



## In Memoriam

### **Governor Alfredo G. Marañon Jr. (December 21, 1935 – October 1, 2020)**

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of a great organic pioneer, **Alfredo G. Marañon Jr.**, the former Governor of Negros Occidental. He was a farmer, civil engineer and aquaculturist by profession.

An organic farmer himself, Governor Marañon was passionate about the preservation of his beautiful island and promoting organic agriculture. His years of service from 2010 to 2019 highlighted the growth of organic agriculture in Negros Occidental.

During his term as Governor, he implemented the Negros First! strategic development plan which also boosted Negros Occidental as an agricultural province to ensure food sufficiency and agricultural productivity and to create income for the poor and marginalized. He put forward a plan for the whole island of Negros Occidental to be 100% organic. By 2014, Negros Occidental has reached 97 percent sufficiency in rice production and now has 15,000 hectares of organic farms and 12,920 organic farmers.

**André Leu**, the past President of IFOAM - Organics International, visited Negros Occidental several times as the guest of Governor Marañon. He stated "Governor Marañon was a true pioneer of fully organic districts. I regarded him highly and I am very sad at his passing. He was a truly wonderful, generous and visionary man and I give my deepest condolences to his family."



(Photo Credit: Ramon Uy / Governor Maranon, left with IFOAM Asia representatives and IFOAM Asia Members, Nov 2017. The lady in white (third from left) is the current Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Bernadette Romulo Puyat)

During the term of Governor Marañon, the annual Negros Island Organic Farmers Festival, started from 2005, became one of the most important organic events in the Philippines and put the island on the map for as a destination for farm tourism.

On the international and regional arenas, Negros Occidental is a member of IFOAM-Organics International and IFOAM Asia. Bacolod city in the province, serves as the current seat of the IFOAM Asia Philippines Office. The province is also an active member of the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA).

*“In the last nine years, I have worked hard for our people with only the best intentions in mind-- to help and improve the quality of life of our people, trying to lift them out of poverty,”* his final State of the Province Report, June 27, 2019.