

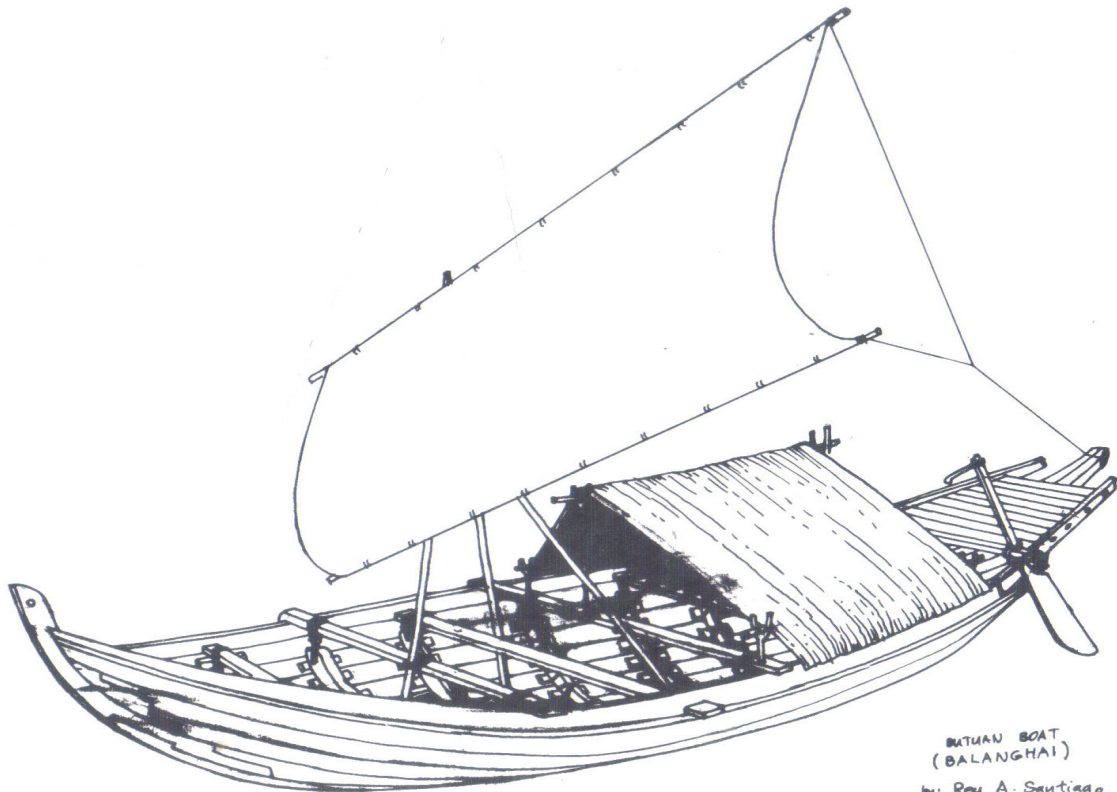


THE VOYAGE of the BALANGAY
A Project Concept/Abstract

Overview

Thousands of years ago, the ancestors of the Filipino people, the *Austronesians*, traveled from the Asian mainland by land bridges across the continental shelf to the South East Asian archipelago. They then sailed onward to as far East as *Polynesia*, and as far West as *Madagascar*, aboard the ancient vessel: the *Balangay*.

The Kaya ng Pinoy Inc., launches an exciting, new undertaking that will retrace the migration of our ancestors across the oceans using only the native Balangay, built faithful to the craftsmanship and materials used during the ancient times. Navigation will also remain accurate to the method that was used by the earliest mariners – steering by the sun, the stars, the wind, cloud formations, wave patterns and bird migrations.



BUTUAN BOAT
(BALANGHAI)
by: Rey A. Santiago
National Museum

Objectives

Boat Building. The authentic Balangay will be crafted by master boat builders from the *Island of Sibutu and Sitangkay* in *Tawi-Tawi*, whose skills had been handed down through generations. They will be employing the same boat building technique and method of construction as the Balangay of the 4th, 13th and 14th century A. D. - plank built, lashed lug, edge pegged and shell-first construction. This will not only showcase the capability of the Filipino boat builders but would also be our way of instilling and propagating the idea among the present Filipinos, particularly the youth, that the Filipinos have been world-class boat builders even before the coming of the Western colonizers

This historically veritable construction will take place at the *Reclamation Area, Manila* – an informative and interactive boat building showroom. A viewing deck will be constructed so that students and the public will have the chance to actually see the progress of the construction of the boat

There will also be an active participation by a pool of experts and the academe to ensure an in depth understanding of the technical and historical aspects of the endeavor, as well as a thorough appreciation of the significance of this undertaking to our identity as a people.

Sailing Route. These are the maps marking the route based on the projected timetable.

2009	The Philippines
2010	Southeast Asia
2011	Micronesia and Madagascar
2012	Sail across the Pacific onward to the Atlantic, all the way around the world
2013	Back home to the Philippines

The Balangay Builder: **Art Valdez**

Art Valdez once had an impossible dream. But no order is too *tall* for the man who conceived, organized and lead the successful **Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition** to the top of the world's *tallest* mountain. Against all odds, including a perennial shortage of funds, his team put the *First Filipinos on the Summit of Mt. Everest* in 2006. In 2007, the team accomplished the *First Women Traverse of Mt. Everest* – a feat never before done in world mountaineering history.

Art Valdez's organizational expertise and rich experience in leading the Mt. Everest Expedition can serve as the guiding light in the accomplishment of this project, his new "Everest."

If the team can succeed on Mt. Everest without ever having seen snow or high mountain, then more so in the Voyage of the Balangay, an undertaking that has been in the Filipino blood, in Malay tradition, for thousands of years.

The Crew

The core of the crew will be the Philippine Everest Team:

Leo Oracion
Erwin "Pastour" Emata
Noelle Wenceslao
Carina Dayondon
Janet Belarmino-Sardena
Dr. Ted Esguerra
Fred Jamili
Dr. Voltaire Velasco

The rest of the crew will be composed of master sailors, academics and scientists whose selection will be based on the *Three C's*:

CAPABILITY to accomplish the task at hand
COMMITMENT to the team and its undertaking
COMPATIBILITY with the team's core values

Values

In celebration of the *Asian Century*, it is also a time to honor the Filipino pioneering spirit, which we established during our ascent of Mt. Everest. This next epic voyage is yet another chance to inspire our countrymen and fellow Malays to believe in ourselves and in our oneness again.

The inspiration for this project comes from the maritime achievements of our ancestors. Sailing along the South China Sea, the Gulf of Thailand and the Java Sea despite the presence of obstacles and dangers, our people considered the seas to be unifying rather than divisive. It is a means of transport and communication.

The project will showcase and challenge Filipino ingenuity and native survival skills in this modern age by using ancient seafaring technology. It also aims to reorient the psyche of our people, that we *are* a maritime nation, and not land-based, as our colonizers had lead us to believe. Sailing around the country and visiting every major port will rekindle that maritime spirit in us.

The Balangay will become the catalyst to stir up historical consciousness among Filipinos today, a *sine qua non* in transporting our people to our cherished goals. Without that keen knowledge of history, our people will continue to suffer as our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, aptly described, "*Ang taong hindi lumilingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makakarating sa patutunguhan.*"

REFERENCES

Please check the following materials and websites for more detailed information about the project, the team and the Balangay Voyage...