

Twinning Ideas with Sri Lanka for Conservation Management

► By **ANTONIO C. MANILA**

A twinning arrangement for a regional networking and cross-country biodiversity programme between the Philippines and Sri Lanka resulted from a visit by a delegation of Sri Lanka nationals to the Philippines last 11-13 February 2002.

The Sri Lankan delegation led by Mr. Sanath Ranawana, Project Specialist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Resident Mission in Sri Lanka was in the country to get insights and ideas from a well-functioning Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) including partnerships among stakeholders, financial sustainability of buffer zone management relative to livelihood development activities, infrastructure establishment, and biodiversity monitoring system in place.

Mr. Ranawana came with Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene, Project Director of the Protected Area Management and Wildlife Conservation Project (PAMWCP), an ADB-funded six-year project covering seven protected areas of Sri Lanka.

Accordingly, PAMWCP is similar to the National Integrated Protected Areas Programme (NIPAP, a five-year project operating in eight protected areas (PAs) of the Philippines and funded both by the European Commission and the Philippine Government. The delegation mentioned that they learned about PA management in the Philippines

from the 12-volume series entitled "Essentials of Protected Area Management in the Philippines," produced by NIPAP.

Their first day was a visit to Mt. Isarog National Park in Panicuason, Naga City, one of the PAs with established park facilities and structural mechanisms in place. Director Wilfrido S. Pollisco of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), and Dr. Antonio C. Manila, National

management of the Integrated Protected Area Fund for park activities and maintenance, and the zoning procedures. They also interviewed some NIPAP micro-enterprise beneficiaries in the buffer zone.

Their three-day visit was capped with another sharing of ideas by the Co-Directors of other foreign-assisted projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and PAWB that included the Tech-



A pose for posterity toward the twinning of ideas

Director of NIPAP led the Philippine team that accompanied and briefed the Sri Lanka nationals.

Using the 3-D Model of the Park, the Park officials briefed the delegation on the location of the park headquarters and its facilities before touring them around the area. They were also briefed by CARE-Philippines, a partner NGO in Naga, about the livelihood and sustainability aspects for Mt. Isarog.

On the second day, they were shown evidences of a well-functioning PAMB, the status of membership and operations, the operations and

nical Assistance for Biodiversity Conservation Project, NIPAP and the ASEAN Regional Centre for Biodiversity Conservation.

Mr. Ranawana also extended an invitation for a group of Filipino delegates to visit their country.

Electronic linkages are now ongoing to realise the twinning idea between the Governments of the Philippines through PAWB-DENR and Sri Lanka. ■

Dr. Antonio C. Manila is the National Co-Director of the National Integrated Protected Areas Programme.