



**PACIFICTECH Research, Training, Innovation and Collaboration  
for Community Engagement, Sustainable and Safe Environment  
SEC Reg CN202004792**

## BIOME 1

October 20-21, 2010 BIOME 2010 Biodiversity Meeting in Catanduanes Event  
Date/Time: Oct 21, 2010 End Date/Time: Oct 21, 2010 Paper Submission Date: Aug 30,  
2010 First National Biodiversity Meeting (BIOME 2010), Catanduanes Island,  
Philippines

Description Theme: Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture, Political Ecology and  
Social Representations of the Public on Biodiversity Science □Leading researchers,  
teachers and practitioners deliver a diverse scientific programs □Leading researchers,  
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BIOME. This is the First and only National Scientific Meeting or Conference in the Island  
Province of Catanduanes. The first was held last 2010 with Dr. Josette Talamera Biyo,  
the INTEL Science Teaching Excellence awardee and for this she owns Planet Biyo. Dr.  
Josette was my classmate (Dr. Jimmy T. Masagca) at De La Salle MSc Bio/PhD  
program then she became SEI Director. The other keynote speaker is Dr. Abercio Rotor  
Biology Professor of UST & La Salle and a Book Awardee. LIVING WITH NATURE -  
SCHOOL ON BLOG BY DR. ABERCIO V. ROTOR Saturday, September 10, 2011

Part 1: First National Biodiversity Meeting (BIOME 2010), Catanduanes Island,  
Philippines (Living with Nature - School on Blog) Save the environment is today's battle  
cry. It is the theme of the two-day conference. The organizers believe that Achieving the  
Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of Environmental Sustainability in the Countryside  
starts with one small step "towards one leap of mankind" to save Earth, his only home  
and only ship in the vastness of space. Catanduanes, the most unlikely island province  
to hold such a major forum, stood out from the usual metropolis setting of media,  
shopping and convenience. Here, it is nature that prevails.

Nature is the alternative. Here the air is pure, the forest still original, and the sea though  
restless after the wake of typhoon Juan had settled into peaceful cooperation with the  
participants who came from many parts of the country. It was a period of respite, a  
break from boredom, the prosaic blossoming into a variety of scenery and folk events  
topped by the capital's festivities, highlighted by the traditional fiesta thought to have

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been swallowed up by cinema and telenobela. Hospitality remains in its roots among the people who openly share it to any guest more than their own comfort. And simplicity to them is pride and contentment. What is environment then in Catanduanes? It is its mangrove that braces the shoreline against the forces of wave and tide, nipa palms that trap soil otherwise swept to sea, forest virtually untouched by human hands, coral reefs that make a perfect cradle of marine life, farming though subsistent, assures long term production of food for the family. Here learning is practical, utilitarian and functional more than theory and aristocratic tendencies.

Here the standard of living is not measured by riches, but by access to the bounty of nature. And time - it is within the power of anyone to control it, to choose what to do according to his own priority - or just allowing nature to run its course - and not life to run the course of nature. Here silence is respected, day is work, night is sleep, solitude is unwritten poetry, and the passing wind music. But more than what our senses perceive, lie the foundation of knowledge - science and philosophy of living, expressing themselves in technology, art, and ultimately wisdom that transcends through the ages and through man's quest for glory.

I cannot imagine how beauty melts down in our midst and before our eyes. Why the Philippine eagle no longer rules the sky, why typhoons are induced more by man than by the vagaries of nature, why monsoon brings floods kill and destroy rather than fill up the lakes and rivers and irrigate the fields. Where have all the fireflies gone? The participants do not only wonder. They have done more than we have, and are doing. Because they are scientists, they are educators, they are practitioners, they are leaders. They have reached a level of consciousness arising from that gift of sensitivity, which is to feel for others, and for the environment, in selfless virtue . It is only through selflessness that compassion is built. And from compassion comes that great resolve to help, to be of service to fellowmen and country, to Mother Earth - and the Great Maker of all.

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