

Reflections

While the linking of 3-D mapping to GPS technology is scientifically impressive, it is the “human factor” of collective empowerment that was the key to success. The victory of the Tagbanwa communities’ legal claim over their ancestral domain can be attributed to the following:

1. The people’s great interest and commitment in conserving and protecting their natural environment;
2. The consistently participatory approach employed throughout the process;
3. The strong leadership of the Tagbanwa foundations, guided by clan elders;
4. The strategy of “strength in numbers”, as seen in the Tagbanwa foundations and then in their federation Saragpunta; and
5. External linkages and technical support provided by a committed community development NGO (PAFID).

In the words of the TFCI chairperson, Rodolfo Aguilar: “The 3-D map has helped strengthen more our unity because we see on it our very own homes and our source of living. It also guides us in making a decent plan for our ancestral domain because, with it, we could easily locate our forests, lakes, and other important landmarks of our place” (translated). ■

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Founded in 1979, ANGOC is a regional association of 20 national and regional networks of non-government organizations (NGOs) in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance and rural development activities. ANGOC member networks and partners work in 14 Asian countries with an effective reach of some 3,000 NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs). ANGOC actively engages in joint field programs and policy debates with national governments, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and international financial institutions (IFIs).

The complexity of Asian realities and the diversity of NGOs highlight the need for a development leadership to service the poor in Asia – providing a forum for articulation of their needs and aspirations as well as expression of Asian values and perspectives.

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ILC is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together

to promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building.

It believes that secure and equitable access to and control over land reduces poverty and contributes to identity, dignity and inclusion.

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