

International Committee for October 17



INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

International Committee for October 17: Appointment of Mr. Romeo Lagahit

October 17, 2017, Pierrelaye, France—We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Romeo Lagahit to the International Committee for October 17. The Committee was established in 2008 to promote and support the observance of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, observed on October 17th each year, which is recognised as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations.

Donald Lee, President of the International Committee, in announcing the appointment said “I am very pleased to welcome Mr. Romeo Lagahit as a member of the International Committee. He has been actively involved in the promotion and organization of October 17 commemorations in the Philippines for many years, and it was his initiative that led to the creation of a replica of the October 17 Commemorative Stone in his home town of Davao City. His commitment to fighting poverty, together with his experience in defending the human rights of people living in the Philippines, will greatly enrich the work of the Committee.”

Mr. Lagahit, a native of the Philippines, worked for many years as the Regional Director of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) in the Mindanao region. His enduring commitment to social development and poverty eradication has raised awareness in the Philippines of the need to work together with people living in extreme poverty to overcome poverty and to defend their human rights. He has been a tireless organizer and supporter of the annual observances of October 17.

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TO KNOW MORE

The International Committee for October 17 was established in 2008 with the following goals: to promote the 17 of October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as recognised by the United Nations, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty; to promote the observance of the 17 of October in its original spirit; and, to promote opportunities where people from a variety of backgrounds, including those whose lives are most difficult, can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of Human Rights.

(<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-committee-for-october-17>)

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first celebrated as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at a major public rally held on the 17 of October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights. On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected.

(<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/history-of-october-17>)

In 1992, the United Nations proclaimed the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

(<http://www.un-documents.net/a48r183.htm>)

The Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) was created on December 8, 1986 by President Aquino. The PCUP is mainly a coordinative and advocacy body mandated to serve as the direct link of the urban poor to the government in policy formulation and program implementation addressed to their needs. The Philippines is the only country in which the Office of the President has an agency directly looking after the concerns of the urban poor. The PCUP reports directly to the Office of the President.

(<http://www.pcup.gov.ph>)