

Stone Soup Leadership Institute Philippines Press For Marietta Primicias Goco Upon Winning the Institute's Eleanor Roosevelt Award

Once in a while, someone from our country takes home a medal from an international event. This makes us feel good about ourselves, and inspires us to believe once more that yes, we have what it takes. Stories like these remind us of what we can do at a time when we have begun to wonder if there is hope. Today another Filipina has brought home an international award. Mrs. Marietta Primicias Goco as the first non-American to receive the Eleanor Roosevelt award.

Lyn Besa-Gamboa, Governor, Pacific Area 1 International Federation of Women's Organizations *The Philippine STAR OPINION* We felt proud and joyful when we read that the first recipient of the **Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Global Eleanor Roosevelt Award** was **Marietta Primicias Goco** for being instrumental in mainstreaming micro finance into a state policy through The Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act (RA 8425). Like Eleanor Roosevelt, Marietta Goco has dedicated her life to working for the most neglected and underprivileged members of our society. To do good -- two things are necessary.

First, one must think correctly; second, one must mean well. To love the people and work for the improvement of the oppressed and the underprivileged is the height of goodness. We are glad that Mrs. Goco has received due recognition for her good works here and abroad. May her tribe increase!

> Alejandro R. Roces Roses and Thorns *The Philippine Star*

President Franklin Roosevelt once told historian Arthur Schessigner Jr. the achievement of which he was most proud was the creation of the United Nations. Eleanor Roosevelt told biographer Joseph Lash that her proudest achievement was the UN Declaration of Human Rights that met in Geneva. This important document set a world standard for fulfilling the obligation of the UN Chapter to the rights and dignity of the world's people. The Philippines, represented by Carlos Romulo, served on that commission in Geneva.

This month, Dr. Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh received the Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Mahatma Gandhi Award for launching micro credit as the most viable means to fight global poverty. Mrs. Goco received the Institute's Eleanor Roosevelt Award for her work has been to take that concept one step further, from small loans to individuals, to the concept of "micro finance" ... which raise the living standard of families.

> Beth Day Romulo Manila Bulletin