



# CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

*For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination*

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## **BAMPIS Mining Summit to discuss, act on mining situation**

In line with the continuing campaign against large-scale and destructive mining, the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA) and the Save the Abra River Movement (STARM) are holding the BAMPIS (Benguet-Abra-Mountain Province-Ilocos Sur) Mining Summit from November 18-19, 2011 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Bangued, Abra.

Guided by the theme *Bantay, Baybay ken Karayan Saluadan! Makadadael a Panagminas Lapdan! Militarisasyon, Pasardengen!*, the summit will gather 250 representatives from different communities in the four provinces, mineworkers of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co., and advocates of environmental protection.

"Discussions in this summit will dwell on mining impacts especially on the ecosystems, in a "ridge to reef" approach – from the Cordillera mountain ranges to the seacoast of Ilocos Sur. All four provinces are affected by the ongoing operations and expansion projects of the LCMCo especially through the Abra River basin which has been poisoned by decades of LCMCo operations. In addition, these provinces are covered with several mining applications which further threaten their degrading ecosystems," said Santos Mero, Deputy Secretary General of the CPA. The Abra River traverses from Mountain Province to Benguet, and down to Abra and Ilocos Sur.

Mero added that among the foreign mining companies with on-shore mining applications in these provinces are Royalco Resources Ltd., Vale, Phelps Dodge-Freeport Macmoran, Nickel Asia/CEXCI, Solfotara, Pacific Metals Canada, Gold Fields, Bezant Resources, Canex and Adanacex, while one of the mining companies that are into offshore mining is the Titan Exploration and Development Corp. which was also recently granted a permit for an exploration project in Abra.

During the summit, participants from the BAMPIS provinces will share testimonies attesting to the unsafe practices and operations of the LCMCo and offshore mining companies, and the impact of exploration projects and applications to the communities. In addition, they will share about how the presence and operations of State military troops in their communities are aggravating the impact of corporate mining, and ensuing human rights violations.

STARM Spokesperson Maricar Delfun expressed that, "A distinct character of the BAMPIS Mining Summit is the discussion about offshore mining which, unbeknownst to many, is extensive in the coasts of Ilocos Sur and the whole of Ilocos and Cagayan regions." Participants from Santa, Ilocos Sur will be sharing their experiences and insights regarding the practice of offshore mining in their place during the summit.

Mayor Jeremy Jesus Bueno of Santa municipality, Ilocos Sur will give the Keynote Address during the opening program on the first day of the Summit. The regional, national and international mining situation and updates will also be discussed by Santos Mero, Secretary-General of CPA.

The summit will result in the formation of a BAMPIS Network on the second day, to further strengthen the onshore and offshore mining campaigns efforts of the four provinces. The Summit will be culminated by a march rally in the afternoon of the second day at the town center of Bangued. # ***Cordillera Peoples Alliance***