

FIELD TRIP

On the last day of the Regional Technical Consultation, the participants visited the Banacon Mangrove Reforestation Project in Banacon Island, Getafe, Bohol, the biggest mangrove reforestation project in Asia. The project was started in 1957 by the late Mr. Eugenio Paden and because of his initiatives, he was given the DENR Likas-Yaman Award in 1991 and the Outstanding Tree Farmer Award in 1991 by FAO in Bangkok, Thailand.

Banacon Island had 196 households in 2000 and doubled in 2004. The community is dependent on the mangrove plantation for firewood, poles and other timber construction materials needed for their dwellings, and also on the marine resources in the area such as fish, shells, crabs and other mollusks and crustaceans for food. In 1999, the community started seaweed culture along the mangrove highway and foot trails in the mangrove plantation area. During the field trip, the participants experienced cruising the ‘mangrove highway by boat’ with the vast mangroves covering both sides of the so-called mangrove highway.

The field trip also took the participants to Bohol’s pride – the Chocolate Hills even if the hills looked green because of the rains. The long stretch of Nipa plantation in Calape and along the Loboc River where the famous tarsiers thrive, is the source of livelihood by Boholanos. Most women can make seventy thatches of nipa leaves per day while men produce tuba from its sap.

Regional Technical Consultation participants during their visit of the Banacon Mangrove Reforestation Area

