



December 6, 2011
Press Release

**CONGRESSMEN'S TALK, OFFSHORE MINING VIDEO LAUNCH HIGHLIGHT
NL HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINING SUMMIT**

On December 13-15, 2011, human rights and mining advocates convene at the Quirino, Hall, Teacher's Camp for the First Northern Luzon Mining and Human Rights Summit. Led by different organizations like the Regional Development Center for Northern Luzon-Kaduami Inc., Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Save the Abra River Movement, Serve the People (Alliance for the Environment) of Cagayan Valley, the Isabela Ecumenical Council and the Solidarity of Peasants against exploitation of Ilocos region, the summit will gather more than 250 defenders of the environment and human rights.

Congressman Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna Partylist and Chairman of the House committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development will give the Keynote Address of the summit. Also, Congressman Teddy Baguilat of the Ifugao province and Chairman of the House Committee on National Cultural Communities will discuss the Free Prior and Informed Consent principle in the second day of the program.

Another highlight of the summit is the launching of *No Black, No Green, No Blue*: a video on Magnetite Mining in Northern Luzon. Produced by the Regional Development Center for Northern Luzon (RDC) – Kaduami, with support from Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED) and created with Left Click Production House.

the video chronicles the history of mining black sand in Northern Luzon and the ongoing magnetite mining especially in Cagayan Valley. It features stories and testimonies of people in La Union, Ilocos Norte and Cagayan who have been affected by past mining activities as well as stories from people whose communities in Cagayan are now getting mined for the precious mineral which is exported to boost the construction boom in countries abroad.

No Black, No Green, No Blue portrays the beauty and biodiversity of the seas that are being impacted by the mining operations in these areas. Shots of the beauty of protected areas like Palaui island in Sta Ana, Cagayan are featured. The mangroves of Aparri are pictured that have provided natural barriers to storm surges and floods. The same protection is given by sand dunes to the natural lake of Buguey that has fed generations of Cagayanos with abundant and delicious fishes and marine products. Paoay and its now famous sand dunes was once mined for magnetite and is shown in the video.

Experts in different fields provide insights and knowledge on their areas of expertise: Dr Benjamin Austria (University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences); Dr Giovanni Tapang (Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya Para sa Sambayanan); Prof Celia Austria (University of the Philippines Baguio City) and Fr Manny Catral (Social Action, Archdiocese of Tuguegarao).

The video makes an appeal to save the environment as it recognizes that all things and everything on this planet are interconnected. #

For interviews, please contact Sarah at 0929-126-8162 or Angela at 0949-863-3698. There will a press conference on December 13, 2011 from 12 NN to 1 PM at the Venue.

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