



FIRST NEWS BULLETIN FOR PRESS RELEASE

3RD ASEAN PARA GAMES LAUNCHED

Manila, Philippines – The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the ASEAN Desk of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) have shown their full support behind the Manila hosting of the 3rd ASEAN Para Games set on December 12 – 21, 2005. No less than Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has given her blessings to the successful hosting of the Games, formally launched December 2004 at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

The presentation of the official Games logo and the official Games Mascot, the friendly whale shark, Buboy Butanding, highlighted the formal launch program. PSC Chairman Eric Buhain, ASEAN Para Sports Federation (APSF) President Zainal Abu Zarin, DFA Assistant Secretary and ASEAN Desk Director General Susan O. Castrence, Organizing Committee Chairman and PSC Commissioner Michael Barredo, Philspada Officer-in-Charge Luis de Arellano, Manila Sports Council Chairman Ali Atienza and APSF Vice President for Marketing / Communications Emmanuel Penson graced the affair. APSF Vice President for Sports Development Committee / Chairman – Games & Liaison Committee, S. Radha Krishnan of the Malaysian Paralympic Council also participated in the auspicious event.

Ms. Castrence explained that ASEAN Philippines, has for a long time now, been working to promote the welfare of the differently abled sector. “We will definitely support the ASEAN Para Games”, she said.

The logo represents the figure of an athlete leaping forward with arms raised in joyous celebration. It embodies the triumph of the competitive spirit and the fire within the ASEAN Para Games athlete.

The mascot, considered the largest fish in the world, visits the Philippines waters between November to May. A protected specie, the Whale Shark mascot embodies gentleness and determination to survive all odds.

The 3rd ASEAN Para Games, to be hosted by the Philippines for the first time, is expected to lure 1,000 athletes with disabilities and 300 officials from 11 countries Brunei, East Timor, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Singapore, Myanmar, and Malaysia.

Among the events to be contested are wheelchair basketball, chess, wheelchair tennis, athletics, power lifting, aquatics, table tennis, badminton, judo, and goalball.