

THE JCI MANDAUE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

MANDAUE

SustainTheFuture
ISSUE



THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE
LEADERS OF TODAY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings My Fellow JCI!

This year's MandaWe Magazine carries a deeper meaning as we align with JCI Philippines' 2026 call to action, "*Sustain the Future.*" It reminds us that the work we do today is never just for the present—it is for the generations that will come after us.

As leaders, we are called not only to create change, but to make sure that change lasts. Through every project, partnership, and act of service, we continue building a future rooted in purpose, responsibility, and progress.

Here in JCI Mandaue, we remain grounded in our own call to "*Lead to the Fullest.*" For us, leadership means giving our best in every opportunity—to serve, to grow, and to inspire others. This magazine is a collection of those stories: moments where action met impact, and where brotherhood became a force for lasting change. As you turn these pages, may you be reminded that the future is shaped by how fully we choose to lead today.


JESS ANTHONY DELA CRUZ
2026 JCI Mandaue President

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Four years ago, MandaWe Magazine began as a simple vision—to capture the stories, milestones, and spirit of JCI Mandaue in a way that would outlive the moment. Today, as we proudly release our 5th issue, that vision feels stronger than ever. What started as an idea has grown into a platform of reflection, recognition, and inspiration. To everyone who has supported this journey—our readers, contributors, partners, advertisers, and the entire JCI Mandaue brotherhood—thank you for helping this publication thrive and evolve with every turn of the page.

**To lead fully is to build something
that lasts beyond us.**

This issue stands at the meeting point of two powerful calls: JCI Philippines' "*Sustain the Future*" and JCI Mandaue's "*Lead to the Fullest*." Together, they tell a story of leadership that goes beyond achievement. They remind us that true leadership is not only about reaching goals, but about creating impact that endures.

Within these pages are stories of action, resilience, and service—proof that what we build today can shape the communities of tomorrow.


MIKE YATCHING
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THE JCI MANDAUE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

MANDAWE



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A VOW OF *Legacy*

BY JAY SANCANGCO,
EVP INTERNAL

*“The final test
of a leader is that
he leaves behind him
the conviction
and the will
to carry on.”*

The true measure of an institution is not found in how fiercely its leaders hold onto power, but in how gracefully they pass it on. This philosophy became reality on March 14, 2026, at the Events Space in Kasambagan, Cebu City, as JCI Mandaue held its 63rd Induction and Turnover Ceremonies before more than 200 members, civic leaders, and partners. Beyond the evening’s elegant Bridgerton-inspired setting, the event marked the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another, as 2025 President Mark Samuel Uy formally passed leadership to incoming 2026 President Jess Anthony dela Cruz.



TRUE MEANING OF CONTINUITY

To understand the weight of this transition is to understand the value of generational impact. In many organizations, leadership success is often reduced to personal achievements within a term, but under JCI's "One Year to Lead" framework, that view is short-sighted. True commitment to the future demands that personal recognition gives way to institutional continuity, where the incoming team builds upon the foundations laid before them.

STEP-BACK LEADERSHIP

This transition was further explored by keynote speaker Lloyd Luna, who offered a compelling perspective on leadership and legacy.

At the heart of this mindset is step-back leadership, a philosophy that challenges the tendency of outgoing leaders to remain in control. Instead of overshadowing successors, it calls for a deliberate shift into an advisory role, creating space for the new board to lead independently. For Past President Mark Samuel Uy, stepping back was not withdrawal, but a strategic act to empower innovation and growth.

**“The true measure
of an institution
is not found in
how fiercely its leaders
hold onto power,
but in how gracefully
they pass it on.”**



STRATEGIES FOR A SELF-SUSTAINING FUTURE

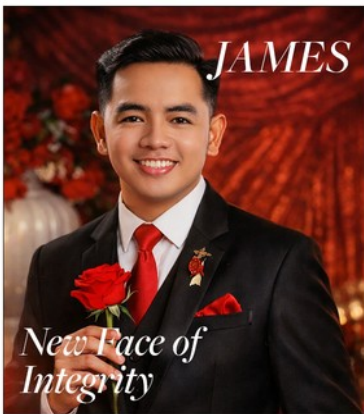
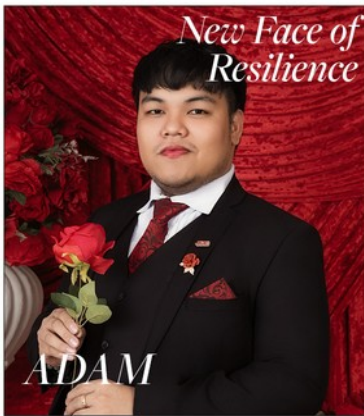
This philosophy now shapes the 2026 term theme launched by President Dela Cruz: Lead to the Fullest. More than a slogan, it serves as the administration's call to maximize chapter resources, strengthen member engagement, and deliver meaningful community programs. It challenges every committee to move beyond minimum expectations and operate at its highest potential.

Ultimately, leading to the fullest supports JCI Mandaue's broader goal of sustaining the future. This means strengthening institutional systems, preserving chapter knowledge, improving onboarding, and building financial stability for long-term independence. By balancing the humility of step-back leadership with the urgency of leading fully, President Dela Cruz and his board commit themselves to a stronger, self-sustaining future.

“If an organization collapses once a leader steps down, then what was built was dependency, not an institution.”





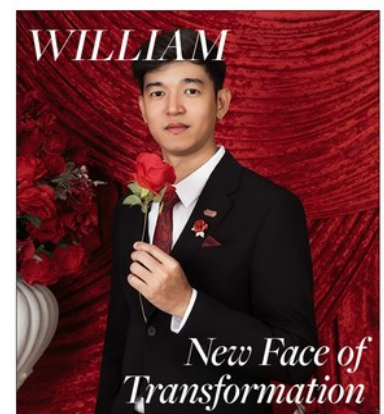
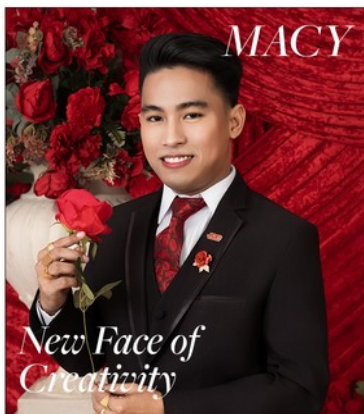


NEW FACES OF LEADERSHIP:

The NEXT ERA

BY RENIEL FLORES
VP FOR MEMBERSHIP
DEVT.

*“Every new face carries a new fire—ready to lead,
to serve, and to shape tomorrow.”*





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LASTING BROTHER HOOD

THE
TABLE
TALK
SERIES

BY TRISTAN MARAON

*“Brotherhood begins where words are honest, ears are open,
and hearts are willing to listen.”*

Stepping into 10Cafe at 1075 Dormitel in Cebu City last June 6th, I carried the distinct perspective of a newly inducted member. Having officially joined the fold just this year, I was no longer an outsider, but I was still navigating the deeper currents of the group. The afternoon air was welcoming, filled with the aroma of freshly ground beans and a sense of possibility. This was the maiden session of the Table Talk Series, an initiative built on a simple but powerful premise: using shared hobbies as a gateway for members to connect on a deeper level.

The stage for this connection was set by Peter Paul Cababahay, our EVP for External. Stepping away from administrative roles, he came as a passionate coffee enthusiast eager to share his knowledge. Under his patient guidance, the basics of coffee making were stripped down and easy to learn. We didn't



just watch; we measured, poured, and brewed our own cups. There is a grounded camaraderie in learning a practical skill together. As we stirred and sampled our creations, any residual awkwardness of being a new inductee dissolved. Holding a cup of coffee I crafted with my own hands brought a sense of accomplishment.

THE CRUCIBLE OF THE TABLE TALK

Table Talk Series was intentionally designed to create a comfortable, safe space for open dialogue. A deck of question cards sat at the center of the table, acting as a catalyst for honest conversation. When the cards were drawn, the casual banter shifted into meaningful reflection. Questions like *"To love or be loved?"* made us look inward, while *"When do you feel most confident?"* moved past superficial answers. Even the debate of *"What generation had it best?"* allowed us to share diverse perspectives.

We answered from our hearts and real experiences, which naturally helped us practice impromptu public speaking and articulate our thoughts clearly. It became a powerful environment.

“Listening was just as important as speaking, allowing us to see the real individuals behind the organizational titles.”

ECHOES AND AFTERNOONS

What made the experience truly impactful were the afternoon reminders—thoughtful quotes shared with the group after each person spoke. These reminders anchored our individual reflections, turning personal stories into collective takeaways. It served as a reminder that meaningful connections are not achieved by default on induction night; they are actively forged when we take the time to sit together, speak honestly, and build a lasting brotherhood.





The world demands leaders who solve crises and build legacies. However, the architect must sharpen the tools before drawing a single line. Before a leader moves a mountain, they must master the terrain of their own potential.

The first project is YOU.

“Project You” within our Merry Men’s Mission-Driven Roadmap is built on a fundamental truth: the brother is his own greatest venture. While the fellowship provides the camp and the camaraderie, each individual remains the protagonist of his own story. This initial phase demands a rugged honest look at personal gaps—whether a man needs to master public speaking, sharpen strategic planning, or temper his emotional intelligence. The brotherhood offers the ultimate training ground to bridge these gaps, knowing that a Merry Man is the community’s greatest asset, and an asset must be forged to deliver a true return.

By anchoring our mission in personal growth first, we guarantee that every future endeavor inherits a higher caliber of leadership. A Merry Man doesn’t just execute the mission; he allows the mission to execute a change in him. We aren’t just looking to complete projects; we want our projects to refine the man into a person of substance, grit, and vision. This is where he learns to conquer his ego, master his time, and align with the greater good.

A MERRY MEN’S MISSION DRIVEN ROADMAP

BY KHEM VILLAMOR,
VP FOR ORG. DEVT.

*“We do not want an individual
to finish just finish the journey;
we want the journey to refine
the individual into
a person of substance.”*



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NAVIGATING IMPACT: *GABAY VISAYAS*

BY JERRY BUAL,
LOCAL SKILLS DEVT. DIR.

The Visayas became a hub of energy, learning, and inspiration when JCI Mandaue hosted *Gabay Visayas Year 5* from February 13 to 15. Over three days, 47 delegates embarked on a journey not only to become leaders but to become trainers who could guide others with confidence, skill, and heart—the largest gathering ever in JCI Philippine Area 4.

Guided by Head Trainer Marc Padilla and supported by NSDD Leni Heaven Peñaflorida and ASDD Mar Go, delegates were immersed in mentorship at every turn. Assistant trainers NC Grant Amoncio, Pres. Michelle Sanchez, and ASDD Kieffer Buenaflor, along with facilitators EVP Kurt Alinsog, LSDD Jerry Bual, and RSDD-CV Warren Flores, modeled how to coach, support, and inspire others, turning every session into a

*“True leaders do not follow maps;
they chart them.
True trainers do not just teach;
they ignite paths for others to follow.”*

lesson in leadership in action. Their presence provided a steady compass for delegates, who navigated the challenges of becoming trainers themselves—an experience that demanded both skill and heart.

COMPASS AND SUN: FINDING DIRECTION

The theme “Compass and Sun” became a guiding metaphor for the program, reflecting the dual nature of effective leadership and training. The compass represented clarity, strategy, and the ability to chart a course through uncertainty. Without a clear sense of direction, even the most enthusiastic leader can lose their way.

The sun symbolized energy and the warmth necessary to light the path for others. It reminded delegates that technical skill alone is not enough—engagement, motivation, and a presence that inspires confidence are equally vital.

“The true measure of a trainer is the ability to guide a group through uncertainty while keeping spirits high, curiosity alive, and learners feeling supported.”

This became the defining lesson of the program: leadership is about knowing the way, and about bringing others safely and confidently through the storm.

SKILLS IN ACTION, SERVICE WITH PASSION

Gabay Visayas Year 5 embodied the principle “Skills in Action, Service with Passion.” Delegates were not only learners but active practitioners, translating knowledge into real-world application. Designing modules, facilitating discussions, and managing group dynamics allowed participants to test themselves, reflect, and adjust in real time.

Each exercise challenged delegates to combine technical expertise with creativity, empathy, and effective communication.

“Training goes beyond sharing knowledge—it is about inspiring development and unlocking potential in others.”

For the first time in Gabay Visayas history, JCI Mandaue infused the program with the Merry Men brand, making hospitality, warmth, and creativity central to the entire hosting experience. The creation of the official Gabay Visayas soundtrack (LSS) gave the hosting a musical identity, adding energy, inspiration, and a unifying rhythm that resonated throughout the three days.

Merry Trivia Night closed Day 1 on a high note, fostering laughter, friendly competition, and fellowship that connected delegates in a playful, memorable way. On

the second day, Grabay Deliver served as a Valentine’s Day treat and a gentle reminder of support, helping delegates recover from the late-night energy while applying their newly learned skills in an immersive and meaningful way.

Through these moments, the Merry Men brand guided the spirit of Gabay Visayas, ensuring the event was not only a training program but a vibrant, welcoming experience full of connection, joy, and inspiration.

NAVIGATING IMPACT

Through these moments, the Ultimately, Gabay Visayas Year 5 was a voyage of self-discovery and collective empowerment. These 47 delegates did not just attend a workshop; they learned to navigate the complex waters of mentorship and leadership.

The experience ensured that the event was more than a training program—it was a community defined by connection and a shared commitment to service. Through the fusion of professional rigor and the signature Merry Men hospitality, JCI Mandaue has set a new gold standard for what a leadership training experience can achieve, leaving a lasting legacy across the Visayas.



Digitalization: JCI MANDAUE'S ORG REDPRINT

BY ERIC PAOLO SMITH, 2020 PRESIDENT

*“To lead is to structure your chaos;
where the guesswork ends, the digital spine begins.”*

In the modern landscape of leadership, running an organization often feels less like steering a ship and more like navigating a digital landslide. Whether you are leading a corporate team, a non-profit, or a civic organization, the primary enemy is rarely a lack of vision; it is the accumulation of “*organized chaos*.” We live in an era of fragmented spreadsheets, buried email threads, and the phantom itch of unverified data. Without a central nervous system to hold the weight of growth, even the most passionate teams eventually find themselves sprinting in place, overwhelmed by the very movement they worked so hard to create.

THE IMPERATIVE OF DIGITALIZATION

Digitalization is no longer a luxury or a “future goal”—it is the fundamental requirement for organizational survival. In

a fast-paced environment, the ability of a team to respond to changes depends entirely on how quickly they can access and process information.

When we talk about digitalization, we aren't just discussing the adoption of new gadgets; we are talking about the transition from “*isolated work*” to “*connected execution*.” When processes are moved into a structured digital environment, manual errors decrease and accountability increases. It allows leaders to move from managing by presence to managing by outcomes.

Most importantly, it future-proofs the organization, ensuring that the collective intelligence of the team is stored in a resilient, accessible system rather than being trapped in the mind of a single individual.



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Financial Management

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PURPOSE-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

The impact of structured digitalization is clearly seen in JCI Mandaue. As a leadership development organization built on a “one year to lead” cycle, annual transitions often risk losing valuable institutional knowledge. Through its integration with OrgBase, the chapter has created a system where knowledge is preserved, allowing new leaders to build forward instead of starting over.

“When knowledge is institutionalized, leadership transitions no longer mean starting from zero.”

OrgBase embodies the spirit of a social enterprise, using technology as a tool for empowerment. By making high-level management systems accessible to community-driven groups, it enables organizations like JCI Mandaue to focus less on internal processes and more on creating social impact.

WHERE LOGIC MEETS LIFE

At its core, digitalization creates structure. OrgBase transforms scattered records into a unified ecosystem through integrated modules for Member Management, Dues and Payments, Donor and Sponsorship Management, Activities and Events, and Financial Management.

By consolidating these pillars into one system, organizations replace guesswork with clarity and move beyond managing complexity toward leading with purpose.

Chaos may inspire creativity, but for organizations to endure, it must be anchored in structure. Digitalization provides that foundation. In a future shaped by speed and complexity, the organizations that thrive will be the ones prepared to adapt.

“The organizations that will endure tomorrow are the ones building their digital home today.”

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*"The true measure of a people
is not found when the earth stands still,
but in how swiftly they rebuild
the foundation when it shatters
beneath them."*

CEBUANO'S GROUND BREAKING RESILIENCE

BY PETER PAUL CABABAHAY,
EVP EXTERNAL



Late last year, the ground beneath Cebu did not just shake; it shattered historic precedents. A violent magnitude 6.9 earthquake—the strongest ever recorded in northern Cebu—ripped across the province, claiming dozens of lives, collapsing critical infrastructure, and leaving hundreds of thousands displaced.

Yet nature was not done testing the Sugboanon spirit.

Barely a month later, while families were still sheltering in makeshift tents amid constant aftershocks, a destructive typhoon made landfall, bringing torrential rains, urban flooding, and landslides that compounded the tragedy.

**“The earth broke
beneath them,
but the spirit
of Cebu and
the Sugboanon
stood firm.”**





NAVIGATING THE FRONTIERS OF RELIEF

When institutional systems were stretched to their limits, civil society surged forward to bridge the gap. Junior Chamber International (JCI) Mandaue immediately swung into action, channeling the unified strength of JCI Philippines' disaster relief mechanism, Oplan Kaagapay. The young leaders of JCI Mandaue transformed despair into a blueprint for hope. Through transparent operations, they raised Php 321,000 in cash donations and an additional Php 200,000 worth of essential in-kind goods, including clean water, medical supplies, and food packs. This mobilization was made possible by over 200 partners in service and more than 100 volunteers deployed directly to the frontlines.

“In times of disaster, hope is built by many hands moving as one.”

The reach of this rapid response activation was immense, target-focused, and deeply empathetic. Rather than restricting their relief efforts to nearby urban centers, the volunteer teams navigated broken roadways, landslide-prone mountainsides, and heavily flooded terrains. Their efforts ultimately served over 25 barangays, spanning the severely devastated northern municipalities of Borbon, Daanbantayan, and Medellin, as well as the dense urban communities of Cebu City and Mandaue City, bringing life-saving relief to more than 2,000 beneficiaries.

UNBREAKABLE FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW

Ultimately, this crisis proved that the ultimate foundation of Cebu does not lie in its concrete roads, its historic stone churches, or its booming economic zones, but in the unyielding spirit of its people. The resilience displayed by the Sugboanons is ground-breaking because it shatters the traditional timeline of recovery, proving that a culture anchored in genuine empathy can outlast any ecological assault. Young leaders, grassroots volunteers, and corporate partners did not wait for distant rescue; they became the rescue themselves.

As Cebu continues its steady, inspiring march toward full structural rehabilitation, the narrative of this dark chapter will not be remembered merely for the terrifying depth of the fault line or the destructive volume of the rain. Instead, it will be forever immortalized by the strength of a populace that looked at a fractured landscape and chose to build a more unified society. They have proven, under the eyes of the entire nation, that while the earth beneath them may crack and give way, the collective will of the Cebuano people remains completely unbreakable.

“Resilience is not the absence of fear, but the refusal to surrender.”



*“To weave is to remember;
to create is to rebuild.
In the threads of our heritage
lies the fabric of our resilience.”*

PROJECT HABI

*HERITAGE ARTISTRY
BORN FROM IMAGINATION*
BY MACY GAVIOLA

Against the backdrop of Cebu’s bustling urban sprawl, the Badjao community of Alaska Mambaling has long stood as a living archive of maritime heritage. For generations, their vibrant culture—anchored by a deep connection to the sea and an innate artistry—flourished in stilt houses above the water. However, tragedy struck when a devastating fire swept through the settlement, swallowing homes and threatening to reduce centuries of irreplaceable cultural identity into mere ash. In the wake of such loss, a poignant question emerged: how does a community preserve its soul when its physical foundation is gone? The answer, it turns out, lies at the intersection of avant-garde fashion and ancestral resilience.

While the adults faced the daunting task of physical reconstruction, the youngest members of the community bore a quieter, heavier burden. The local day care center, once a sanctuary of laughter and early education, stood compromised, leaving the Badjao children without a structured space to learn and heal. Yet, childhood imagination is a resilient force. Even without proper classrooms, these children continued to dream, translating their experiences, fears, and hopes into raw, colorful drawings. It became clear that saving this heritage required more than just brick and mortar; it demanded an investment in the minds of the next generation, ensuring their education and cultural pride could rise directly from the embers.

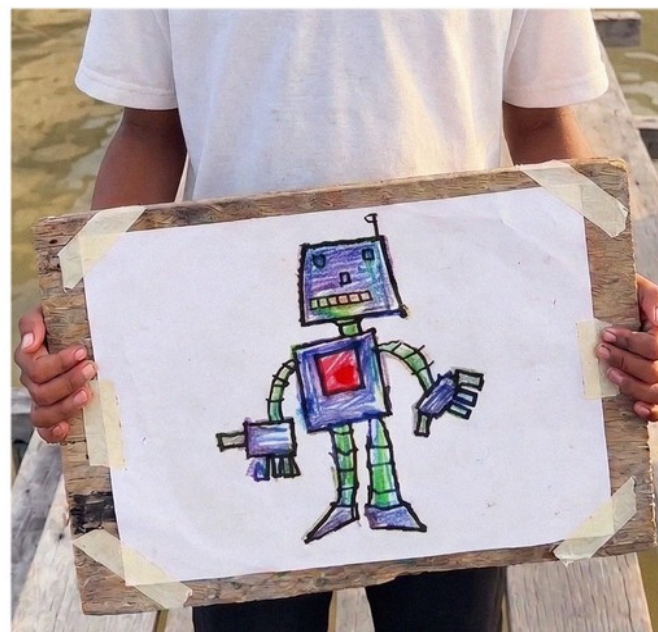
FROM DOODLES TO FASHION

This urgent need sparked the inception of Project HABI: Heritage Artistry Born from Imagination. On June 13th, this vision culminated in a groundbreaking fashion show for a cause, flipping the script on traditional philanthropy. The concept was beautifully

collaborative: the innocent doodles and whimsical sketches of the Badjao children were collected and transformed into high-fashion elements. These raw expressions became intricate patches, vibrant embroideries, and structural motifs, seamlessly integrated into modern Filipiniana and contemporary Barongs. The runway became a living canvas where the unfiltered imagination of a child met the sophisticated world of haute couture.

“What began as simple doodles became stitched declarations of identity.”

Bringing a vision of this scale to life required a village of visionary partners. Anchored by the corporate synergy of SM City Cebu and International Pharmaceuticals, Inc., alongside the creative energy of The OBRA, the project found its definitive artistic voice in Mike Yapching. Serving as the 2026 JCI Mandaue Local Awards Director and celebrated as a renowned Cebuano fashion designer, Yapching bridged the gap



between community storytelling and wearable art. With an ambitious target of raising 200,000 pesos for the daycare's rehabilitation, the city answered the call; as of this writing, the initiative has already secured more than half of the goal, proving that when local leadership and creative genius unite, fashion becomes a vehicle for social transformation.

**“Fashion, at its finest,
does not simply dress the body
—it carries the story of survival.”**

WEAVING THE FUTURE

Ultimately, Project HABI serves as a fierce editorial reminder of what fashion can achieve when it looks beyond the mirror and into the heart of society. It challenges the industry's tendency toward superficiality by proving that clothing can carry the weight of a community's survival. By funding the rehabilitation of the day care center and securing educational resources, the project ensures that the Badjao children are not passive recipients of aid, but the literal co-creators of their

community's future. It redefines heritage not as a relic of the past, but as a living, breathing force that adapts, survives, and flourishes through collective action.

As the final models walked the runway under the bright lights of SM City Cebu, the applause was not merely for the tailoring or dramatic silhouettes. It was for the triumph of a community that refused to be forgotten. The fabric of Project HABI is woven from the very threads of Cebuano solidarity—proving that while fire can destroy wood and thatch, it cannot touch the imagination of a child. In the tapestry of Alaska Mambaling, the old heritage and the new dawn are now intricately linked, tailored into a future where the Badjao story will continue to be told, celebrated, and proudly worn.

**“Heritage is not
what survives the fire;
it is what rises
after it.”**



63rd INDUCTION
& TURNOVER
CEREMONIES

THE
OBRA

BY MACY GAVIOLA

E V E N T S & P R O D U C T I O N

A portrait of a man, Mike Yapching, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is holding a red rose in his right hand. The background is dark and textured, with some green foliage visible on the sides.

BUILDING TOMORROW, *TODAY*

BY MIKE YAPCHING
LOCAL AWARDS DIRECTOR

*“The future is not inherited by chance;
it is built by those brave enough
to carry its weight today.”*

Photographed by CREATIVE STUDIOS | *Creative Direction by* JAY SANGIANGCO | *Production by* THE OBRA



The future has always been a difficult thing to define. It feels distant, almost untouchable, yet every day, it is shaped by the choices made in the present. For leaders, that reality carries weight. Every decision, every action, and every sacrifice leaves a mark on what comes next. The future is never something that simply unfolds on its own; it is built piece by piece by those willing to carry responsibility today.

For JCI Mandaue, leadership has always carried this understanding. Each term brings fresh goals, new challenges, and a renewed sense of purpose, but at its core remains one constant truth: leadership is stewardship. It is the responsibility of taking care of what exists while preparing it for growth. It means creating stronger systems, developing better leaders, and building communities that can thrive long after today's work is done.

Sustaining the future asks for something deeper than ambition. It calls for vision that looks far ahead, discipline that keeps progress steady, and a willingness to invest in people even when the results may not be seen right away. It asks leaders to think beyond their own term, beyond their own titles, and toward the legacy they leave behind.

MandaWe Team turned to the leaders of JCI Mandaue and asked them to reflect on one central question:

How do we build a future that lasts?

Their answers reveal that sustaining tomorrow is not the work of one office alone—it is a collective effort, shared across every level of leadership.

ECHOES AND AFTERNOONS

Every organization needs someone willing to look beyond the horizon. For JCI Mandaue, that responsibility falls on the Presidents—the leaders tasked with

setting the direction and carrying the vision forward. Their role demands a constant balance between responding to the present and preparing for what lies ahead.

What must leaders prioritize today to secure a stronger tomorrow?

For Pres. Jess, leadership begins with people. He believes the future grows stronger when everyone feels seen, included, and given the chance to contribute. A leader's role, he shares, is to create opportunities where others can grow into leadership themselves. To him, building tomorrow means making sure no one is left behind today.

**“Leadership is not about being
ahead—it is about making sure
no one gets left behind
when the future arrives.”**

-PRES JESS

For Pres. Sam, leadership is seen through the lens of continuity. Looking back on his term, he believes the strongest measure of success is whether the next set of leaders can continue moving forward with confidence. For him, leadership is about building something steady enough for others to carry and improve.

**“Success is what
the next generation
can continue because of
what we started.”**

-PRES SAM

For the Presidents, the future begins with clarity. Their perspective reminds us that vision shapes direction, and direction shapes legacy. When leaders focus on long-term growth, they create more than short-term wins—they create stability, trust, and a stronger path forward for everyone who follows. In many ways, the future of the organization starts with the courage of its leaders.

THE EXECOM: ARCHITECTS OF STABILITY

Vision can only go as far as the systems supporting it. Behind every successful chapter is a group of leaders working quietly to keep everything organized, protected, and accountable. The Executive Committee serves as that foundation.

Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact reaches every part of the organization. Through governance, finances, and records, they help create consistency—something every growing organization needs.

What systems must be in place to ensure sustainability in leadership?

For Sec. Erwin, structure keeps progress alive. He sees documentation and organization as the chapter's memory, helping future leaders understand what worked, what didn't, and what can be improved. In his eyes, structure creates continuity.

**“Without structure, even the
strongest vision can collapse
under its own ambition.”**
-SEC. ERWIN

Treas. King believes sustainability is closely tied to stewardship. He sees financial management as a responsibility to both the present and the future. Every resource, when managed well, creates room for bigger opportunities ahead.

**“Every peso spent today
must echo value
for tomorrow.”**
-TREAS. KING

For Dr. Lui, accountability protects trust. He believes transparency creates confidence within the chapter and strengthens the relationships that keep an organization healthy.

**“Transparency protects
not just resources, but the
integrity of leadership itself.”**
-AUD. DR. LUI

Atty. Lee grounds sustainability in principles. He believes organizations stay strong when guided by ethics, fairness, and lawful practice, especially when challenges arise.

**“A future worth building
must stand on lawful, ethical,
and just foundations.”**
-ATTY. LEE

The Executive Committee reminds us that behind every bold vision is a strong framework holding it together. Their work proves that leadership thrives when systems are clear, resources are protected, and trust remains intact. These are the invisible pillars that keep an organization steady, especially during times of change. Without them, even the brightest vision can lose its way.

What makes the Execom vital is their ability to turn ideas into order. Their role also serves as a reminder that sustainability is built on consistency. Leadership changes, priorities evolve, and challenges emerge, but the structures they maintain give the organization something dependable to stand on. Through their work, the Execom ensures that progress is not fragile or temporary, but rooted in accountability and resilience—strong enough to endure beyond any single term and steady enough to guide the chapter into whatever comes next.





THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE KEEPERS OF GROWTH

At the heart of every organization are its people. Internal Affairs carries the responsibility of making sure those people continue growing, learning, and finding their place within the chapter.

Growth does not happen by chance. It takes guidance, support, and systems that encourage members to keep moving forward. This office helps make that possible by focusing on development from within.

How do we prepare the next generation of leaders from inside the organization?

For EVP Jay, growth starts with intention. He believes leaders should create spaces where members can learn, fail, improve, and eventually lead. Strong organizations, he shares, are built when people feel empowered.



“The strongest organizations are built when leaders invest in the people behind the mission.”
-EVP JAY

VP Reniel sees every new member as potential waiting to unfold. Membership development, to him, is about opening doors and helping people discover what they can become.

“Every new member is a possibility for the future.”
-VP RENIEL

VP Khem believes organizations must continue evolving. He sees growth as something deliberate—something shaped through reflection and adaptation. They can become.

“Growth must be intentional; otherwise, we repeat instead of progress.”
-VP KHEM

LSDD JB focuses on sharpening skills. For him, training transforms passion into capability, helping members become more effective in their roles.

“Potential is only powerful when sharpened.”
-LSDD JB

LAD Mike believes recognition strengthens culture. Celebrating achievements inspires others and helps create an environment where excellence feels possible.

“Celebrating excellence ensures that excellence becomes culture.”
-LAD MIKE

By investing in people today, they are planting the seeds of stronger leadership tomorrow. In the end, every thriving organization is a reflection of the people it chose to nurture.

THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE BUILDERS OF IMPACT

Leadership grows when it reaches beyond itself. External Affairs carries JCI Mandaue's mission into communities, partnerships, and wider opportunities. Their work connects the chapter to the world around it.

Through these connections, the chapter's impact grows stronger and wider. This office helps turn internal strength into visible action, ensuring that leadership is felt far beyond meetings and programs.

How can leadership today create wider and lasting impact beyond the organization?

For EVP Paul sees partnerships as one of the strongest tools for growth. He believes relationships create opportunities that help organizations expand their reach.

**“Leadership expands
when it learns to build bridges
instead of walls.”**
-EVP PAUL

For VP Christian, service remains at the center. He believes communities are where leadership finds its deepest purpose.

**“A sustainable future begins
with communities
empowered today.”**
-VP CHRISTIAN

VP John sees business development as part of growth. He believes stronger economic support creates stronger opportunities for service.

**“Economic growth
and social impact
should move together.”**
-VP JOHN

VP Earl values connection. He believes strong networks create stronger possibilities and help leadership reach farther.

**“Connections create opportunities
that no single leader
can achieve alone.”**
-VP EARL

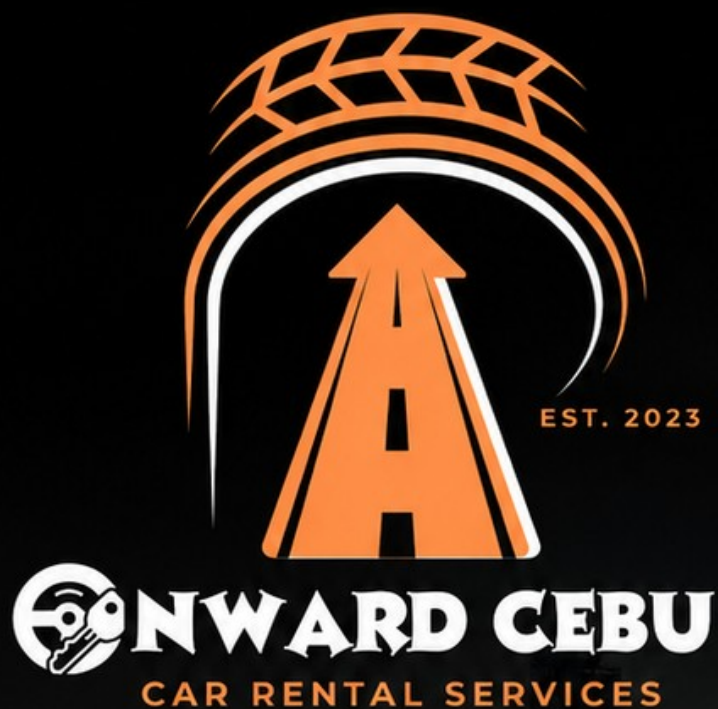
For VP Chris, communication keeps leadership alive in the minds of people. He believes stories inspire, connect, and create understanding.

**“If leadership shapes the future,
communication ensures
the future understands it.”**
-VP CHRIS

External Affairs shows that leadership finds its full strength when it creates impact outside its own circle. Their work reflects the power of connection—how partnerships can multiply effort, how communities can shape purpose, and how communication can keep that purpose alive. Through these bridges, JCI Mandaue extends its reach and ensures that its mission continues to grow where it matters most.







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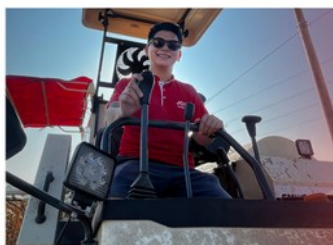
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*"To sow a seed is to believe in tomorrow.
But to change how we farm is to guarantee it."*

FARMING *forward*

BY JAMES CABIDO





For generations, the sweeping landscapes of Northern Cebu were defined by the towering, jagged leaves of sugarcane. It was a sweet crop, but one with a bitter bite. When market fluctuations, shifting climates, and economic tolls hit the region, the sugarcane fields of San Remigio left many agrarian families trapped in a cycle of unpredictable yields and mounting debt. The soil was rich, but the system was exhausted.

“The land remained fertile, but the old system could no longer sustain the people who depended on it.”

Now in its second triumphant year, this flagship initiative by JCI Mandaue has shifted its gaze to San Remigio, carrying a blueprint for agricultural revival. Recognizing that resilience requires diversification, the project is aggressively pushing corn farming not just as an alternative crop, but as a catalyst for total community transformation.

Under the strategic umbrella of JCI RISE, this initiative is a masterclass in collaboration. Through focused workshops on financial literacy and farmer cooperatives, cultivators gained the tools to manage capital, strengthen bargaining power, and build collective resilience.

The momentum reached its peak through JCI Mandaue's second-year partnership with Ford Tractor Philippines, where live demonstrations of automated planting and combined harvesting turned the fields into a showcase of modern agriculture. Tasks that once demanded days of back-breaking labor were completed in minutes, proving that mechanization is no longer a distant luxury for San Remigio, but its emerging reality.

THE CORN REVOLUTION AND THE PLATES OF TOMORROW

True sustainability is never about handouts; it is about infrastructure, education, and paradigm shifts. What JCI Mandaue is cultivating in Northern Cebu is a blueprint for national survival.

At its core, *MAISang Pangarap* addresses two of the most critical vulnerabilities of the modern Philippine economy: economic empowerment and food security. By empowering farmers with financial tools and cooperative bargaining power, we elevate them from vulnerable victims of the supply chain to self-sustaining economic drivers.

Furthermore, the focus on corn introduces a vital player to the Filipino dinner table: corn rice (mais rice). As climate change threatens traditional paddy rice yields and global supply chains waver, embracing corn rice as a nutritious, drought-resistant, and viable alternative staple is no longer just a healthy choice; it is a strategic necessity for food security.

**“ When we diversify our fields,
we secure our plates. ”**

Farming forward means refusing to look back at outdated, exhausting methods that keep our food producers in poverty. It means looking at a field not just as dirt and sweat, but as data, technology, and economic sovereignty. The success in San Remigio proves that when corporate champions like Ford Tractor Philippines, civic leaders like JCI Mandaue, and local governments align, the trajectory of an entire municipality can change.

We can no longer afford to let our farmers look at the sky with anxiety. By equipping them with mechanization, financial intelligence, and institutional backing, we allow them to look at the horizon with anticipation. San Remigio is just the beginning. At long last, we are finally farming forward.





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*To The
Finish
Line*

BY BRYLLE DWIGHT AG-AG, DIRECTOR

*“When education reaches its final mile,
dignity should never come with a price tag.”*

The math of finishing school is simple enough on paper: attend classes, submit assignments, and pass the exams. But for hundreds of evening students in Cebu, the final formula carries a hidden, heartbreaking variable—the cost of a graduation gown. They endure years of balancing daytime jobs with night classes, only to meet one final barrier at the edge of triumph.

“A student may earn the right to graduate, but poverty should never deny them the stage.”

This harsh reality fuels JCI Mandaue's TOGather We Stand program. Now on its third straight year, the initiative closes the gap between academic completion and ceremonial celebration, proving that financial hardship should not erase years of sacrifice.





EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

What began as a simple response to an overlooked problem has evolved into a growing network of compassion. For its third year, JCI Mandaue strengthened its partnerships with Regino Mercado Night High School and Tejero Night High School, institutions that serve working and non-traditional students.

Working alongside YES Tinago, the Department of Education (DepEd), and generous sponsors, the program has now helped over 1,000 graduates secure the attire needed to march to date.

By removing the burden of toga expenses,

students are given the chance to celebrate with their peers without forcing their families to choose between graduation and daily survival.

“Sometimes the final barrier to success is not the exam, but the cost of standing proud.”

JCI Mandaue Vice President Chris Bacolod led the session, “Think Before You Click: Smart Choices in a Digital World,” challenging graduates to see their online presence as more than social activity.

THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM BREAKTHROUGH

The advocacy also

stretched into the Alternative Learning System (ALS), where seven scholars facing steep educational barriers were adopted and supported through monthly allowances, transportation aid, and study materials. The result was decisive: 100% passed the national assessment, earning their high school equivalency and opening doors to higher education or employment.

“Finishing school is personal, but reaching the finish line is often a community effort.”

A diploma celebrates the student’s hard work, but the gown tells a deeper story.

BUILT FOR *what's next?*

BY JOHN REY VILLORENTE
VP FOR BUSINESS DEVT.

*“A network is strongest
not by its size,
but by the value it creates
for those within it.”*

In a decisive step toward redefining the future of membership, JCI Mandaue is set to unveil its newest flagship initiative in 2026: the MEGA Card. Built on the powerful framework of MEGA (Membership Exclusive Gains & Access), this premium advantage card is designed to place tangible value directly into the hands of its members. More than a traditional discount card, the MEGA Card serves as a dynamic ecosystem—bridging community impact with commercial opportunity through exclusive discounts, premium privileges, and strategic partnerships across a curated network of establishments.

**“The future of membership
is about access, advantage,
and shared growth.”**

Beyond personal savings, the MEGA Card functions as a circular economy engine, intentionally crafted to support and elevate member-owned businesses. By channeling the chapter's collective purchasing power inward, it transforms everyday transactions into a cycle of shared growth, stronger enterprise, and deeper community connection. In this model, every swipe becomes more than a purchase—it becomes an investment in the network itself.

Stepping seamlessly into the digital era, the MEGA Card also doubles as a modern digital calling card, enabling members to instantly share professional credentials with a single scan. Set for its official launch in 2026, the MEGA Card stands as a bold symbol of JCI Mandaue's vision for the future—where membership is no longer just about belonging, but about building a lasting ecosystem of opportunity, innovation, and collective progress.





CONTACT POINT³⁶⁰

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*“In the kitchen,
patience wins the point;
in fellowship,
purpose wins the game.”*

The unmistakable pop-pop-pop of plastic paddles hitting wiffle balls has taken over the local sports scene, marking the rise of pickleball—the fitness world’s fastest-growing craze. A lively blend of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, the sport has quickly gained popularity for being easy to learn yet highly addictive. At the heart of the game is “the kitchen”—the non-volley zone near the net where patience, strategy, and quick reflexes matter more than raw power.

For JCI Mandaue’s young professionals, “serving in the kitchen” now carries a deeper meaning with the creation of the Merry Dinkers. Launched in April 2026 as the chapter’s official pickleball group for members and guests, it has become a thriving space for camaraderie, wellness, and networking. Through partnerships with venues like SM JMall, the group has turned the fast-rising sport into a weekly ritual where business owners, fitness enthusiasts, and civic leaders connect—not in boardrooms, but across the court.

**“When play is driven by purpose,
every point scored
becomes a step toward
community change.”**

SERVING IN THE *Kitchen.*

BY LJ VILLAFANE

Beyond the rallies lies a bigger mission: a Php 100,000 fundraising goal dedicated to JCI Mandaue’s grassroots community projects. Every serve, court booking, and guest registration directly fuels the chapter’s local development programs—showing that building stronger communities can start with a paddle, a rally, and a shared purpose.



STOCKING SHELVES, SECURING INDEPENDENCE

BY MARIO PABROA

“Behind many of the smallest businesses are women carrying the weight of both family and future.”

Walk down almost any street or alley in the Philippines, and you're bound to find a sari-sari store. These small neighborhood shops are more than places to buy sachet shampoos, canned goods, or quick snacks. They are woven into the everyday life of the barangay—spaces where neighbors exchange stories, children stop by after school, and families can ask for “lista” when money runs tight. In many ways, the sari-sari store has long been the quiet backbone of community life, keeping households afloat one small purchase at a time.

“A sari-sari store may be small in size, but its role in the community is immeasurable.”

THE MATRIARCHS OF MICRO-RETAIL

Behind many of these stores is a woman carrying more than just inventory. Across the country, mothers and wives have turned the sari-sari store into a lifeline—balancing family responsibilities while finding ways to stretch every peso. For many Filipina matriarchs, these modest stores help pay for school fees, daily meals, medicine, and other household needs. What may look like a simple home-side business is often the center of a family's survival.

But behind the neatly hung sachets and stacked canned goods is a challenge many store owners know too well. Most operate without formal training in business management. They rely on instinct and experience, often without systems for tracking sales, managing stock, or separating business funds from personal spending. As a result, growth becomes difficult, and many remain stuck in a cycle of earning just enough to get by.

“For many mothers, every peso earned from the counter carries the weight of a family's future.”

ENGINEERING THE “SHELF MADE” TURNAROUND

Recognizing this gap, JCI Mandaue introduced a practical intervention. On June 12, the organization launched *Shelf Made Success*, a business and community initiative designed for over 80 sari-sari store owners in Barangay Opao, Mandaue City. The program focused on one often-overlooked detail: strategic shelving. Participants learned how product placement, clear pricing, and organized displays can influence customer decisions and increase sales—even in the smallest of spaces.

The initiative also went deeper than store layout. Through financial literacy sessions, participants were taught how to monitor income, calculate profits, and separate household expenses from business capital. To strengthen the effort, International Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated (IPI) partnered with the program by providing free business packages, including their newly launched Dr. Wong's Papaya Bright Whitening Soap. For many of the participants, it meant having ready-to-sell products and an immediate chance to apply what they had learned.

“Sometimes, rebuilding a business starts with something as simple as rearranging a shelf.”

A NEW DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENCE

In the end, Shelf Made Success showed that empowerment often begins with small but meaningful changes. By combining practical retail strategies, financial knowledge, and corporate support, the program gave these women more than products or lessons—it gave them confidence. As the 80-plus women of Barangay Opao return to their stores, they do so carrying more than new stock on their shelves. They carry new knowledge, renewed hope, and a stronger belief that true independence can begin right at their own front doors.



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SHAPING VISIONARIES

BY MARCIAL SAN PABLO, DIRECTOR

*“The future does not wait
to be inherited.
It is forged by those
bold enough to shape it.”*

BORACAY ISLAND, Philippines — For three intense, transformative days, the powder-white sands and crystalline waters of Boracay served as more than just a tropical paradise. From May 15 to 17, 2026, the island became a crucible. Under the hosting of JCI Aklan Kalantiao and JCI Antique Kruhay, the JCI Philippines 2026 Future Leaders Academy (FLA) convened with one profound mission: to sharpen today’s changemakers into tomorrow’s visionaries.

Stepping into this arena was a formidable five-man delegation from JCI Mandaue, each carrying the weight of their LO’s aspirations: **Jay Sanciangco** (Executive Vice President for Internal Affairs), **Peter Paul Cababahay** (Executive Vice President for External Affairs), **Chris Bacolod** (Vice President for Communications), **Jerry Bual** (Local Skills Development Director), and **Marcial Anthony San Pablo** (Commissioner for Internal Trainings).

They did not travel to Boracay to escape responsibility. They came to redefine it.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF IMPACT

To shape a leader with true vision, one must first dismantle old paradigms. The FLA curriculum was a rigorous masterclass in advanced communication, strategic project management, and adaptive leadership—designed to push delegates beyond the boundaries of local thinking.

They learned that project management goes beyond deadlines—it is about creating lasting social impact. Communication, too, proved to be more than words; it became a bridge for empathy across regions and cultures.

“ Leadership begins where comfort ends.”

SHARED DESTINIES

But the deepest lessons surfaced after the sessions ended. Through simulations, debates, and reflection, the Mandaue delegation confronted a hard truth: leadership demands vulnerability. Beyond titles and positions, they were challenged to face themselves first. In that space, leadership transformed from concept into conviction. Beyond the modules, the academy's true strength came alive in connection. Surrounded by young leaders from across the country, the JCI Mandaue delegation discovered a shared pulse—different chapters, but one common mission.

“ We arrived as delegates of different chapters, but left carrying one shared vision.”

Over conversations and shared stories, they found solidarity in their struggles and hopes. What began as networking became something deeper: a coalition of leaders determined to shape the future together. When the sessions ended, Boracay offered a moment of calm. Beneath its golden sunsets and steady tides, the delegates found space to breathe—and to remember what they were fighting for.

The future they once imagined is no longer far away. It is already within their grasp.





TAIWAN *and only:* FUELING BORDERLESS GROWTH

BY MIKE YAPCHING,
LOCAL AWARDS DIR.



*"Borders divide us on a map,
but purpose unites us in action"*



T rue leadership has never been contained by geographical boundaries, nor is it silenced by the vast expanse of the ocean. For 47 years, a unique and enduring bond has quietly anchored itself between the shores of Mandaue, Philippines, and Sanchung, Taiwan. The sisterhood pact between JCI Mandaue and JCI Sanchung is not a mere ink-and-paper agreement filed away in organizational archives; it is a living, breathing lineage of cross-border collaboration. For nearly five decades, this alliance has survived shifting global landscapes, proving that when young active citizens align with a singular vision, distance becomes entirely irrelevant.

**“Some partnerships
are written in ink.
The strongest are
written in time.”**

This enduring bond found its latest vibrant chapter against the neon-lit backdrop of Taiwan. A high-profile delegation from JCI Mandaue flew into the heart of the region, arriving not just as formal international guests, but as family returning to a milestone celebration. The primary anchor of the voyage was the grand 52nd Anniversary and Induction ceremonies of JCI Sanchung.

BRIDGING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Leading the charge was 2026 President Jess Anthony Dela Cruz, whose presence signaled a contemporary commitment to the decades-old vow. Flanking him were key architects of the local organization's trajectory: Local Awards Director Mike Yapching and the 2026 Vice President for Organizational Development. Yet what elevated this delegation from a standard official visit into a profound masterclass in institutional memory was the formidable presence of the Council of Past Presidents. Walking side-by-side with the new breed of leaders were JCI Mandaue giants: Jimmy Flores (2000), Benjamin Kuizon (2004), Dr. Alain Senerpida (2007), Ed Latonio (2008), Nelson Gabate (2009), Michael Villanueva (2012),

and Richard Labitag (2017). Together, they embodied an unbroken bridge between the pioneering days of the relationship and the fast-moving landscape of 2026.spending. As a result, growth becomes difficult, and many remain stuck in a cycle of earning just enough to get by.

Beyond the formal protocols and exchange of tokens, the real magic unfolded in the unscripted moments of the trip—shared meals, late-night conversations, and cultural immersions across Taiwan. In these spaces, leadership lessons were exchanged, trust was strengthened, and the bond between both chapters grew deeper. It proved that while alliances may begin in boardrooms, they are sustained through genuine human connection.

**“Legacy is strongest
when the past walks beside
the future.”**

EXPANDING THE HORIZON OF LOCAL ACTION

This journey reinforced a vital truth: local impact thrives through global perspective. By engaging with sister chapters like JCI Sanchung, JCI Mandaue gains access to new ideas, leadership models, and community strategies that sharpen its work back home. Borderless growth allows local leaders to think bigger and act smarter.

**“Legacy is strongest
when the past walks
beside the future.”**

As the delegation returns home, they bring more than souvenirs—they carry renewed vision and stronger purpose. After 47 years, the bond between JCI Mandaue and JCI Sanchung remains proof that lasting partnerships are built through consistency, trust, and shared commitment to active citizenship.

In an age where digital noise often overwhelms substance, JCI Mandaue is cutting through with MerryTalks—its official podcast built to turn conversations into catalysts for community impact. More than a typical interview platform, MerryTalks creates a space where young leaders can unpack the realities of modern leadership and civic action. Its launch also marks the official Area 4 rollout of JCI Ideas, a regional initiative transforming local ideas into sustainable change.

Stepping into the first few episodes are two key voices behind this vision: 2026 JCI Philippines Area Vice President Atty. Von Nogra and 2026 JCI Mandaue President Jess Anthony Dela Cruz. Their conversation peels back the titles, revealing the challenges of youth mobilization, burnout, and sustaining civic engagement in a distracted generation.

The discussion bridges regional strategy and grassroots execution, showing

how alignment between the bigger picture and local initiatives fuels real impact. It is a reminder that meaningful leadership is never built in isolation.

**“A voice with purpose
can echo far beyond
the moment it is heard.”**

At the heart of MerryTalks is The Merry Men Way—JCI Mandaue’s culture of brotherhood, where leadership is shared, purposeful, and rooted in trust. It challenges the old idea of leadership as a solitary burden, proving that nation-building becomes lighter when carried together.

As MerryTalks takes its first breath on the airwaves, it extends an invitation to young changemakers everywhere: to listen, to learn, and to lead. Because when purpose finds its voice, change is never far behind.

MERRY Talks: *The Power of Purposeful Conversation*

BY CHRIS BACOLOD, VP FOR COMMUNICATIONS

*“When purpose guides the conversation,
a simple dialogue can ignite a movement.”*

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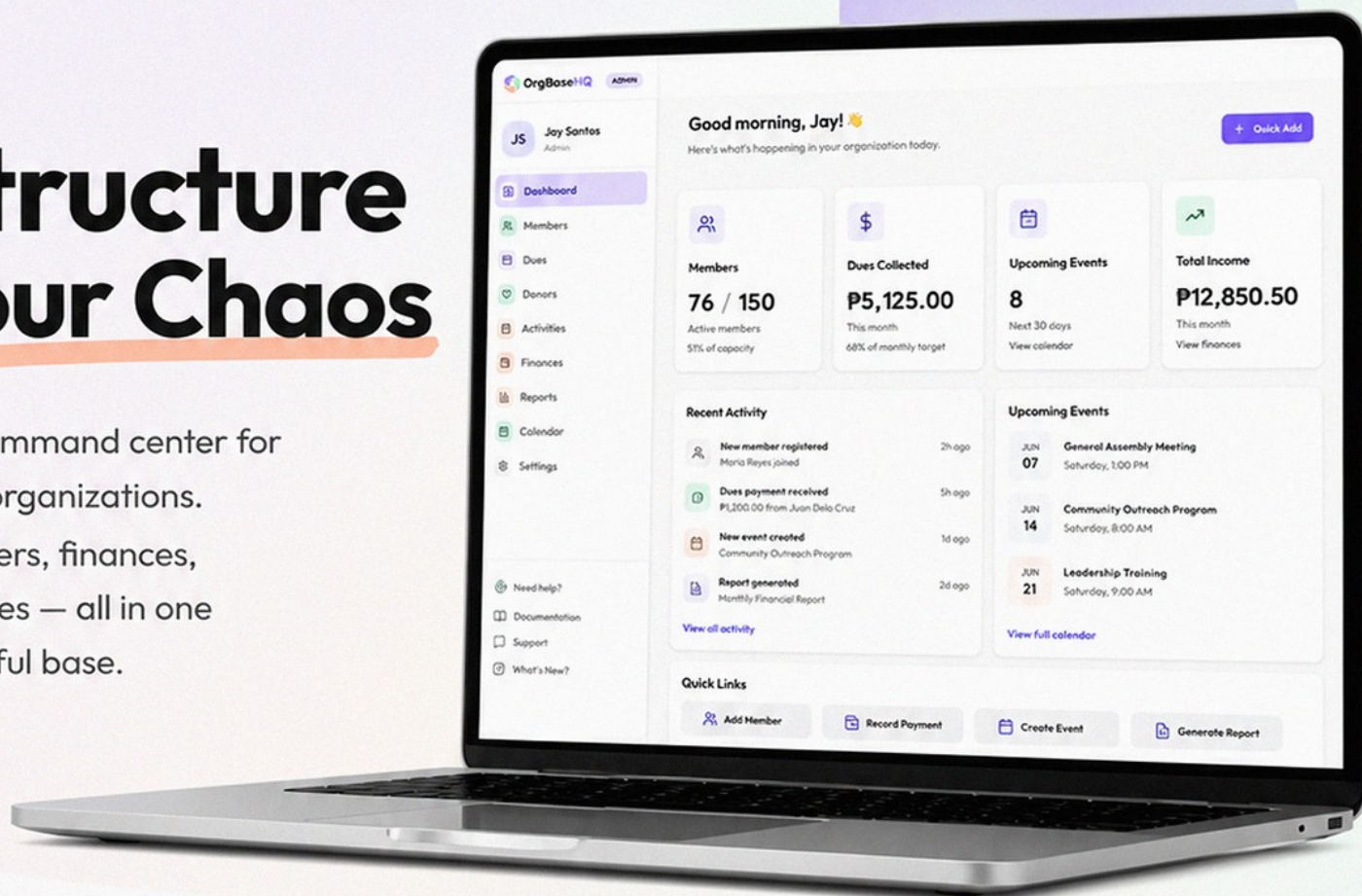


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