

PRESS RELEASE

Kalabukay Festival 2009 gears up to *the challenges of global climate change*

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5 June 2009, Palawan, Philippines – Have you ever asked what is your carbon footprint? Dumarenos will take big steps in knowing how they can help avert the adverse effects of the global climate change. This year's Kalabukay Festival in Dumarán will cater young Dumarenos to gear up with awareness and knowledge about the alarming issues concerning climate change. The Festival's theme, "*Knowing your carbon footprints!*" will hopefully open the minds of local partners to seriously consider actions towards a carbon reduced if not carbon-free practices and activities.



environmental role plays and music. A night to remember certainly!

The 6th Kalabukay Festival will feature youth and adults alike from Dumarán engaging in a day affair with nature. This kicks off with a Tree Planting activity at the buffer of the Philippine cockatoo reserve in Omoi, Sto. Tomas. The Kalabukay Fun Day will be an entertainment galore of interactive lectures, puppet show, mascot appearances, face painting, coloring activities and more. All of which shall feature simple steps in reducing our carbon footprints. On the night of June 16, young Dumarenos along with wildlife wardens will showcase a night of

The festival is a joint effort of the Katala Foundation and the local government of Dumarán and jointly celebrated along with their 47th Founding Anniversary. Indeed, with the great environmental challenges before us, there is no theme more apt than "Porsiguer abante Dumarán!" (Keep on, go forward, Dumarán!) The joint festivities will be celebrated on 15 to 18 June 2009 in Dumarán Island, Northern Palawan, Philippines.

Kalabukay festival is named after the local term of the Philippine cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia*. This festival is an annual event initiated by the Katala Foundation, Inc. to promote learning about environmental conservation with fun. Every year, local partners and communities look forward to celebrating the said festival with much excitement and preparations. With understanding, follows pride and a willing heart to take on the shared responsibility to protect and conserve nature!



Dumarán Island is a priority conservation site within the Palawan Corridor in the Philippines' Hotspot. Viable population of the critically endangered Philippine cockatoo, KFI's flagship

species, is found in its mangroves and remaining forest patches. Other globally threatened species such as Philippine forest turtle *Siebenrockiella leytensis*, Palawan hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei*, Blue-headed racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae*, are also on the island.

Aside from Kalabukay Festival, KFI also annually initiates the Katala and Kalikasan (Nature) Festivals in the Municipalities of Narra and Rizal, respectively. For several years of conducting these festivals, the level of awareness amongst the local communities on biodiversity conservation is remarkably increasing.

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Katala Foundation, Inc. (KFI) uses the endemic Philippine cockatoo as its flagship species to achieve its vision of conserving biodiversity with the active community involvement. We believe that increased awareness and knowledge on biological conservation is vital to influence positive behavior towards protection and conservation. We have initiated several activities and programs in varied strategies to heighten our local partners' knowledge and awareness on biodiversity conservation. One of the most effective learning approaches that capture a wider audience is the celebration of these nature festivals. KFI operates solely on funds from concerned organizations, government and individuals. Thus, we continuously raise funds in order to sustain these environmentally-important yearly activities. You can share, get involved and be part of these festivals by becoming one of our sponsors. The small amount you will give can make a big difference to wildlife conservation.

For more information about the PCCP, please contact Indira Widmann, Katala Foundation, P.O. Box 390, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan or at idlacerna@yahoo.com or www.philippinecockatoo.org.

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