



CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

*For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain
and for Self Determination*

September 20, 2008

JAMES BALAO PROFILE



James Balao is a founding member of the CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE (CPA) when it was established in June 1984. Even before the founding of the CPA, James was working as a research staff of the Cordillera Resource Center (CRC). With his forte and expertise in research, James consequently worked as member of the CPA's Research and Education Commission as a trainer and researcher. He has invaluable contributed to CPA's Research and Education work, mainly on the issues of tribal war and ancestral land. At present, he is the President of the Oclupan Clan Association and one of his tasks is to look into the registration and documentation of the clan properties.

James was with the CPA Regional Office until 1993, and then devoted his skills and expertise to the research and education work of the CPA chapters and network in the provinces such as in Ifugao from 1994 to 1997, with the Ifugao Research and Development Center (IRDC) and later with the Ifugao Peasant Leaders Forum (IPLF). Then onwards, and up to present, he extends the same services to other provinces in the region, carrying out CPA's research and education work particularly in agricultural liberalization, and at the same time actively attending to family affairs as clan president of the Oclupan Clan Association. As an active member of the CPA, James makes it a point to attend the CPA's CORDILLERA DAY Celebrations, such as in Tocucan, Mt. Province (2004) and Baguio City (2007).

Balao graduated B.S. Psychology from the University of the Philippines Baguio in 1981. In college, he was the editor-in-chief of the Outcrop (campus newspaper). He also worked as a research staff for the Cordillera Schools Group (CSG) based in Easter School (1981-1984) then as a staff of Pons Benagen, of the 1986 Constitutional Commission on the drafting of the 1986 Constitution especially on provisions on indigenous peoples.

He is the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Jane Balao of Atok and La Trinidad, Benguet and is the eldest of four children. He was born in April 10, 1961. #