

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 545

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

**RESOLUTION
COMMENDING THE CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL
DEVELOPMENT MUTUALLY REINFORCING INSTITUTIONS (CARD-MRI)
AND ISABELA GOVERNOR MARIA GRACIA CIELO MAGNO PADACA FOR
WINNING THE 2008 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDS**

WHEREAS, the Laguna-based Center for Agriculture & Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions, or (CARD-MRI), was selected among several nominees to receive the award for public service for its successful adaptation of microfinance in the Philippines, providing self-sustaining and comprehensive services for half a million poor women and their families;

WHEREAS, Isabela Governor Maria Gracia Cielo "Grace" Magno Padaca won the Magsaysay Award for government service. The board of trustees recognized her empowering voters in the Isabela Province to reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing and to contribute as full partners in their own development;

WHEREAS, the citation noted that when CARD-MRI was founded in 1986 by Jaime Aristotle Alip, along with Dolores Torres, Lorenza Bañez, and "it had a start-up fund of twenty pesos and Alip's 'magic' typewriter-for writing up grant proposals-the group set to work.". After some years of trial and error, the Center applied the Grameen micro-credit model, with its women borrowers guaranteeing each other's loans and pledging to make loan payments and savings deposits every week;

WHEREAS, the CARD-MRI today has 337 branches nationwide, with more than 500,000 poor women as members and nearly 2.5 million people insured. The center's loan- repayment rate is above 99 percent, permitting CARD-MRI to wean itself from outside grants for its banking and insurance programs;

WHEREAS, in a citation, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation's board of trustees noted that Governor Padaca's campaign is a challenge to her constituents "to reach beyond their political comfort zones and to defend what is good in society.";

WHEREAS, Governor Padaca, was born in 1963 and crippled early in childhood by polio. She won scholarships to help pay her own way and by twenty-one had qualified as a Certified Public Accountant. At Bombo Radyo in Cauayan, Isabela, she took an accounting job and soon became a popular radio commentator tackling corruption, illegal gambling, logging and her province's stagnating economy and ravaged environment;

WHEREAS, Governor Padaca lost her bid for a congressional seat against a candidate from a political family in 2001, but won against another member of the clan as governor in 2004 and again in 2007;

WHEREAS, The Ramon Magsaysay Award is considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize. It was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) based in New York City. With the concurrence of the Philippine government, the prize was created to commemorate the late President Ramon Magsaysay and to perpetuate his example of integrity in government, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. Every year the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation gives away prizes to Asian individuals and organizations for achieving excellence in their respective fields;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to commend the Center For Agriculture & Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD-MRI) and Isabela Governor Maria Gracia Cielo Magno Padaca for winning the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Adopted.


MANNY VILLAR
Senator