



JJCISI

THE PRESENT MOMENT IS CRUCIAL
THE WORK TO BE DONE IS URGENT

Annual Report 2016



Our Vision

A Filipino society that upholds the dignity and nature of the human person with a special concern for improving the quality of life of the poor

Our Mission

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching, we catalyze critical thinking, discussion and action principally through advocacy-oriented research and capacity building to bring about ethically informed choices and effective solutions to poverty.

Our Work

The John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (JJCISI) is an organization and community of professional researchers and advocates committed to faith that does justice. Working in solidarity with the Church and various sectors, JJCISI strives to respond to the issues and concerns of the poor.

JJCISI's efforts also focus strategically on capacitating local actors as an added dimension to the research and advocacy work for which the Institute is known. The Institute's programs continue to undertake research-based policy advocacy but they have also ventured into engaging in projects that benefit the urban and rural poor, women and children, and local communities in environmentally vulnerable areas. At the same time, they are engaged in mentoring, training, providing consulting services, and the production of manuals, templates and other tools to facilitate and make more effective the development of pro-poor projects on the ground.

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees

The year 2016 had been generally rough, not so much for JJCICSI but more for the country. The first half of the year was devoted largely to campaign activities at the national and local settings. The campaign tactics and strategies during the elections were, for the first time, offensive and distasteful as candidates harshly threw invectives at one another to discredit their opponents in mainstream and social media.

When President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was installed as president in June 2016, majority of Filipinos (even those who did not vote for him) welcomed the “change” he had promised, primarily with his commitment to put an end to the drug menace and to continue the fight against corruption. What followed in the second semester of the year though was a spate of killings related to the drug war that resulted in almost 6,000 deaths in a span of six months. Some 2,000 were killed during police operations while the other 4,000 were extra-judicially performed. Almost all cases victimized the poor. In the battle against corruption, a couple of high officials facing corruption charges filed under the previous administration was absolved and freed, instead of being subjected to trial.

To provide an analysis of the Duterte administration in dealing with the drug and corruption issues and other socio-political concerns, the staff members of JJCICSI decided to meet on a regular basis to discuss and assess the accomplishments (and non-accomplishments) of the government from the perspective of Catholic social teaching. And so



was born a new and regular feature at the JJCICSI website called “Lights and Shadows”.

I am therefore happy to report that in more than three decades of JJCICSI’s advocacy-oriented research and capacity building work, we strive to remain relevant and to present our work in creative and innovative ways. Only two years ago, in light of the needs of our partners, the Philippine bishops in particular, the institute launched a four-page quarterly publication called the *Intersect Quick Facts* which presents fast facts, figures and analysis on pertinent and urgent social issues.

JJCICSI’s four programs continue to generate studies and engage stakeholders in advocating for policies and programs aimed at uplifting the lives of the rural and urban poor, children in difficult circumstances, and families.

We hence take this opportunity to thank our funders, benefactors, and partners once more for their continuing support and generosity in our work. We also dedicate our humble work to the late Fr. John J. Carroll SJ (our founder, mentor and loving friend), in the same way that we always seek his intercession to help us persevere in our mission, and make manifest God’s love and mercy through the Church’s presence in society.

Yours truly in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor C. De Jesus'.

FR. VICTOR C. DE JESUS, S.J.

Major Activities in 2016

The work of JJCICSI for 2016 was influenced mainly by two developments: (1) formal launch of the Road Map of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus; and (2) national and local elections in 2016.

The Mindanao Series

With Mindanao as the primary focus of the Province's work for the next five years, the Institute organized forums on key developments and issues in Mindanao, primarily to allow the staff members to become more aware of the situation in the island region:

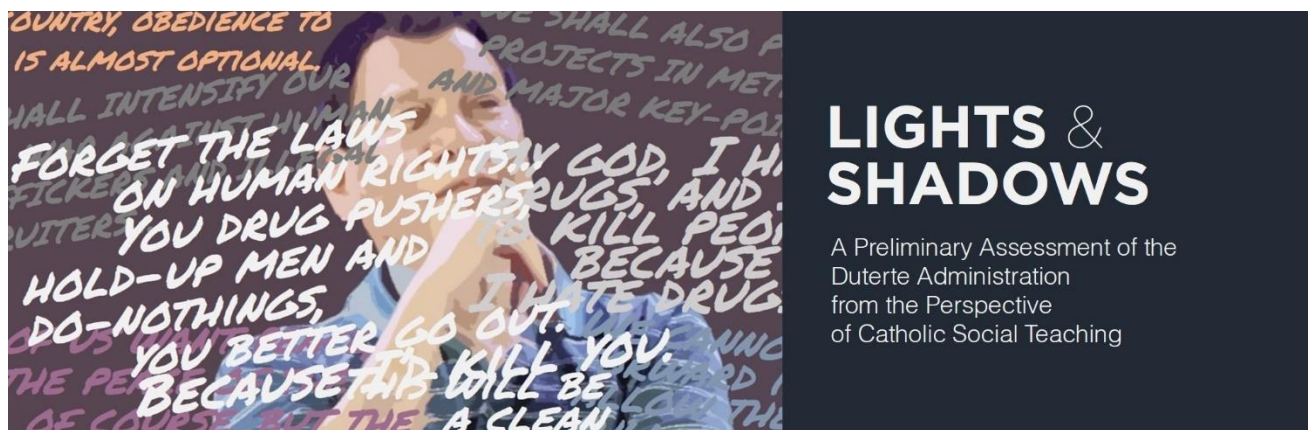


- *A Continuing Presence in Mindanao's Tumultuous History: How the Catholic Church's Mission Interfaced with Mindanawon Realities from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial Epoch* with Bro. Karl Gaspar, C.Ss.R. Co-organized with the Loyola School of Theology, the forum drew almost 200 individuals.
- *Becoming Bangsamoro: The History, Aspirations, and Prospects of the Muslims of Mindanao* with Atty. Raissa Jajurie. The forum on the was a joint activity of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies and JJCICSI. Students of interdisciplinary studies and political science from the Ateneo de Manila University listened to the lecture.
- *Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) in Mindanao* by Fr. Amado Picardal, C.Ss.R. This forum was organized with the Loyola School of Theology as one of its Theological Hour.

Lights & Shadows: the Duterte Administration from the Perspective of Catholic Social Principles

The national situation has been dynamic and nerve-wracking, to say the least, since the election of former Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte as President of the Philippines in May 2016. The alarming number of killings related to the so-called war against crime and drugs, tirades and foul remarks and insinuations of government officials about

critics (especially women), and the confusing policy pronouncements of President Duterte prompted the JJCICSI staff (initially with Fr. Provincial Antonio Moreno and Professors Benjamin Tolosa and Philip Randolph Tuaño of the Ateneo de Manila) to conduct regular discussions on various current issues. The product of these formal discussions is a running assessment of the Duterte administration, called *Lights and Shadows*, based on the perspective of Catholic social principles. This was begun in August 2016. The results of these discussions—in matrix form, as well as on the website—have been used as a reference by members of the Ateneo community in their classes as well as in their discussions, by some JJCICSI partners, and by a professor at the St. Vincent School of Theology.



Other Institutional Activities

Isiwalat ang Lihim! Mga Panlipunang Prinsipyong Katoliko sa Ating Gawain at Pamayanan



In celebration of its 32nd anniversary in August 2016, JJCICSI conducted a seminar on CST principles for partner organizations. Dubbed "*Isiwalat ang Lihim! Mga Panlipunang Prinsipyong Katoliko sa Ating Gawain at Pamayanan* (Spill the Secret! Catholic Social Principles in Our Work and Community)," the seminar sought to present Catholic social principles as a set of universal standards against which Catholics and non-Catholics alike can measure the quality and meaning of their work, as well as of the social, political, and economic structures within which they live. Professors from the

Department of Theology of the Ateneo de Manila University served as resource speakers.

Intersect Quick Facts (IQF)

In 2016, JJCICSI published two issues of the IQF: *Women in Extremely Difficult Circumstances* in June and *Children and the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility* in September. Copies were distributed to long-term partner organizations, diocesan social action centers, women’s groups, NGOs, and legislators. With resources from various child rights groups, close to 8,000 copies of the IQF on the MACR were printed and distributed.



Commentaries

10

articles in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, for an average of 1,230 shares per article; the most shared article was shared 6,475 times.

153

articles in *Veritas Editorial*

Statements

The institution participated in the drafting of a statement co-authored with two other Jesuit social apostolates, Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB) and the Institute of Social Order (ISO), opposing the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* (“the Cemetery of Heroes”) based on Catholic social principles.



Church and Society Program

The Church and Society Program aims to deepen the understanding of the role of the Catholic Church in Philippine society, with an emphasis on the dissemination of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Recognizing the crucial role that the Catholic Church has played in influencing Philippine social, political, and economic issues, the program seeks to foster reflection on the interface between the Philippine Church and society.

Research

Knowledge Needs, Acquisition, and Use Among the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines

The study, conducted in partnership with the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila University, investigated knowledge needs and practices among the Catholic bishops, as well as their answers to the Vatican questionnaire in preparation for the 2014 Extraordinary Synod on the Family and their views on pastoral care around questions of sexual and reproductive ethics raised in that questionnaire. A summary of the main results of this study, on the bishops' knowledge needs and practices, was presented to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) at its 112th Plenary Assembly on January 24, 2016. A report on the bishops' views on pastoral care around issues of sexual and reproductive ethics was presented to a select group of 17 bishops on January 25, 2016.



The Public Engagement of Catholic Bishops of the Philippines on Issues of the Environment, Family, and Corruption

This paper was written as JJCICSI's contribution to a 9-country research consortium on "Religion, Public Policy, and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia," headed by the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS). Also derived from data gathered in the study on "Knowledge Needs, Acquisition, and Use among the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines," the paper described different modes of engagement in the public sphere focusing on three issues that most of the bishops participating in the study had identified as priorities: the environment, the family, and corruption. An initial version of the paper was presented at a workshop, co-sponsored with the IPC, titled "The Public Sphere Engagement of

Catholic Bishops of the Philippines on Selected Categories of Social Issues,” to about 30 participants from the academe, government, and nongovernment and Church organizations working on one or another of the three issues. A second version of the paper was presented to the consortium on Religion, Public Policy, and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia at its conference in Bangkok, Thailand on May 17, 2016, to about 30 participants from the academe, government, nongovernment organizations and research institutes, and religious organizations in Southeast Asia.



Capacity Building

Evaluation Tool Based on Catholic Social Principles

Based on a general evaluation tool based on Catholic social principles that was devised in 2015, four evaluation tools, one for each program at the institute, were finalized prior to the seminar on CST principles, “*Isawalat ang Lihim!*” held on July 28, 2016. The evaluation tools were tested in five workshop groups involving the 40 participants in the seminar, representing 20 long-term and potential partner organizations and networks of the Institute. The results of the workshop indicated that while many principles are already being practiced by these partner organizations, there is room for deepening the understanding of these principles and their implications for the work for just social transformation, as well as for internal institutional practices.

Advocacy

Presentations of “Lights and Shadows: The Duterte Administration from the Perspective of Catholic Social Teaching”

To propagate Catholic social principles as standards against which to evaluate government policies and programs, four presentations of “Lights and Shadows: The Duterte Administration from the Perspective of Catholic Social Teaching” were made to various audiences. These included (1) about 100 students of the University of the Philippines at a talk sponsored by University of the Philippines Student Catholic Action (UPSCA) in September 2016; (2) about 30 professionals from various nongovernment and government organizations, sponsored by the People’s Alternative Study Center for Research in Social Development (PASCRES); (3) about 50 employees of Assumption College in November 2016; (4) about 15 members of the National



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UP STUDENT CATHOLIC ACTION

Capital Region-National Cluster of the Philippine-MISEREOR Partnership, Inc. (PMPI), all in November 2016.

Resources provided to scholars and others

The program provided information on Catholic aid practices in the Philippines to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), an international Catholic aid organization, in February 2016, in preparation for the establishment of its Philippine section. The research associate of the program was also a resource person for interviews by the following: (1) the *Guidon*, the student newspaper of the Ateneo de Manila University, on JJCICSI's assessment of the Duterte administration, in September 2016; (2) Dr. Alicja Curanovic, a religion scholar, on the Roman Catholic Church and the idea of the nation in the Philippines, in September 2016; (3) Dr. David Buckley, a US State Department consultant, on the Roman Catholic Church and the Duterte administration, in November 2016; and (4) Mr. David Timberman, a governance scholar, on the Catholic Church's interventions in poverty alleviation, in December 2016.

Participation in various fora and workshops

The research associate of the program participated as a reactor on March 6, 2016 in a discussion on "Ignatian Leadership" for about 100 alumni of the Ateneo de Manila University, with a focus on the 2016 elections.

In collaboration with the Ateneo de Manila University's Office of the Vice-President for Social Development and the university's Economics Department, the program helped to organize a forum on "Democracy and Duterte" on August 14, 2016 for about 100 members of the university community, university alumni, and social apostolates of the Society of Jesus.

The program also participated in the following conferences and discussions: (1) a series of discussions on gender issues in the electoral campaign in April 2016; (2) a Roundtable Discussion on Justice in the Global Economy, in April 2016; (3) the Cross-National Reception of *Laudato Si'*, in June 2016; (4) Connecting Peacewomen, on gender and peace efforts, in June 2016; (5) Gender and Ecclesiology (International conference of *Damdaming Katoliko sa Teolohiya* and the European Society for Catholic Theology) in July 2016; (6) the Fiscalizers' Forum (on the role of civil society under the Duterte administration) in August 2016; (7) a roundtable discussion on what the Church should do vis-a-vis the Duterte administration's campaign against drugs in November 2016.

Family Life Program

Through research, advocacy, and direct services, the Family Life Program assists the Catholic Church in addressing the social and spiritual needs of Filipino families, especially those in underprivileged communities.

The program aims to influence Church and State policy on issues affecting population and family life, work with government and non-government agencies to promote juvenile justice, and assist Filipino families in poor communities through scholarships, feeding programs, and natural family planning seminars for couples.

Research

Shepherding Families in Asia: Understanding the Situation of Families in Asia

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC), through Bp. Mylo Hubert Vergara, DD, requested the assistance of JJCICSI to organize and analyze the survey data gathered from nine (out of 19) FABC member-countries (Bangladesh, India, East Malaysia, West Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) on the real-life situations of today's families, specifically in Asia, and help the Asian bishops understand the challenges that families face on marriage and family life. The paper on the results of the FABC survey was presented during its four-day conference held in May 2016 in Thailand.

Advocacy

Children Not Criminals: Campaign Against the Lowering of the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

JJCICSI was among the lead organizations that spearheaded the campaign to block the passage of bills lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) from 15 to 9 years old. It helped organized meetings with legislators, CSOs, and other duty bearers; attended committee hearings at the House of Representatives; and drafted the position paper of the campaign. The briefing kits it prepared for legislators and duty bearers included the *Intersect Quick Facts* on the MACR. Together with the networks (the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders [PAYO], Child Rights Network [CRN], and Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child [CRC Coalition]), the Institute organized community briefing



sessions to explain the need to focus on improving the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA) instead of “labelling” children as young as nine as criminals. It engaged media outfits to inform the public on why the MACR should not be lowered.

Management of the Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

JJCICSI served as the holder of project of the Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Coalition) with Save the Children. The project monitors the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in the Philippines. Activities included overseeing the completion of all the deliverables under the project, supervising the secretariat, and leading the activities of the Systems Working Group.



Capacity Building

Strengthening Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPC)

After a series of training with BCPCs in Valenzuela City and Muntinlupa City, JJCICSI established contacts with four barangáy chairpersons in Sampaloc, Manila (i.e., Barangáys 412, 409, 405 and 407) from June to July 2016 to discuss the situation of children in the communities and the training needs of BCPC members. A project proposal was developed and submitted to a prospective funder.

Promotion of Restorative Justice and Positive Discipline

JJCICSI conducted seminars on restorative justice with various groups: (1) guidance counselors of the Department of Education and Chiefs of Division of Schools in the National Capital Region; (2) members of the Integrated Correctional Association of the Philippines (ICAP); and (3) members of community groups assisted by the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF). Positive discipline seminars, on the other hand, were conducted with the (1) staff of youth homes in Mandaluyong City and Valenzuela City and (2) mothers from the Our Lady of Pentecost Parish in Quezon City.

Technical assistance for the Department of Education

The Institute assisted the Department of Education (DepEd) in finalizing its guidelines in handling children at risk (CAR) and children in conflict with the law (CICL) and in reviewing the department’s training manual for the Specialized Training Course for DepEd Child Protection Specialists.



Promotion of Responsible Parenthood and Natural Family Planning

Through the Responsible Parenthood—All-Natural Family Planning (RP-ANFP) Network, JJCICSI continued its contribution to promoting family planning methods, which the Catholic Church recognizes as respectful of God’s design for married love. The Institute took part in the activities of the network to gain government support (particularly the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Population Commission) for NFP. It also provided technical support to NFP centers in various parishes and barangays in Quezon City and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

Urban Poverty and Governance Program

The Urban Poverty and Governance Program addresses urban poverty and its principal manifestation – the lack of access to humane and secure housing. Through research and advocacy, the program aims to alleviate urban poverty by empowering urban poor groups to work for better urban governance.

Research

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project

As the project’s external monitoring agency for the implementation of the resettlement action plan of a flood control project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), JJCICSI monitored the situation of informal settler families who had been relocated from the banks of Pasig River in Manila to three off-city resettlement sites in Bulacan. In 2016, JJCICSI submitted the last two monitoring reports (Sixth Monitoring Report covering April-July and Seventh Monitoring Report covering October-December). The findings of the monitoring reports were presented and submitted to the DPWH, the CTI Engineering International Co., Ltd, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



This longitudinal monitoring project showed that although the relocated project-affected families saw an improvement in housing conditions and safety, they continue to endure the effects of the loss of livelihood and income, disrupted access to basic services, and erosion of social capital. The findings revealed the negative outcomes of off-city resettlement, also bolstering JJCICSI’s and its partners’ advocacy for a housing policy that favors in-city housing.

Stocktaking of the Metro Manila Citywide Development Approach to Informal Settlement Upgrading Project

JJCICSI wrote the stocktaking report on the Citywide Development Approach to Informal Settlement Upgrading Project, an undertaking supported by the World Bank and the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The report documented the experiences of the NGO and PO implementers in three pilot cities (Quezon City, Caloocan City, and Muntinlupa City) in creating conditions that will enable informal settler communities to demand for land, housing, tenure, and services. The



project aimed to demonstrate the citywide strategy as a viable approach to planning and implementing informal settlement upgrading that enables the government to achieve scale in a timely manner

Monitoring and Evaluation of Post-Yolanda Relief and Rehabilitation Project of PHILSSA in the Calamianes Group of Islands

JJCICSI developed templates for data-gathering as well as “dashboards” containing data and information about project beneficiaries to assist the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) in monitoring the progress of its interventions (livelihood assistance, house reconstruction, community organizing) for families and communities affected by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. The project covered 27 barangáys (including remote island-barangáys) in 4 municipalities in the Calamianes Group of Islands in the province of Palawan.

Inputs to the Urban Community-Driven Development (Urban CDD) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Together with the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila University, JJCICSI prepared a paper reviewing experiences of community-led initiatives of urban poor communities and deriving lessons that could be adopted in the design of the Urban CDD Program.

Advocacy

Secretariat assistance for the NCR Cluster of the Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) and for Urban Poor Alliance (UP-ALL) Mega Manila

JJCICSI continued providing secretariat support to the PHILSSA NCR Cluster which comprises 21 NGOs working on various urbanization issues such as housing, health, and environment. As the secretariat of UP-ALL Mega Manila, the Institute coordinated meetings that served as a venue for POs and NGOs to discuss pressing concerns of informal settlers, including the spate of killings in urban poor communities resulting from the Duterte administration’s “war on drugs.” JJCICSI also disseminated data that could help in the advocacy work of PHILSSA and UP-ALL members such as the status of Oplan LIKAS, the National Government’s relocation program for informal settler families along major waterways of Metro Manila. In June 2016, UP-ALL members from different parts of the country gathered for a general assembly, which JJCICSI documented and facilitated.



Advocacy for government to address plight of resettled families

JJCICSI provided technical advice to the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) in lobbying with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the allocation of an additional budget in 2016 for the improvement of facilities in 20 resettlement areas where informal settler families from danger areas have been relocated. The Institute was also part of a group convened by the PCUP that drafted a "Resettlement Bill" which included amendments to the implementing guidelines on provisions in the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) on resettlement.

Symposium on the "Structure and Transformation of Urban Bottom of Metro Manila Informal Settlement, Relocation Site, and Street"

In November 2016, JJCICSI gathered academics and social development workers for a symposium that aimed to present to an audience of NGOs and academics various facets of urban poverty in the Philippines—women, workers, and street homeless—through the eyes of non-Filipinos. A group of Japanese scholars from the Institute of Social Theory and Dynamics presented the findings of their studies funded by the Education Ministry of Japan.



Rural Development Program

The Rural Development Program recognizes that most of the Filipino poor live in rural areas. It also sees that the lack of access to land and other productive resources hinders the rural poor from participating in economic activities to improve their incomes. In the face of formidable structures that perpetuate poverty in the countryside, the program sets its sight on alternatives, substitutes or options that would address the issue of access, along with control and management of resources.

Research

Philippine Agrarian Reform Law from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988 to Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Extension and Reforms (CARPER) of 2009

This research is part of a bigger study titled "From Sharecropping and Tenancy to Ownership: Agrarian Reform in the Philippines, 1935-2015" which is a historical account of the Philippine Agrarian Reform Program from the pre-colonial, Commonwealth to contemporary periods, and at the same time, an assessment of the viability of continuing the program.



Developing the RD Program Research Agenda

To contribute to furthering the agenda of the fisherfolk sector, JJCICSI identified the following themes for its future research projects: (1) delineation of municipal waters; (2) consequences or implications of the West Philippine Sea dispute or issue on the small fishers; and (3) social enterprise or alternative livelihoods for small fishers.

Advocacy

Campaign for the passage of the National Land Use Act

JJCICSI continued its active participation in the advocacy activities of the Campaign for Land Use Policy Now! (CLUP Now!). In August 2016, the network met with the staff of Senator Risa Hontiveros to strategize the passage of the law, which, if properly implemented, could minimize the harmful consequences of natural calamities and contribute to providing a safe, secure, and sustainable environment for communities and businesses, among other benefits.

Participation in agrarian reform (AR) advocacy

The Institute is an active member of the People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network (AR Now!). It took part in meetings and activities for the passage of the following policies seen to benefit agrarian reform beneficiaries: (1) notice of coverage, (2) AR credit on lease arrangements, and (3) agri-business venture arrangements.

Furthering the agenda of fishers

JJCICSI formalized its probationary membership with NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR). It took part in NFR's Policy Fora on the Impacts of No Build Zone on Fisherfolk Settlement, and Foreshore Management in April 2016. It also supported the advocacy for the creation of a Department of Fisheries.

Agrifinancing Summit 2016

The Agrifinancing Summit held in November 2016 was organized by PinoyMe and BPI Foundation. It was attended by representatives from banks, microfinance institutions, government financial institutions, non-government organizations, small farmers and social entrepreneurs to be informed on the latest developments on rural enterprise development and value chain financing toward promoting progress in the country's agricultural sector.

A distinct feature of this summit was the introduction of the design thinking approach to prototype viable solutions to the issues of small farmers in accessing capital, credit and other technical assistance, as well as to address the issues of providers on managing risks in engaging in agricultural endeavors. JJCICSI participated in the summit as one of the facilitators of the workshops.



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