

## Creative Recycling Arts Philippines

*We make it our business to recover and recycle valuable, lost resources !*



**CreReA** means: **Creative Recycling Arts** was founded in March 2002 by a group of only three persons in Negros Island. The beginning of these unique livelihood opportunity for woman started by collecting, cleaning and assembling “*thrown-away-softdrink-packages*” into bags and other useful items for daily use. These types of packages are also called “*doypacks*” or “*wrappers*” in the Philippines and appear increasingly in the stores and supermarkets as packages for juices, tomato cetchup and lately also for oils, coffee, peanuts and even shampoos. In the beginning of the recycling project the unique bags were only used to support seminars for solid waste management and as accessories for conferences, but due to the very positive response, the recycling group quickly expanded and started to produce recycling bags for the private market.

And now, five years later, more than 40 freelance members of the CreReA Recycling Group enjoy a regular income producing and selling recycling products.

CreReA is part of several pilot projects to improve the solid waste management system in selected Local Government Units in the Visayas, the middle part of the Philippines. The project was initiated by German Development Assistance and is still part of the development program of the German Technical

Cooperation under the presently conducted project “*Solid Waste Management for Local Government Units*” (SWM4LGUs).

A very important aspect of solid waste management is to establish new awareness and habits on the community level, which allow to address wrong waste management practices such as scattered waste disposal or waste burning along roads or in backyards. Efficient waste management is not only environmental sound waste disposal. It means to minimize, to recover and to recycle lost resources whenever possible.

Based on experiences from other countries, this is best conducted by the private sector. CreReA members make it their business to reuse and recycle materials out of the waste stream. In doing so, waste is reduced at source and a “*cost-free*” clean up service provided on the local level. Likewise valuable materials can be reused, which assists to substitute other resources. In the meantime the originally started project on Negros Island expanded to the neighboring islands Cebu, Guimaras and Panay.

Many of *thrown-away-packages* are made out of very resistant materials. Why throwing them away ? Eventually they are useful to substitute other raw materials ? Marketing experts invested a lot of time and efforts to attract customers with these packages and to make them buying their products. Many of the collected packages are still suitable to produce shopping bags, present bags, backpacks, cosmetic bags, wallets, envelopes and others items for private use. And since these products are made of many package units, the original marketing effect is even multiplied. And that is the reason why many people are attracted and wonder what these bags are about. You also ?

CreReA-recycling-products are very useful for environmental education and awareness building. CreReA was asked to supply recycling bags as samples for solid waste management seminars by the German Technical Cooperation, the German Development Service, the City of Bais, the Province of Negros Oriental, the Province of Guimaras, La Salle University in Bacolod City, Passi City in Iloilo Province and many other Municipalities in Negros and Panay Islands.

In December 2002 Cebu Furniture Industries Incorporated requested CreReA to produce “*Give-a-ways*” made of Recycling Bags for the International Furniture Exhibition, which was conducted in February 2003. What a challenge for the recycling group! In January and February 2003 the Recycling-Team produced 1000 special Recycling Bags for this event. This also meant to process 18000 “*thrown-away-packages*”. The recycling project is still very thankful to Cebu Furniture Industries. Without their awareness and support, this first contract to recycle on a larger scale would not have been possible. And the Recycling Bags distributed at this event, meant also a “*break-through*”. Every bag contained an information sheet and a contact address. Consequently the bags reached many places in and outside the Philippines !

Since then the CreReA recycling project received and receives many requests to produce Recycling Bags from all over the world ! And only five years after the beginning more than 40 members enjoy a regular income from the recycling project. However, there are more benefits: Some members use to say: *“Recycling is fun and the project helps us to improve our lives”*. But they also state: *“Recycling means even more, it helps to clean up the environment and it contributes to develop better habits managing wastes within our community”* ! That’s why CreReA promotes:

## ***Lets use our Imagination – Not the Trash Can !***

***For more information please contact:***

### **CreReA Recycling**

**Ms. Marie Ann Bandiez**

3. Avenue, Block 12, Lot 31

Ledesco Village

Iloilo City, Panay, Philippines

phone: 0063(0)-33-3201607

e-mail: [phi\\_rea@yahoo.com](mailto:phi_rea@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Johannes Paul**

German Technical Cooperation

GTZ-AHT Project Office

c/o DENR EMB R-6, Parola Street

Iloilo City, Philippines

e-mail: [jp\\_aht@yahoo.com](mailto:jp_aht@yahoo.com)