

October 23, 2023

Mr. Roland de Jesus
Benguet Corporation
Universal Re Building
106 Paseo de Roxas
Makati

Dear Mr. de Jesus:

Greetings of Peace!

I am writing this letter to recommend **Mr. Mark Auditor** for the Peace Crops Alumni Foundation for the Philippine Development Scholarship Program.

Mr. Auditor has been my work colleague since 2018, and I have had the opportunity to know him as a development professional, a leader, and a person of character.

When Mr. Auditor joined Xavier Science Foundation Inc. in 2018, he was among the youngest in our workplace. But despite of his youth, he was able to display independence, initiative, commitment to producing quality outputs and sustainable outcomes, and strong communication skills. He was able to co-organize seven Indigenous Peoples organizations in the Mt. Kalatungan Range in Bukidnon, a key biodiversity area in Northern Mindanao. To achieve this feat, he worked closely with stakeholders from the local government unit, public schools, and parishes. He also activated the local women and youth groups, ensuring their participation in cultural-strengthening and economic activities. This collaboration proved to be beneficial to the local community. Apart from this, Mr. Auditor led projects involving land tenure, landscape governance, and forest conservation among other others. His efforts were able to bring in more partners to the foundation, funneling more support, assistance and recognition to the IP communities.

As a leader, Mr. Auditor is able to initiate new systems that facilitated a more streamlined work flow, allowing his team to maximize time and resources. He is able to challenge the status quo, and to question norms, especially if it is evident that these no longer serve the mission of the foundation. He also has an eye for innovation. For several times, he has led us into pursuing advocacies and projects that integrate digital technology and indigenous knowledge systems and practices. Mr. Auditor also served as a mentor in Forest Foundation Philippines and Edukasyon PH's Best Friends of the Forest, a Fellowship Program for the youth where they design and implement projects about conservation, social entrepreneurship, eco-tourism, and the arts. Through his guidance, his mentees were able to establish a seedling nursery, conduct capacity building activities, forge partnerships, and plan out for the actual planting to be participated by university students.

Above all of his achievements and qualifications, I can strongly vouch that Mr. Auditor is a person of good character. In the five years that I've known him, he has exhibited grit in the most challenging of situations. He also builds genuine relationships for the people he is serving, always honest about his intentions and considerate in his approaches. Furthermore, he displays honesty in all his transactions, always ensuring transparency and accountability are upheld. His evident passion is backed with his willingness for action.

He is a most fitting candidate for this scholarship. When he is able to share his stories, experiences and plans to your admissions team, I am confident that he will also have an impact on you. Should you have further questions about Mr. Auditor, I am most willing to supply more details. You may contact me through my email and mobile number: xmgualberto@forestfoundation.ph / 0927 668 3267.

Most respectfully yours,



Xyla Mercedita E. Gualberto
Programs Associate for Mindanao
Forest Foundation Philippines