

## CHILD LABOR LECTURE STAGED

The SRA-GAD sponsored a lecture titled “Child Labor-Free Sugar Industry” on June 15, 2015 at the Social Hall right after the flag ceremony. The event was a post activity in observance of the World Day against Child Labour which fell on June 12, 2015.



Tapped as speaker was Ms. Jennifer Rose Boyero from the General Administrative Division. A Psychology major and former faculty member of the Far Eastern University (FEU) as well as the Manila Central University (MCU) where she also served as lecturer, she presented the topic with a perfect balance of wit, humour and candour. The audience was warm and receptive of her inputs all throughout.

Ms. Boyero’s presentation zeroed in on the basics of Child Labor: its primary causes, worst forms, what it deprives a child during his/her growing up years particularly education, health and leisure, Child Work as opposed to Child Labor, classification of low, medium and high risk work in sugarcane farming, current situation of Child Labor in the Philippines supported by official figures from reputable international institutions, etc.



Interestingly, this lecture more or less served as an acid test for the introduction of Child Labor in SRA’s upcoming trainings. For one, there’s the SRA-GAD that will integrate it to Gender Awareness, then the Extension Division that will integrate it to their Sugarcane Farm Management Training. The staging of the lecture only showed SRA’s initiative to disseminate the ill effects of Child Labor in general. The audience got more enlightened on the risks faced by children who are engaged in this kind of labor.

They realized that there’s a risk in every stage of farm operations. Based on the outcome of the presentation it was a clear hit.

Earlier this year, SRA collaborated with internationally-renowned advocacy organization World Vision in its campaign towards the eventual elimination of Child Labor in the sugarcane industry. Last April, officers and members of the SRA-GAD Technical Working Group led by its Chairman Ms. Aida F. Ignacio along with the Extension Department’s Mill District Officers flew to Palawan to undergo a World Vision-sponsored training workshop on how to integrate Child Labor in their respective trainings.



Interestingly, it all started in one of Adm. Regina Bautista-Martin’s US trips wherein the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) gave \$ 15 M to implement projects that could

help eliminate Child Labor in the Philippine sugarcane industry setting. It was World Vision which was awarded the said grant.



SRA-GAD Vice-Chair Dr. Dina Padilla-Fernandez prepared the Child Labor AVP presented by Ms. Boyero based on the learnings the group acquired during their Palawan training. After the presentation, Ms. Ignacio handed over a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Boyero for being such an engaging lecturer. The program lasted for almost an hour with Mr. Joseph Peter Gonzales acting as host/facilitator. *(By: Joseph Peter R. Gonzales)*