

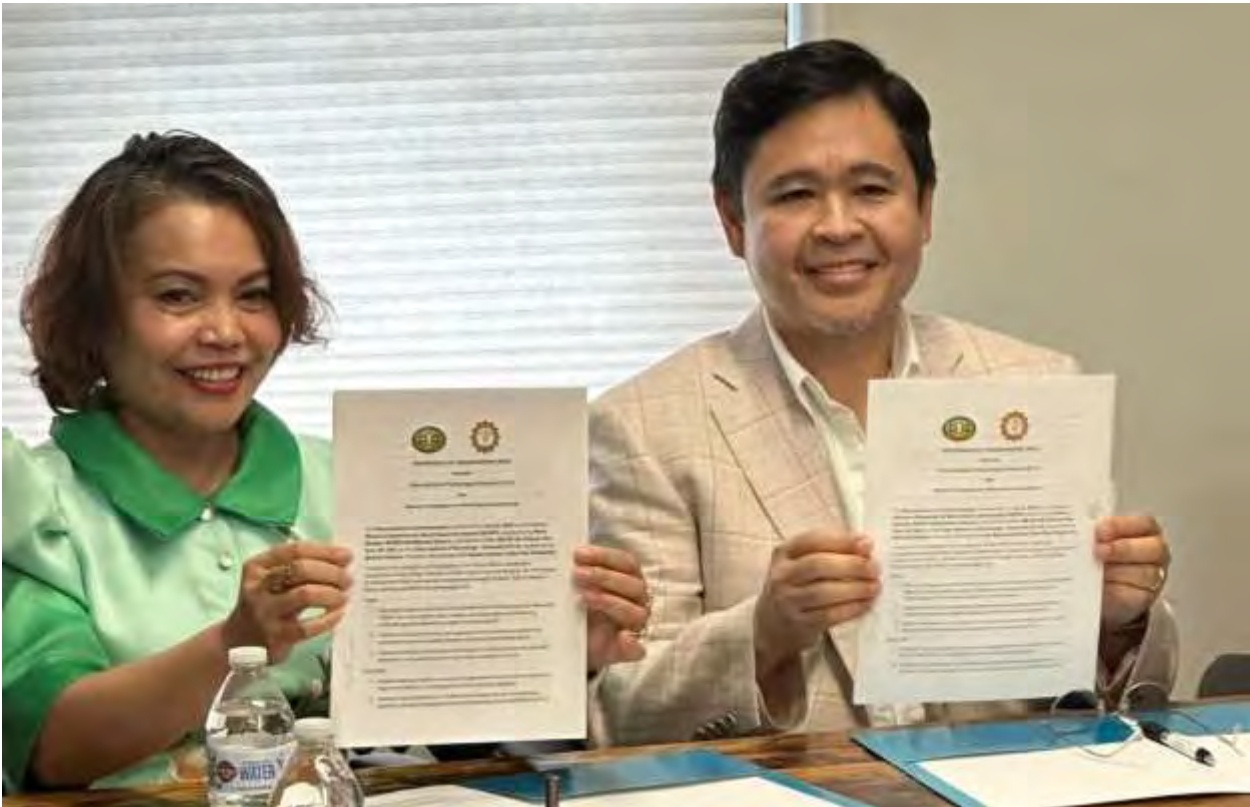
**WFWPI and CIT-U Agree to Implement Permaculture Project in the Philippines**

Merly Barlaan  
July 23, 2025  
UN Relations Office - New York



*Barlaan and Villamor signing the MOU to mainstream permaculture education in the Philippines.*

New York - The WFWPI UN Relations Office and a Philippine university signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on July 23, 2025, for a joint project called "Mainstreaming Permaculture Education for Climate Action."



*Merly Barlaan and Engr. Bernard Villamor show the newly-signed MOU.*

This was a Parallel Event to the 2025 High Level Political Forum on sustainable development of the UN

ECOSOC held at the New Yorker Hotel.



*Mainstreaming permaculture has a proof of concept. We're on the next level of addressing hunger and ensuring youth leadership.*

Cebu Institute of Technology-University president Engr. Bernard Villamor and WFWPI vice president for administration and UN Relations director Merly Barlaan signed the MOU to implement a joint permaculture education program in Cebu City as a commitment to the UN General Assembly Resolution 76300, the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

WFWPI's UN representatives and ambassadors for peace witnessed the signing. CITU and WFWPI agreed to promote a joint education program on permaculture, implement at the community level regenerative food production systems, and build the capacity of local leaders and students to institutionalize permaculture education in the secondary and tertiary level of education of CIT-U.

"Our collaboration with CITU is in support of the realization and localization of the UN sustainable development goals as well as the Philippines' Republic Act 8044 Youth in National Building, RA 7192 Gender and Development (GAD), and women empowerment through UN Reso. 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security," the MOU reads.

At the local level in Cebu, both parties agreed to establish safe and healthy university-based and regenerative food production systems in the communities.

They will also trailblaze a global network of 10,000 student leaders who are conscientious, altruistic, and peace-loving environmental stewards led by the WFWPI and CIT-U.



*WFWPI Ambassadors for Peace, interns, and friends at the MOU signing event.*

In the neighboring province of Bohol, the permaculture project has been initiated by Barlaan in her hometown in Carmen, collaborating with youth and local agricultural officers of the government. The Cebu project comes in as an institutional partnership with the academe.

After the signing, Villamor expressed gratitude for the partnership. "I don't know where to start. But like Merly, I'd like to say I couldn't do this without you. I learned permaculture many years ago. But it is difficult. It takes collaboration to do this. I am inspired by my wife, my senior adviser. Today, my wife and I think not for ourselves, but for the next generation. I am inspired by my son and the youth. How can we empower them."

Villamor cited the dire need for the youth to have proper and quality nutrition to help solve the "learning crisis" in the Philippines. He said that permaculture, which is a small-scale regenerative food production



system, could be the answer to ensure that the children get a proper meal before going to school.

In the permaculture project, he said that mothers could cook and feed their children properly with food coming from their own regenerative urban gardens. "We can do a pilot community of mothers and let our students participate. Permaculture is a way to live practically."

Clementine Villamor said that as a hands-on parent, she is concerned that hunger and the learning crisis is a fundamental problem in the Philippines. "Good nutrition for the children is basic. But sadly, this is still a problem in the Philippines. Thank you for the inspiration. I will prove to you that we will do this project together."

Amb. Mario de Leon closed the event with a note of inspiration and hope. "As you saw in the video on permaculture in Bohol, there is a proof of concept that this project will work. It is our action to end hunger and to develop youth leaders."

In January 2026, WFWPI and CIT-U will hold a permaculture summit in Cebu and a permaculture tour in Bohol with the ambassadors for peace and youth leaders.

"This is exciting. We see action on the ground," said ambassador for peace RN Menchu Sanchez.