

PAARL SEMINAR IN SABANG

By Ma.Criselda Pabalan

PAARL organized a National Seminar-Workshop in Sabang, Baler, Aurora Province on 26-28 July 2004 on the theme "The Support Staff in Today's Libraries: Keys to Effective Performance-Centered Management." The seminar focused on the role of today's library support staff in meeting the challenges and opportunities in this period of transition from the traditional to the electronic library environment. It also aimed to bring about a renewed sense of commitment and purpose to the working librarian in the service of the community of users.

The resource speakers and their respective topics were as follows: Mrs. Prudenciana C. Cruz – Developing Sustainable Library Programs; Mrs. Salvacion M. Arlante – Disaster Management for Library Staff: Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery; Mrs. Corazon M. Nera - Skills and Competencies for Today's Library Staff; Prof. Erlinda F. Flores – Library Organization and Maintenance Concerns: Best Practices and Standards; and Mr. Edgardo B. Quiros – The Role of the Researching Librarian. Prof. Candida C. Agcaoili's paper, "Work values for Library Personnel: Exploring Relationships between Values, Job Satisfaction, and Commitment" was handled by incumbent PAARL president Ms. Fe Angela M. Verzosa in her absence. Other topics discussed were on the issues and concerns regarding salaries and benefits and on the implementing rules and regulations of RA 9246. Panel discussion followed these two sessions. The seminar outputs and conference resolutions were presented by Ms. Verzosa for comments and approval of the body. Certificates were distributed at the end of the 2nd day of the seminar.

On the last day of the seminar, the organizers and participants made an early morning courtesy call to the Provincial Governor, Honorable Bellaflor Angara-Castillo who, despite her very hectic schedule, was able to accommodate the group, and even gamely posed for picture-takings. The group then went on a cultural educational tour of the different historic sites and tourist spots Aurora Province is famous for. Among the places visited were: Quezon Memorial Park, developed in honor and in memory of the late President Manuel L. Quezon; the Quezon Museum, where an exhibit on the 1st Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day was mounted; the Baler Church, known as the site of the last pocket of resistance of the Spanish Armed Forces during the Filipino-Spanish War; Santo Entierro in Baler, where a glass coffin encasing a statue of Jesus Christ, believed to possess miraculous powers and grants miracles to those who believe, is displayed in a makeshift wooden chapel; the Balete Park in Maria Aurora, featuring a gigantic 600-year-old banyan (balete) tree that was designated as the official "Millennium Tree", and; the Cunayan Falls in Barangay Pimentel, San Luis where the group had their lunch beneath the foliage of trees amidst the sound of the waterfalls. After lunch, Manila-bound organizers and participants boarded their chartered bus and started on their long, arduous and literally winding journey back home.