

Message From the OIC

We have heard many times that the only thing permanent is change. Yet this cliché remains so true. Change is imminent, guessing the when and the how is what makes it difficult because it will require for people to adjust and adapt to these.

No change was bigger in 2023 than the resignation of the Executive Director of ECLOF Philippines who had served since 2011. It was during her term that the organization experienced rapid growth and expansion. The growth of the portfolio, clients, staff and improved sustainability reached record levels. Indeed, it was a very successful stint and we give her credit for this success.

As we move on to 2024, we will continue to focus on our strengths and provide services consistent with our vision and mission. Our goal is to create positive impact to our clients, especially to our farmer-clients.

Crucial decisions have been made to propel us towards a new era of growth and development. This includes eliminating the group loans, which have been the primary cause for our high PAR, averaging over 50% and undermining organizational performance.

Planned expansions in Mindoro and Southern Luzon to strengthen our presence in these agricultural regions. Our aim is to establish at least three branches in Mindoro and replicate the expansion in South Luzon areas 1 and 2.

To enhance our services in Palawan, we've acquired a harvester for our farmer-clients to rent during harvest season at affordable rates, boosting their profits and enabling greater savings for their families' education and welfare. Our goal is to make agriculture an attractive career option for youth, crucial for food security, national development, and economic stability.

As I mentioned, we avoid change because it creates uncertainty. This is so true when staffing is concerned. High staff turnover leads to instability because the of the vacuum created. To address this, the board approved a three-step salary increase plan that ensures competitive pay scales for all. This move aims to retain and attract qualified talent, which is critical for propelling ECLOF Philippines forward.

Change is coming, and we have and continue to prepare for it!

