

# Message



The Guiuan Development Foundation, Inc. (GDFI) is honored and happy to co-organize **the 3<sup>rd</sup> State of the Mangrove Summit: Central and Eastern Visayas** with the Ateneo de Manila University through Dr. Sev Salmo.

In 2014, shortly after super typhoon Haiyan, GDFI, together with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), conducted mangrove damage assessment in Eastern Samar. From this, we came up with an article entitled *Preliminary assessment of post-Haiyan mangrove damage and short-term recovery in Eastern Samar, Central Philippines*, published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin with Dr. Jurgenne Primavera as lead author. We also prepared a protocol for mangrove clean-up to guide organizations and agencies conducting mangrove clean-up. To demonstrate this protocol, we partnered with Oxfam in its Cash-for-Work program for mangrove clean-up in seven municipalities in Eastern Samar. Based on the results of both activities, we recommended protection to allow mangrove stands to recover. Replanting with appropriate species should be done only after 2-3 years in areas where trees did not anymore regrow.

After almost five years since super typhoon Haiyan, we come together in this summit to share and discuss the status of our mangrove forests as well as the problems and issues affecting them. We hope to be able to come up with recommendations on how to best manage our mangrove forests as well as address the issues. Let us learn from each other's experiences and continue our efforts in conserving our mangrove resources.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

**MARGARITA DE LA TORRE-DE LA CRUZ**

*Executive Director*

Guiuan Development Foundation, Inc.