



KAWAYAN TECH

LAST MONTH, WE reported on the bamboo bike designed by the famous bike American builder Craig Calfee of Calfee Designs and his initial foray into the Philippines with an intention to make the Philippines one of its bases for the production of bamboo bikes. Calfee met with a newly formed group, Kawayan Tech Inc./Kawayan Tek, composed of alumni members from the University of the Philippines Mountaineers (U.P. Mountaineers/UPM) club. Spearheading the group are Mr. Hecky Villanueva, Boy Siojo, Eric Cadiz, John Climaco, Eng Chan and Talby Santos.

Last July 6-11, 2009, Calfee conducted a one

week training workshop with a selected group of people including Kawayan Tech at the Yap Farm, located in San Jose, Tarlac where the group produced its first bamboo bike as taught by Craig Calfee. (Actually, it was their second as the group built one beforehand led by Eng Chan using Filipino ingenuity). Other groups that were trained in the workshop were from New Zealand, South Africa, and 94 participants from the Gawad Kalinga and the Provincial Government of Tarlac.

The vision of Kawayan Tech is to promote a lifestyle of health and sustainability using bamboo as an alternative and appropriate,

community-based technology with practical applications. Indeed, bamboo is high tech and green tech at the same time. One of their missions is to use bamboo as an indigenous technology to make and sustain livelihood programs in the rural areas.

Bamboo bikes are just the start, as the group hopes to design and develop other bamboo products and technologies and market them locally and abroad. In the long term, they would like to forge partnerships with individuals, groups, and the government in promoting bamboo planting, reforesta-

tion, and bamboo nurseries in the hope of making the Philippines a regional, if not a global leader in bamboo technology and products. **WW**



L-R: Craig Calfee with UPM participants: Christian Yap, Boy Siojo, Eng Chan, Eric Cadiz, and Hecky Villanueva

WEEKEND WARRIOR

PHILIPPINE CYCLE SPORTS

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"My greatest hope is that you will feel like a kid at play everytime you swing your leg over a bike and start pedaling. It is a play that keeps you youthful, regardless of how many candles were on your last birthday cake.

A bicycle is sure to re-ignite a childlike passion for play while keeping it forever."

- Joel Friel, 1998

