



WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CEPA  
INTERVENTION IN THIS TRIENNIUM?

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**Amy LECCIONES**  
CEPA NGO Focal Point, Philippines



#### Your Position/Role and Country:

Vice-President and Executive Officer,  
Society for the Conservation of  
Philippine Wetlands, Inc.

#### Title of your CEPA activity/ product

Candaba Wetlands Centre Design  
Competition

#### Other collaborators – please identify other organizations that assisted you or were your partners

Architecture Students Association  
of the Philippines (ASAPHIL UP-  
Diliman), UP College of Architecture,  
Unilever Philippines, Department of  
Environment and Natural Resources,  
TOTAL Philippines, G-Star Ventures

#### Key stakeholder group(s) targeted by your product/ activity (e.g. decision- makers, teachers, families, journalists etc.)

Students of Architecture, Landscape  
Architecture, Environmental  
Planners, and teachers/professors in  
the said courses

#### When did this event take place/when was your product launched?

December 2009 – May 2010

## What was your key message?

Architects, environmental  
planners and allied design  
professionals can contribute  
to wetlands conservation by  
using green and sustainable  
architectural principles for  
the development of the built  
environment.

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## Brief description of your product/ activity / material you used

The design competition was launched through a symposium attended by 256 students from 8 universities, and another 4 organisation, who were introduced to the concepts of sustainable architecture, wetland ecosystems and their functions to society, and the socio-cultural background of the locality by known experts. Soon after, a wetland site visit by 122 students followed. There, a seminar on the biological profile and initiatives being undertaken to conserve the area, a walking tour, and an open forum were held. As part of official World Wetlands Day activities, 26 initial design board entries were exhibited at the Parks and Wildlife Nature Centre under the theme of Architecture & Wetlands. Pre-judging of the entries coincided with the University of the Philippines College of Architecture 'Haraya' – a week showcasing the best of current innovative Philippine Architecture. Final judging was held at the School of Urban and Regional Planning of the University of the Philippines, where 10 finalists made their case for their designs to a panel representing the academe, private-sector, government, and NGOs. The winners were celebrated at an awarding ceremony that coincided with the International Day for Biodiversity and was attended by the press, civil society, NGOs, private-sector, and government. The winning entries were entitled: "Enclosed but not Closed", "Celebrating Confluence of Nature and Culture", and "Ecology + Individual = Organic Architecture". They were given cash awards and citations.

## What was your intended outcome from this product/activity? (e.g. change in behaviour of target group; volunteer help with a wetland project; newspaper article)

To make future generations of Architects in the country – key professionals in building industry, built environment and urban planning – have an experiential understanding and professional commitment to conserving wetlands.

## What kind of impact did this activity/product have on the target audience?

This design competition was the second competition of its kind. Since the first, and continuing with this current design competition, the college student contestants have either proceeded with focusing their dissertations on Wetland Centres or with related environmental issues or after graduation have worked in the architectural industry practising the knowledge they gained of the importance of wetlands ecosystems to society, while others have been awarded prestigious scholarships to further study architecture vis-à-vis the environment. The architectural drawings and models are now being used in preparation of actual planning and construction of the Candaba Wetland Centre.

## Is there a follow-up activity/product planned, if yes briefly describe

- Conduct of Master Planning and Feasibility Study in preparation for the actual construction of the Candaba Wetlands Centre

- Meanwhile, the ASAPHIL-UP and SCPW are collaborating to design two wetland centres in Lake Naujan and at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Centre.

## Why do you identify this as your best CEPA intervention? What makes it stand out?

This CEPA intervention is deemed the best because of the breadth, depth, and quality of participation and interaction with a unique audience, genuine commitment attained, as well as recognition as a Champion of Biodiversity by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

## What was the source of your funding?

Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc., Architectural Students Association of the Philippines (UP-Diliman Chapter), Unilever Philippines, School of Urban and Regional Planning (University of the Philippines), Solutions Using Renewable Energy, Inc., Total Philippines Corporation, The Manila North Tollways Corporation, Greenhub Environmental Solutions, Inc., WASH Philippines Coalition, Office for the Initiative of Culture and the Arts (University of the Philippines), Victory Liner, MicroCadd, Inc. Burby's Grill, and Nina's Itik, G-Star Ventures and Development Corporation,



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CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)