



Cultural Tour of the Philippines Visiting Unitarians in Their Communities

There are 29 Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Philippines. Join us while we visit a few of these congregations and the exciting women's livelihood projects on Luzon, the main island, and Negros Island, home of most of the UU congregations. The Rev. Rebecca Quimada Sienes,



whose father founded the UU Church of the Philippines, UUCP, will be our local host and guide for the tour on Negros. Rebecca is the current chair of UUCP and was their first ordained minister after obtaining her degree from Meadville Lombard seminary. She has since devoted much of her time and energy to the empowerment of women and to women's health issues, including prevention of family violence. Rebecca now operates BINHI, a micro credit lender for UU and non-UU women's groups. February is an ideal time to visit the Philippines when the monsoons are over and the weather is warm. Our meeting is immediately prior to the ICUU biennial council meeting. Registration and program information for the ICUU Council meeting available June 2011 at www.icuu.net

ITINERARY

- Jan. -30 Arrive Manila. (Flights from US leave Jan 29 to arrive Jan. 30.) Taxi from Airport to Pearl Manila Hotel.
- Jan. 31 Visit Metro Manila Congregations. Stay in the Pearl Manila Hotel. We will take vans to Bicutan, a suburb of Manila, and meet with Bob Guerrero and the UU Church of metropolitan Manila where women members specialize in microcredit projects. We will also visit Nelly Nacino successful woman business owner featured in BBC documentary. Cultural show and dinner in the evening.
- Feb 1. After traditional Philippine breakfast and a visit to the gardens near the hotel we will walk to Ayala Museum, where you will learn about the history of the Philippines. In the afternoon, a trip to Intramuros is particularly enlightening. The old town center of the Spanish colonial period has



extraordinary Catholic churches and colonial architecture. Most notable of which is the San Agustin Church. This church, first built in 1571, is the only UNESCO World Heritage Site found in Manila. After exploring the Old Walled City, make your way to Rizal Park, where we will visit the monument of the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

- Feb 2. Fly to Dumaguete City on Negros Is. known as one of the most beautiful of Philippine cities, with a long boardwalk on the ocean

and cafes and shops along the way. It is also home to what looks like a classic ivy league campus of Silliman University. We will visit the BUILD UU Philippines project. The mission of The Quimada Center project is to provide safe, affordable dormitory style housing for up to 180 women students attending school in any of Dumaguete's 4 Universities. Many come from surrounding islands and need a safe place to live. Proceeds from the dormitory will help create a stable financial future for the UU Church of the Philippines, Inc.

- Feb. 3 Travel south to Dauin, where we will visit an environmentally friendly bamboo factory, run by the NGO, Buglas Bamboo Institute, whose purpose is to provide a sustainable livelihood for the bamboo farmers as well as the factory workers. Their products, which include houses made of bamboo, have won awards for their superior quality and design and have focused a spotlight on bamboo and its diverse uses. We will spend the night at the lovely seaside resort where all of the furniture comes from the factory. This is a world-renowned diving location. We will stay for two nights. Optional dive tours can be arranged for individually.
- Feb 4. Caican BINHI Livelihood projects. Caican is two hours down the coast. This is a partnered church.
- Feb. 5 Return to Dumaguete. Visit to UU Church of the Philippines headquarters. Overnight at Southsea Resort in Dumaguete. Dinner on the waterfront in Dumaguete.
- Feb. 6 ICUUW Conference “**Transforming Women’s Lives through Livelihood Opportunities.**” Cost of one-day conference included in package price.



To register for the one-day conference only, go to www.icuuw.com

Cost: US\$1,380 double occupancy, includes a \$150 non-refundable registration fee, all ground transportation, all meals, domestic round trip air Manila/Dumaguete. All hotels based on shared rooms. Single supplement \$300. Does not include airfare to/from US to Manila. Does not include alcoholic beverages, insurance, or personal expenses like laundry, email, telephone or room service. \$500 payment due October 15. Remainder due November 15. Register at www.uupcc.org/travel