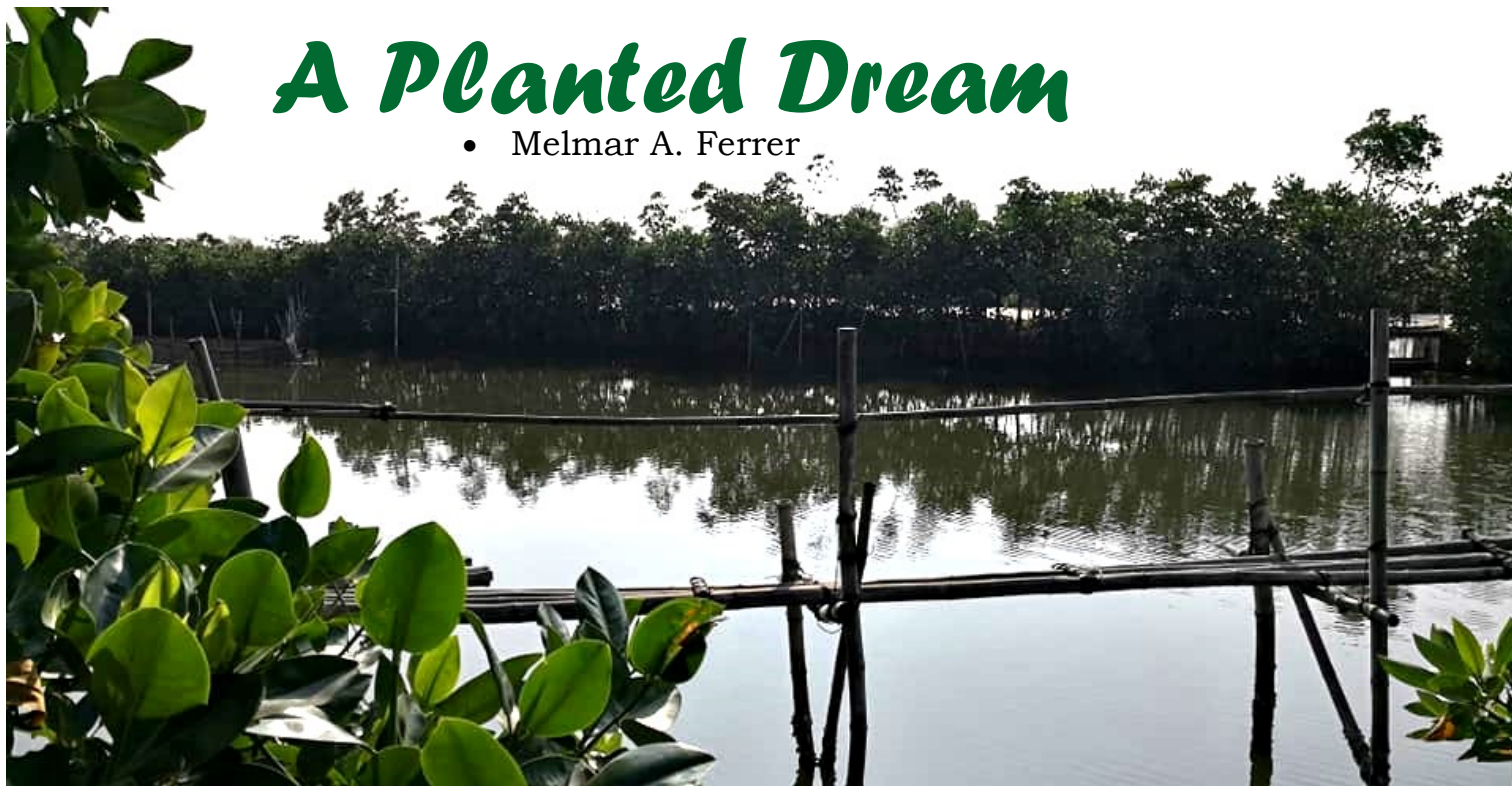




A Planted Dream

• Melmar A. Ferrer



Longos River pulsates back to life after 100,000 mangroves has been creeping into its bank since 2010 thru "Ilog Ko, Aroen Ko" Project of Bonuan Buquig NHS.

Photo by Willy U. Guieb

Picture this: A rich green forest damp with morning dew. Leaves create mosaics in every shade of green as gentle birdsong mingles with the bubbling of the river, dappled sepia sunlight cutting through branches overhead, as dewdrops fall from leaf to leaf like glistening strands of thread.

The dewdrops finally coalesce, forming a train of beads. Occasionally they kiss cheeks, and small pleasure quenching needs. The scene feels like watercolor soft diluted tones.

A path winds through the mangroves that underlines the turquoise river, now within reach. Upon prancing down the loamy path, one can even enjoy skimming stones across the water - all convenient as Bonuan Buquig National High School (BBNHS) has done its best to bestow an Avalon.

This paradise takes more than a decade to come to life, painted with time and dedication as a magnum opus. 'Ilog Ko, Aroen Ko' has been a life-long project of BBNHS and it finally pays off.

The great endeavor was led by Sir Willy U. Guieb as the project proponent guided by the leadership of former principals Ma'am Juana A. Reyes and Ma'am Maria Linda R. Ventenilla and aided by organizations such as University of Luzon through Dean Imelda Cuartel, Dr. Carmelo John Vidal and Sir Nash Aquino. Brgy. Bonuan Boquig is now given a haven for livelihood, boating, or simply breathing fresh air.

More than 100,000 mangrove propagules were

planted during the span, and Longos River had been freshened to its former glory since it was dredged eleven years back. Colleagues and former students also took part in planting Mangrove propagules.

The feather in the cap of BBNHS is astonishing and tranquil as mother nature unfolds its allure that brings delight and serenity.

The Longos folks are beyond blessed to rejoice with such a gift - a realization of a planted dream.

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