

IAYSP Philippines: Vocational Training Empowers Filipino Special Needs Youth

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Camalig, Philippines – The Nurturing Child's Talents (NCT) project in Camalig, Albay Province offered vocational and livelihood training for students with special needs, from March to June, 2025. With UPF-Australia as principal sponsor, in partnership with Camalig North Central School, the project aimed to help students develop practical skills, gain confidence, and discover ways to support themselves.



On-site implementation was led by **Ms. Rica B. Marfil**, an engineer and winner of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) Philippines speaking competition. She worked in

collaboration with One Heart Movement, represented by **Ms. Niña S. Yang**; UPF-Bicol Chapter headed by **Mr. Alexander Basabe**; and the IAYSP-Bicol Chapter led by **Mr. Christian Mark Cadag**. **Sir Angelito Cainday** of IAYSP-Philippines provided guidance and managed the funding.



Hands-on training included sessions in massage therapy in March, cooking and housekeeping in April and May. The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on June 10, 2025, joined by parents, special education teachers, students, and a local government representative.

Ms. Rose Ann Mostaza, head of the Camalig Municipal Youth Development Office, graced the event and commended the project's impact, saying that efforts like this uplift not just individuals but entire communities. She shared the story of a person with a disability who works for the municipality, and stressed the importance of inclusion.



Heartfelt messages came from families and teachers, who thanked those who organized and carried out the project, and expressed the hope that further trainings would be held in the future. The Project NCT team thanked the UPF-Australia Ambassadors for Peace for funding and supporting this meaningful activity.

Project NCT was not just a series of trainings, it was a labor of love. It demonstrated how inclusive service, backed by strong community partnership, can transform lives and build a more compassionate and empowered society.