

School-based OMEP

Pilot-testing in Balagawan, Awayon, and
Sap-ang in November 5-7, 2008





School-based OMEP

Balagawan, Awayon, and Sap-ang Silago, Southern Leyte

- When: November 5-7, 2008
- What: Pilot testing of School-based OMEP
- For whom: Grades 5 and 6 classes
- Where: Balagawan Elementary School, Awayon Elementary School, Sap-ang Elementary School
- Teachers: Grace Quiton, Maricel Casicas (Balagawan), Dena Baguin (Awayon) and Marlon Lopez (Sap-ang)
- Curriculum used: Modified version of "My beautiful and fragile environment" by Sholeh Villoria
- Purpose of pilot testing: to determine the feasibility of program, the level of support of teachers, administrators, and the community.

Sap-ang Elementary School

- Grades 5 and 6 combination classes
- Teacher: Mr. Marlon Lopez
- Total of 18 pupils



Balagawan Elementary School

- Grades 5 and 6 Combination Class
 - Teacher: Mrs. Maricel Casicas
 - Total of 31 pupils
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Awayon Elementary School

- Grade 6 mono class
 - Teacher: Mrs. Dena Baguin
 - Total of 40 pupils
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Student Profile

- Belongs to a household that earns an average monthly income of P3000
- Parents' main source of livelihood—fishing and farming
- Attends **combination classes**¹ –Grades 5 and 6 in one classroom and taught by one teacher (except for Awayon)
- Majority exposed to television



Teacher's Needs and Concerns

- Finds combination classes the most difficult to handle and tries to make the best with whatever is at hand
- Needs instructional materials; a teacher is given one workbook for each subject; no other references are provided
- Barely manages to integrate marine ecology concepts in lessons given the heavy teaching load instituted by school curriculum



School Facilities and Situation

- Classrooms are well-ventilated and furnished with basic classroom facilities
- Each school has a TV and DVD player but are rarely used
- Marine-related science lessons and activities are not included in the school's Science Month
- No library



Response to OMEP Pilot Testing

- Students enthusiastically responded to the reef building arts session, demonstration of effects of pollution, and videos/photos of the marine life.
- Short clips of underwater videos proved to be a very effective means to make students appreciate marine life.



Response to OMEP Pilot Testing

- Teachers appreciated the lesson that particularly helped correct misconceptions about corals. One teacher, in fact, admitted that she once required her students to collect live hard corals for a project. It was only during the program that she realized how fragile and scarce corals are.



Response to OMEP Pilot Testing

- More insights from teachers and school administrators:
 - OMEP will help establish a culture of learning and exploration among students
 - OMEP can act as supplement educational program that should eventually be integrated in the science curriculum in the near future.
 - OMEP should be integrated in Science Month activities, and schools must be more actively involved in crafting instructional materials and marine ecology lessons.
 - Pilot testing of OMEP encouraged teachers to form an association to help establish the program (see Teachers for Ocean Action).





Needs of OMEP based on Results of Pilot Testing

- For OMEP to be truly significant and successful, teachers must be at its helm and should be given more resources and opportunities to allow them to lead, make decisions, be actively involved in shaping and facilitating OMEP.

ORC, therefore, needs to equip teachers with the following:

- Trainings in marine science and water safety and emergency management
- Networking and partnerships with other schools, universities, and organizations that can lend teachers their expertise and resources
- Volunteers (e.g students of marine biology programs) who can help them with teaching and facilitating activities



Needs of OMEP based on Results of Pilot Testing

- ORC needs to be equipped with the following materials, equipment, and facilities:
 - Media Technology (Television, DVD Players, LCDS, etc)
 - Educational materials, workbooks and references that can be used by children and teachers to craft own instructional materials
 - Life vests
 - Kids' Masks and Snorkels (that do not leak and must fit right)
 - Learning/Activity Area (see Ocean-Action Learning Center)