

Interfacing Indigenous Conflict Resolution with the National Justice System: The Bakun Kankanaey-Bago Experience

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The Article explores the possibility of using the *tongtong* justice system as a model for the administration of justice at the *barangay* level. The Article cites certain features of the *tongtong* justice system which make it successful in the Bakun setting and describes it as a consensual, cordial, participatory, low-cost, and speedy process.

While most of the *barangays* in Bakun still adhere to the *tongtong* practice, two *barangays* have interfaced the system with the *Katarungang or Lupong Pambarangay* procedures provided for in Presidential Decree No. 1508 and the Local Government Code (LGC), respectively. The residents of these *barangays* see the procedures under these laws to be too complicated; however, between the two, the LGC presents a better process for dispute settlement. By interfacing these procedures with the *tongtong* justice system, the residents have found an acceptable balance.

In order to interface the *tongtong* system into the mainstream justice system, the Article recommends the documentation of the customary laws that have been followed by the indigenous peoples as well as the recognition by the local government units of more individual members of the informal council.