric Acosta and environmental lawyer Tony Oposa. “Not only does it push for equitable and efficient use of road space, it also helps mitigate the causes of the climate crisis, and improve air quality,” said Secretary Paje.

According to convenors, Bayanihan sa Daan is the Filipino approach to a transportation revolution, urban sanity, and climate change adaptation. “These leaders have gone out of their way to change society’s behavior. They have to be recognized for their courage of thought, boldness of action, and pioneering efforts to push for urban renewal. Roads change everything,” said the co-convenors

Bayanihan sa Daan 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, Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Climate Change Commission, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government, Pasig City Government, Office of the Chair of Senate Committee on Climate Change, Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development of Washington DC, Environmental Law Program of University of Hawaii, Partnership for Clean Air, Clean Air Asia, National Bicycle Organization, Philippine Medical Association, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and others.

The organizers are inviting all Filipinos to take part in the upcoming Metro Manila-wide Road Sharing Exercise slated in the morning of February 7, 2016, Sunday, under the leadership of the MMDA. This will show on the ground the idea of road sharing by providing separate lanes for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles within the Metro Manila. The centerpiece of the activity will be the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard spanning from Intramuros to the Mall of Asia.

This proof of concept exercise will show that if public transportation is improved to make it safe and reliable and if spaces are set aside for walking and non-motorized transport, the roads will be more orderly. Naturally, with less motor vehicles spewing poisonous gases, the air quality will improve and social interaction restored, all in the great Filipino spirit of Bayanihan – cooperative heroism. ##