

CONVEYER

The Official Community Newsletter of Semirara Mining and Power Corporation in Semirara Island
Special 25th Anniversary Issue

April - December 2022





I have been with the company for a considerable amount of time, long enough to witness its evolution through different phases. I have experienced both difficult times and successes, and have been present to observe the company's journey from its humble beginnings to its current pinnacle of success.

As the company celebrates its 25th anniversary, I am aware that there are individuals who have been with the company since its foundation and will be recognized for their long years of service. In this issue, we will acknowledge these individuals who have dedicated their time and effort to help shape the company into what it is today.

I have also witnessed the development of Semirara Island and the host communities where SMPC has installed various facilities to provide basic services and recreational activities. This has made it unnecessary for residents to travel to distant municipalities.

As part of the company's commitment to give back to the community, it has implemented projects led by the Community Relations, Environment and Biodiversity, and Safety and Health departments.

A lot has happened in the past 25 years, and I believe that there will be much more to come as long as we maintain positive engagement with our employees and maintain strong partnerships with our regulators and host communities.

I am proud to say that SMPC has helped countless people improve their lives and achieve their aspirations. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, I believe that this is just the beginning of unlocking even more opportunities and success. May God bless SMPC!


Engr. Ruben P. Lozada
 Vice President for Mining Operations and Resident Manager

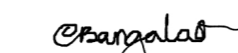


This year, Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) celebrates its 25th anniversary since its acquisition by DMCI Holdings, Inc. in 1997. We can all look back on the vital role that SMPC played in transforming Semirara Island from a sleepy town into a vibrant, resilient, and progressive community. This contribution is noteworthy as it aligns with the broader task of nation-building.

As the sole energy producer in the Philippines that extracts and employs its coal as its source of fuel, SMPC has leveraged this unique position that led to multiple breakthroughs. Over its years of operations, the company has received local and international recognition for adopting best practices in various areas, including community development, environmental sustainability, business sustainability, biodiversity, and good governance.

To celebrate this milestone, we hosted a variety of events and also extended invitations to our fellow Semirarahans, as well as the Municipal and Barangay Local Government Units to participate in the festivities. These activities included Bangkaton, Kalayaan Cup Swimming Competition, SMPC Billiard Chess and Darts Night, Laro ng Lahi, Motorcross and Bike Race, and an Octoberfest Cooking Contest, among others.

In the coming years, SMPC's dedication to promoting inclusive growth is expected to continue its positive impacts to its stakeholders and the communities where it operates.


Creslito D. Bangalao
 Deputy Manager for Administrative Division

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About the Cover:

As SMPC celebrates its silver anniversary, it reflects on its achievements in making a positive impact on the lives of its employees and host community.

Through job creation, sustainable support and development, and prioritizing employee interests, SMPC has consistently worked towards creating a better future for all. This issue encapsulates all of SMPC's activities during its celebration and acknowledges the significant milestone it has achieved over the past 25 years."

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CONVEYOR is a publication officially produced by Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) in partnership with the Department of Energy (DoE), and is based in Semirara Island. SMPC's main business location is situated on the 2nd floor of DMCI Plaza at 2281 Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City, Philippines (1231).

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SMPC champions Education with Karbon Competition

By: Sarah Jane R. Canabo

The Karbon Competition, a collaborative effort between SMPC and Divine Word School of Semirara Island, Incorporated (DWSSII), was held at the SMPC Foodcourt on December 14th to commemorate SMPC’s 25th anniversary.

The event aimed to educate students about SMPC’s operations, history, best practices, and corporate social responsibility.

DWSSII spearheaded the competition involving eight other elementary and secondary schools across Semirara Island. It included a quiz bee, spelling bee, and poster-slogan contest, allowing students to showcase their creativity and artistic talents in portraying SMPC’s contributions.

The competition winners were awarded a medals, trophies and cash prizes.

The success of this event demonstrates the strong partnership between SMPC and the island’s schools. This continuing engagement help address the educational gaps and raises the quality of education on the island.

The following are the results of the competition:



Villaresis Elementary School

- Renambe Gallido
- Stephanie Navarro

Semirara National High School

- Zarah Mae Andrade
- Carl John Magan

Quiz Bee Competition



Bunlao Elementary School

- Jeanice Mesullo
- Ajliyah Shanelle Mesullo

Semirara National High School

- Rachelle Anne Delos Santos
- Rexelyn Bilosa

Spelling Bee Competition



Semirara Elementary School

- Euhanna Denisse Colacion
- Czamantha Lareyn Fabian

Tinogboc National High School

- Rey Marangga
- Renel Jay Taro

Poster-Slogan Contest



SMPC brings Semiraranhons together through Boat Marathon

By: Rosemarie B. Cabaron

As part of its 25th-anniversary festivities, the “SMPC Bankaton 2022” boat marathon was held for the first time at the Pinaggala Pier in Semirara Island last June 5, 2022.

The boat marathon was originally an annual activity of the Semirara, Tinogboc, and Alegria Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs). It was adopted by SMPC in 2022, merging the three barangays in one competition.

Fiberglass banca racing was the event’s highlight, participated by some of the 75 fisherfolk beneficiaries of SMPC’s fiberglass banca project. Other race categories namely, de-kasko, de kasko na may pakpak, stepan, and sagwan were also enjoyed by the players. The Bankaton brought together SMPC employees, dependents, and Semirara Island residents for a day of fun, excitement, and camaraderie.

This watersport activity was made possible in collaboration with BLGU Emergency Response Teams, barangay workers, Philippine National Police, and the Philippine Coast Guard.





SMPC Launches Scubasurero Program & Coastal Clean-up Drive on Semirara Island

By: Allan T. Montero Jr.

Cleaning up our coastline is a shared responsibility for marine biodiversity. Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC), the Department of Energy (DoE), the Barangay Local Government of Semirara, and local volunteers from Sitio Villarises on Semirara Island came together for a Coastal Clean-up drive on October 17, 2022. The drive engaged employees, regulators, and 100 residents from host communities to clean and remove trash and marine debris along Pinagpala Pier.

The Environmental and Biodiversity Department led the activity as part of its commitment to environmental stewardship. On the same day, the department launched the Scubasurero Program, which aims to protect marine life and commits to regularly conducting underwater clean-ups to minimize trash and marine debris in the sea.

An Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign was conducted to increase the community's awareness of the extent of water pollution and marine life debris problems.

This program is part of SMPC's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), notably Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Climate Action (SDG 13).

Scubasureros on the Go!

8 SMPC employees, skilled in diving, descended underwater to participate in the launching of Scubasuro program.



71kg marine litters collected



431.6Kg coastal waste gathered





Members of the Women's Association of barangay Tinogboc in Semirara Island at the sewing center, tailoring their way to better lives through SMPC's dressmaking livelihood program.



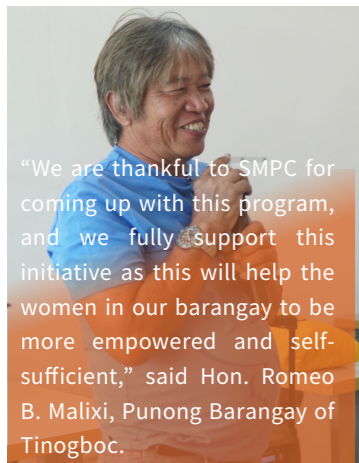
SMPC empowers women of Tinogboc with dressmaking and tailoring livelihood project

By: Allan T. Montero Jr.

Integrated energy company Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) boosts women empowerment in its host communities by expanding its dressmaking and tailoring livelihood program to the Women's Association of barangay Tinogboc in Semirara Island, in partnership with the Department of Energy (DoE) and the Local Government Unit of Tinogboc.

The provision of a suitable property, ten additional high-speed sewing machines, dressmaking, and tailoring training has so far enabled the women in the community to produce masks, rags, and other higher-value products such as SMPC uniforms, school uniforms, curtains, and teachers' uniforms, providing an additional source of income for their families. Further financial management and marketing strategy workshops will also be provided to develop their income-generating capacity. The dressmaking and tailoring livelihood project targets to operate in full swing by the first quarter of 2023.

This project replicates the Barangay Semirara dressmaking livelihood program initiated in 2019, with SMPC providing ten high-speed sewing machines and establishing a women's cooperative, which now has 14 active members and generated over Php1.6M in revenue.



"We are thankful to SMPC for coming up with this program, and we fully support this initiative as this will help the women in our barangay to be more empowered and self-sufficient," said Hon. Romeo B. Malixi, Punong Barangay of Tinogboc.



*This article was featured in Panay News, Incorporated, a regional newsletter based in Ilo-ilo, Philippines, In January 2023.



SMPC, medical volunteers serve 787 Semiraranhons

A total of 787 residents of Semirara Island in Caluya, Antique benefited from the one-day joint medical mission conducted by the St. Padre Pio Contemplative Prayer Group-Bacolod City (SPPCPG-Bacolod), Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) and the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) on August 20, 2022.

SMPC, together with the BLGUs Barangay Health Workers and staff, were all hands on deck to assist in making the event successful and ensuring that COVID-19 health protocols were properly observed.

The 39-strong medical team consisted of volunteer doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals, with 32 from SPPCPG-Bacolod and seven from SMPC Infirmary. Free medical services included pediatric check-ups, eye and other general consultations, while 15 minor surgeries involved the excision of lymphoma, sebaceous cysts as well as breast mass. Vitamin supplements, maintenance medicines, and eyeglasses were also distributed for free.

SMPC provided an accessible venue, free laboratory expenses, additional medicines and supplies, as well as the visiting mission team's housing, accommodation, and transportation. BLGU Semirara provided free transportation for the beneficiaries to and from the venue.

"Those who availed the medical mission belong to the vulnerable and economically disadvantaged sectors, like senior citizens, children, and members of their coastal fishing community. Although basic health services are available on the island, the augmentation of medical services by SMPC and private groups like SPPCPG-Bacolod are always welcome," Liga President/Barangay Captain Catherine "Kikai" Lim of Barangay Semirara said.



Making a difference

Dr. Norma Legislador, founder of SPPCPG-Bacolod, explained that the event marked their group's first medical mission since the COVID-19 pandemic and is part of the advanced commemoration of the feast day of St. Padre Pio on September 23.



"It is very rewarding to make a difference in other people's lives. You know that by leaving your comfortable house and clinic for three days, traveling 14 hours by land and sea, performing surgery for 30 minutes that will solve someone's long-term health problem, that thought alone will make you feel good," said Dr. Jundad.



Michael Sta. Maria of Barangay Alegria was among the minor surgery patients. Several sebaceous cysts on his body were excised by SPPCPG-Bacolod's surgeon, Dr. Jundad Legislador, who was assisted by SMPC Infirmary's Dr. Paul Jude Melsam Aquino and nurses.



Another resident, Roseller Domingo of Barangay Tinogboc, said that the medical mission eased the burden on his family for needed prescription medicines and supplements. "Nagpapasalamat ako dahil isa ako sa maraming natulungan. Pati asawa ko nakapagpasukat ng mata," he added.



SMPC maintains and operates a 15-bed infirmary with basic and ancillary medical services such as laboratory, x-ray, dental, and pharmacy on Semirara Island. It also provides free medical consultation services to the local residents.

This year, SMPC celebrates its 25th anniversary since the acquisition and management control by parent company DMCI Holdings, Inc. in 1997.

**This article was featured in Panay News, Inc., a regional newsletter based in Ilo-ilo, Philippines, in September 2022*



Semirara Island Community Comes Together for Emergency Action Group Training

By: Iryne L. Ysug & Richelle Joy Javier

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC), in partnership with the International Disaster and Response Network (IDRN), the Municipal Local Government of Caluya, and the Barangay Local Government Units of Semirara, Tinogboc, and Alegria, conducted the Semirara Island Emergency Action Group Training from November 24 to 28, 2022.

The training was part of SMPC's 25th-anniversary lineup of activities and aimed to achieve zero casualties in case of any disaster on Semirara Island. Participants included SMPC employees, community residents, and key community groups.

The five-day event focused on retraining and assessing the management team and emergency responders from local organizations to enhance their skills in responding to emergencies.

To achieve this, coordination and interoperability mechanisms were developed among the stakeholders on the island, and the competency of the response group was tested through a rescue and lifesaving competition called Rescuree. The exercises also reinforced Community-Based Disaster Preparedness.



The training covered various emergency scenarios such as Emergency Medical Response, Collapse Search and Rescue, Water Search and Rescue, Firefighting, Search Rescue Retrieval and Recovery, and High and Low Angle Rescue, which IDRN demonstrated.

The various training sessions were held at different SMPC facilities such as the Foodcourt, Olympic-size Swimming Pool, Sports Complex, Old Main Workshop, and Oval.

A total of 266 participants were led by the SMPC Emergency Response Team and Community Relations Department.





John Leo B. Obina
Mr. Ambassador
2022

Kimberly M. Galleros
Ms. Ambassador
2022

The event coincided with the 25th anniversary of the company.

SMPC and DWSSII partner to find youth leaders in campus tilt

By: Allan T. Montero Jr.

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC), the only vertically integrated energy company in the Philippines, has teamed up with Divine Word School of Semirara Island, Inc. (DWSSII) to host “Mr. and Ms. Ambassador 2022,” a search for youth leaders held at the SMPC Foodcourt on June 26, 2022.

The contest aims to find talented students who will promote SMPC’s initiatives as a responsible mining company and highlight its contributions to its host Communities.

Contestants had the opportunity to showcase SMPC’s facilities, environmental programs, and community and sustainable livelihood projects. The winners received cash prizes and trophies, and will serve as SMPC’s youth ambassadors for a year. As ambassadors, they will participate in the company’s various social programs, including environmental conservation activities, community development programs, and educational campaigns.

SMPC has significantly contributed to the island’s development, particularly in education, health, livelihood, and environmental sustainability. The company has provided scholarships, built schools and health centers, conducted medical missions, and implemented livelihood and community projects.

Since 2003, SMPC has extended educational assistance and support that benefited 1,172 high school graduates from SMPC dependents and economically disadvantaged communities.

The competition has highlighted SMPC’s efforts in spearheading inclusive growth, proving that responsible mining can coexist with sustainable development.



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

At SMPC, we prioritize gender equality in the workplace, acknowledging the worth of all individuals we collaborate with and serve. We strive to foster a work environment where our employees and workers can advance their careers while feeling secure and respected.

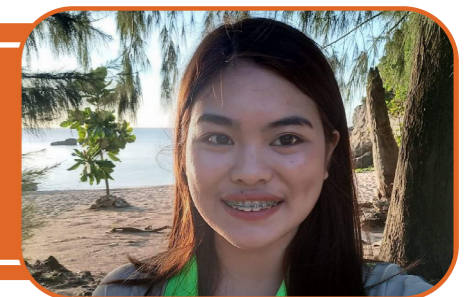
Our efforts have been recognized, as SMPC has been honored as one of the four companies in the Philippines named in the 2022 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index, which encompasses 418 companies spanning 45 countries and regions.

The following colleagues have shared their views on the importance of gender equality in the workplace.



“I feel proud to be employed by a company that encourages and supports women to take on leadership roles and attain success. Women’s voices have been suppressed throughout history, but I’m glad it is changing. As a supervisor in the Human Resources Department, I recognize and appreciate the efforts of the women who paved the way for me and others to hold influential societal positions. I am dedicated to promoting gender equality in all HR processes and initiatives to continue paving the way for women who come after me.” - Helga Sablas, HR Supervisor

Gender doesn’t limit your potential. As a woman, I had equal opportunities to become a section-in-charge in the Electrical Services Dept. at SMPC. My contributions are acknowledged, and the company promotes gender equality. - Resa L. Palapo, Acting Foreman



Throughout history, men have dominated society while women have been confined to the domestic sphere. However, women’s demand for a space where their voices could be heard led to the recognition of gender equality in today’s society. At SMPC, gender equality is promoted to create a non-discriminatory workplace. - Allan T. Montero Jr., IEC Specialist

As female welders, we possess the same qualities of patience and perseverance as our male counterparts. We’re capable of handling all types of welding work, including arc welding, cutting, measuring, and heating bolts. At Semirara Mining and Power Corporation, gender doesn’t determine the skill level of a welder; both men and women are equally skilled and valued. Let’s break the stereotype that welding is a man’s job and embrace the fact that women can do it just as well.” - Cristine Rose Malanao, Welder



Celebrating Loyalty and Dedication: SMPC Honors Long-Serving Employees in Service Awards



By: Eugene S. Colacion

In celebration of its silver anniversary, integrated energy company Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) honored its employees who have served the company for 25 years or more. The event was held on December 12, 2022, at SMPC's Foodcourt.

The company has faced various challenges throughout its years in operations, and its workforce has played a crucial role in overcoming these difficulties. It acknowledges that its successes would be improbable without the support of its long-serving employees.

SMPC's commitment to its employees has been a core value of the company, inspiring loyalty and trust. The employees feted in the ceremony have witnessed the ups and downs of the company and remained dedicated in their service.

The employees received plaques of recognition and cash incentives during the event, which was presided by the Vice President for Operations and Resident Manager Engr. Ruben P. Lozada, along with Minesite Department Heads.

Almar G. Valdemar, Human Resources Head for Operations, lauded the employees' commitment to the company.

"This initiative aims to recognize our dedicated employees who have been with the company since its humble beginnings. Through this, we can show our employees how much we value them and appreciate their efforts in helping this company grow and become successful," she said.



List of SMPC Employees with 25+ Years of Service

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| ABOS, FEDERITO GERVACIO | ELE |
| BRITANIA, EDGAR DELOS REYES | ELE |
| CELO, JERRY OLAC | ELE |
| MAGBANUA, GERRY DELEJERO | ELE |
| PAMOTILLO, HENRY CASERA | ELE |
| VILLANIS, FEODOR OLIVA JR | ELE |
| DIAZ, JANESTO SENATO JR | ENVI |
| NABIONG, ERNESTO PERALTA | GEO |
| UDANI, MAXIMO URBANO | MCD |
| BALASABAS, ARIEL RODREGUEZ | MOB |
| BATBAT, ARIEL TAHOD | MOB |
| ESCALONA, EDWARD QUIOD | MOB |
| GODMALIN, FLORIANO VALMORA | MOB |
| ROSALEJOS, SOFRONIO NAVARRO JR | MOB |
| AVENIDO, ROGELIO PADING | MSD |
| BALLEZA, VICENTE SAGRE | MSD |
| OLLOSA, JOEMARI ONATE | MSD |
| ONATE, NICOLAS CABUGUASON | MSD |
| SALAVER, ANTHONY SADIASA | MSD |
| TAMAYO, TERESO DEDELS | MSD |
| OLIVEROS, HERNANE LABIAO JR | MTS |
| PONSICA, EDEN DEL CARMEN | PRD |
| NARCISO, JORGE MAGLANTAY | PRD |
| BALBUENA, JAN NILLAS | PWR PLNT |
| LASPIÑAS, ALEJANDRO TE | PWR PLNT |
| SUDARIA, REYNALDO MONTEBON | PWR PLNT |
| RENDON, CYRIL TAMBA | PWR PLNT |
| CALINOG, RAYMUNDO PAGUIA JR | MTSO |



Ms. Eden Del Carmen Ponsica, the only woman among the 28 SMPC employees who celebrated their 25th anniversary in the company.

25
Years



SMPC Celebrates Silver Anniversary and Semirara Island Coal Festival 2022 with a Kiddie Party

By: Rachele N. Lauricio

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) celebrated its 25th anniversary and annual Semirara Island Coal Festival by hosting a kiddie party for 150 indigent children at the SMPC Food Court on December 13, 2022.

The event, organized with the help of the Barangay Local Government Unit of Semirara, aimed to spread holiday cheer to kids.

The party featured a reading of “Ang Paaralan ni Tatay,” a storybook published by Adarna Publishing House that depicts the daily life of an SMPC employee through the eyes of his son. The book was read by Punong Barangay, Hon. Catherine Lim.

In addition, kiddie meals were distributed to the children, and the Community Relations staff and barangay officials donned costumes to entertain them.



OIC-Community Relations, Rachele Ann N. Lauricio, announced that the event would become an annual activity of the department, in addition to the Semirara Island Coal Festival held every December.

Hon. Lim expressed her appreciation to the company for bringing joy to the indigent children and is looking forward to next year’s event.



The event featured a variety of traditional Filipino games, including “Tumbang Preso,” “Kadang-kadang,” “Pulboron,” “Luksong Tinik,” “Palo-Sebo,” and more. There was also a trivia game on SMPC.

Reviving Filipino Heritage: SMPC’s Laro ng Lahi Promotes Community Unity

By: Allanibeth G. Vargas

In a world where digital devices have become the norm, Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) has taken a step back in time to revive traditional Filipino games. On August 28, 2022, SMPC organized a day of fun and games for its employees and Semirara residents, featuring various traditional games that Filipinos have enjoyed for generations.

Led by Creslito Bangalao, SMPC Admin Deputy Manager, and the Admin team, the “Laro ng Lahi” event aimed to promote unity and camaraderie among stakeholders by reviving traditional childhood games. To make the event a success, the team collaborated with heads of offices, employees, and the Barangay Local Government Unit of Semirara to ensure that everyone had a fun and memorable experience.

The SMPC Park was turned into a massive playground, with employees and locals running, strategizing, laughing, and cheering for their friends and neighbors. The winners were given certificates and tokens, while the company provided food and logistical support.

SMPC has consistently made the welfare of its employees and host communities a top priority. This has been reflected in the company’s numerous social projects, community development, and livelihood initiatives. By organizing this event, SMPC provided a day of enjoyment while also supporting the preservation of Filipino heritage and promoting community solidarity and teamwork.



