**Please fill out this section *only* if you are nominating an *institution***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution name | Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), Inc. |
| Address of headquarters | Unit 2A Garpas Tower  No.31 V. Luna Road cor. Mabilis St. (2nd Floor of the High Precision Diagnostics) Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City, Philippines 1101 |
| Address of nominated institution if different from headquarters |  |
| Date of creation Main fields of activity | 2005 |
| Size Organization structure |  |
| Annual budget and sources of income |  |
| Name and title of chief executive officer | Edgardo B. Ligon  Executive Director |

**For those submitting nominations, please provide your details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Nominator’s name | Atty. Antonio Laviña |
| Address | Ateneo School of Government  Pacifico Ortiz Hall Fr. Arrupe Road, Social Development Complex Ateneo de Manila University Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108 Philippines Tel Nos.: (632) 426-6001 locals 4649, 4642, (632) 426-6061 Fax No.: (632) 426-5997 |
| Email | [commdir@aps.ateneo.edu](mailto:commdir@aps.ateneo.edu) |
| Present position | Dean |
| Previous posts and functions |  |

In less than 400 words, please describe the remarkable and innovative effort carried out by the nominee to reduce the impact of disasters and build disaster resilience under the theme ***“ Shaping the Future.”***

|  |
| --- |
| The Ateneo School of Government or the ASoG started out as a unit under the Graduate School of Business in 1996 and was formally established as an autonomous academic unit in 2001. Since its beginnings, the ASoG has been faithful to its mission of working with effective and ethical public servants to build prosperous and just communities throughout the Philippines.  Since day one of the aftermath of the typhoon, I had already been asking myself how I and the rest of my legal team at the Ateneo School of Government can help in the various relief efforts mobilized for the disaster-stricken areas. It dawned on me that Yolanda did not merely wash away people's loved ones and their families, most certainly not only their homes, clothes, and other belongings. As my colleague Atty. Pauline Caspellan pointed out to me later: "In a whirlwind of water and debris, the typhoon also literally washed away identities and a general sense of being and existing in a world where legal identity is proven primarily on paper."  Seeing this legal need, the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) recruited law students from the top law schools in the Philippines as well as volunteer lawyers to help in a Legal Mission organized by the Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services Inc. (IDEALS) Inc. and funded both by Oxfam and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Legal Mission, rendered free legal assistance to the survivors of Typhoon Yolanda in Leyte and Samar in accessing their benefits and claims for damages that they have incurred as a result of the typhoon. This includes applications for SSS and GSIS calamity claims and disaster loans.  Established in 2005, IDEALS’ strength lies on its capacity to provide legal services which are directed towards the marginalized sectors. IDEALS has built extensive networks and linkages, established proficiency in the field of land and agrarian reform and law, and gained substantial experience in providing direct legal assistance, legal education, policy and law reform advocacy, and other related interventions. All of which are part of IDEALS’ core and development consulting programs.  Although a new player in disaster risk reduction (DRR), IDEALS found its niche in delivering civil registration and legal assistance to disaster survivors. In December 2011, IDEALS started its DRR work for Mindanao farmers affected by Typhoon Bopha. This was followed by their participation in helping Haiyan survivors under the projects “Mobile Civil Registration Project”, “Access to Benefits and Claims after Disasters”, and most recently “Access to Benefits and Claims after Disasters – Expansion”. Having been supported by several funding institutions, their Haiyan effort was an affirmation that IDEALS is filling in a significant element in bringing the lives of disaster-affected communities back to normalcy.  The volunteers, working with paralegals of the Legal Mission, have given free legal assistance to Yolanda survivors by providing them the most basic of legal documents such as birth certificates, certificates of acknowledgment of illegitimate children who have been allowed to use their father's surnames and, sadly but very much a part of reality, the ubiquitous requests for registration of their loved ones' death certificates. In a way, this is basic, ordinary legal work and after while can be quite boring, but as I told the volunteers, they need to realize the importance of what they are doing. Legal identity, in the context of a major disaster, is a ticket for survival and rebuilding one's life. It is absolutely essential and thus they are doing life-saving work.  For us at ASOG, we see this as a very innovative DRR approach where stakeholders that you normally don’t see in DRR efforts, such as civil registrars, lawyers, and paralegals, have been involved. Aside from reconstituting documents, it also provided for re-establishing offices of local civil registrars to effectively take on the project and sustain the effort even beyond the project by providing augmentation staff and various types of equipment including typewriters, computers and printers. Looking beyond the project life, IDEALS now aims to provide digital scanners to LCRs so that they can begin storing images of civil records so that in the event that another Haiyan visits them, records can be easily recovered. |

In less than 100 words, please describe how the nominee’s work is funded.

|  |
| --- |
| For disaster response, IDEALS has had several grants from various organizations including Oxfam, UNHCR and UNICEF.  The Mobile Civil Registration Project was a grant provided by UNHCR in the amount of 32.6M Php to cover the period of March – August 2014. This primary fund was supported by contributions from Oxfam, UNDP (in the amount of 89,000Php), DSWD, IBP (through donations of computers for documentary processing), NSO-PSA and beneficiary LGUs (facilities and space for processing).  The Access for Benefits and Claims after Disaster – Expanded Project (ABCDE) is primarily funded by UNICEF – in the amount of 59.2M Php which covers the project period of September 2014 – February 2015. This is augmented with contributions from PEF, FSSI and the Asia Foundation. |