



# PUNTA RIVIERA RESORT

**BOLINAO, PANGASINAN**

## **PUNTA RIVIERA DEL MAR INC.**

### *Certified Most Sustainable and Liveable Resort*

**P**unta Riviera Del Mar Inc. is owned, designed and managed by Scottish engineer Dr Ian McFeat Smith and his Ilocana wife Emilyn A. Respicio. Development commenced in 2005 and continues today. They are supported by a well trained and experienced Staff Team of 50 providing Something New – Something Different.

The resort is built on a unique, high ambience, white sand beach terrace within a former coconut plantation. It's infinity pool overlooks a lagoonal estuary where the Ilog Malino (river) meets the West Philippine Sea. Large breaker waves are evident nearby at the coral reef. Upriver, guests explore the untouched mangrove fringed river by kayaking. It is linked across the river to its peninsular foreshore by an attractive pedestrian bridge and upstream, by a hanging bridge. The wide horizon venue is spacious at 23,000m<sup>2</sup> with residential and recreational facilities located within beautifully landscaped, shaded gardens and lawns.

Its foreshore houses the only substantial Team Building venue in the Western Pangasinan area, along the famous Bolinao to Patar coastline.



Beach weddings, events, family and company gatherings are common on the Westward facing white beach foreshore, particularly during panoramic sunsets. The resort embraces Mediterranean style buildings, with accommodation for up to 300 guests, two conference halls, large lanai style meeting rooms cum restaurants with quality local and international cuisine, three theme swimming pools and three professionally designed obstacle courses.





Organic and livestock farming is carried out and the resort includes a bakery and a TESDA standard school of tourism. A large solar electrical generating system has been installed on purpose-built flat roofed buildings.

As the Giant Clam capital of the Philippines, Bolinao is an emerging tourist destination and up to five days of tour guiding is provided by the resort's certified Tour Guides to tourist hot spots.

The resort has been designed to complement the river and marine eco-systems, to provide easy access for a range of environmentally friendly activities within it, and to facilitate learning about the local culture, ecology and environment. The major goals of Permaculture, Sustainability, and Eco-tourism are fully appreciated, practiced and maintained.

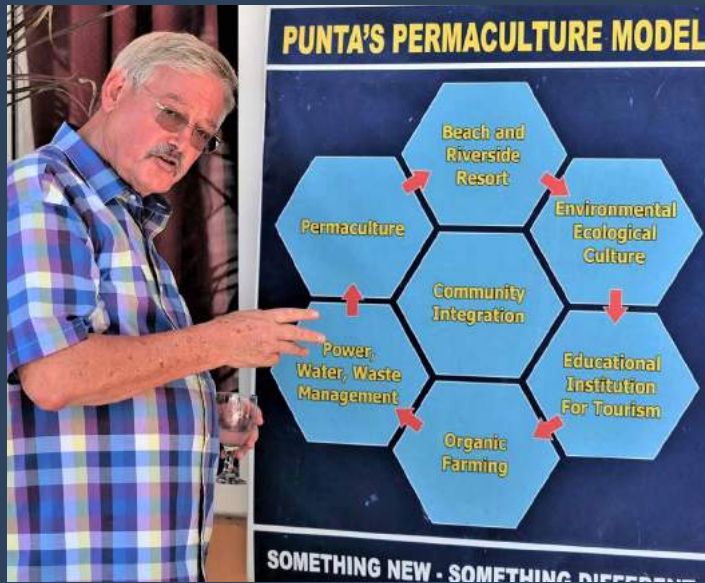


## SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS

1. Department of Tourism (DOT): Resort Accreditation; Hosting of DOT Basic Life Support Training course: Award for Best Video for COVID Protocol; Permit to Operate Under COVID Restrictions. Joint mangrove planting.
2. Local Community Integration; Local employment and procurement: Feeding and material assistance for 250 village families during Pandemic; Annual Christmas party for up to 800 villagers; Founder of Woman's Association for Ilog Malino; Feeding for Sisters of the Poor old age home; and Church Feeding for 300 less fortunates.
3. TESDA training from the resorts School of Tourism within the resort; (Cooking, Food and Beverage Services & Housekeeping). Immunity Boosting Lectures to visiting TESDA Team Building Courses. Winner of Region 1 nomination for 2010 Kabalikat Award.
4. Bolinao Business Tourism Association - BBTOA (Member and Treasurer).
5. Tourism Promotional Board Philippines (Western Pangasinan): (Member and Treasurer).
6. LGU Bolinao Tourism Council: (Resort & BBTOA Representative; including launching of new Environmental Code of Practice for Tourism.
7. Department of Agriculture (DOA): Provision of mangroves and other plants.
8. PhilGEPS Certified.
9. Bolinao's Rotary Club: Presentations for Immunity Boosting; charities including Feeding of Children at Santiago Island.







## BASIC MONITORING

### 1. Poverty, Nutrition and Health

Continuous employment and training of staff, provision of accommodation for staff and their families, SSS and Health Insurance, Provision of Accredited First Aid and Basic Life support staff on site. Staff are 100% vaccinated and COVID free. Provision of meals. Also see charity feeding above and staff welfare below.

### 2. Safety, Risk and Disaster Management

Trained Lifeguards; provision of comprehensive Safety Signage for foreshore, river and pools with Trained Safety Officers to DOLE standards; comprehensive Risk Assessment implemented by professional geotechnical/engineer of all natural and man-made hazards; owner attended Incident Command Course and is author of novel Epicentre: Hong Kong.

### 3. Access to Clean Water and Sanitation

- Drinking water – certified filtered drinking water provided to bedrooms; and to guests and staff by water dispensers located throughout resort.
- Watering, washing and pool water - provided from tested deep wells and occasionally topped up with Municipal Water.
- Hot and cold water provided to the resort bedrooms; handwashing at public toilets.
- Solid Waste – recycling, segregation and minimizing generation of solid waste are practiced using bio-degradable materials.
- Sanitation – Certified DENR waste water discharge implemented to permit conditions with clean public toilets and showers accessible to guests and staff all around resort.

### 4. Co-ordination – Staff and Management

Regular Management and Staff meetings are held and all staff are encouraged to identify strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats.

### 5. Mandatory Monitoring

The resort is closely monitored to meet DOT, DENR, DOLE and BIR standards and compliance for responsible Nation Building. Also, for LGU licenses and Business Permit.

## MONITORING TARGETS AND COMPREHENSIVE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Our theme of Something new – Something different is being developed through regular monitoring of guest feedback. Currently feedback is highly favorable, particularly regarding food, services, and ambiance. Main requests are for an ever-wider range of outdoor activities such as:

- 10m high Rock Climbing and Repelling Face – to be available within 6 months
- Zip line crossing river from tower – to be available within 6 months
- Mud Olympics – to be available within 12 months and

#### services for:

- Reduced meal delivery time for a la cart meals to 30 minutes. This is met in peak periods by providing a range of pre-cooked popular dishes.
- Policy on Pets. Resort is now Pet Friendly.

#### and for facilities:

- Larger conference hall (to 400 guests) – to be available within 24 months.



## BEST IN PRACTICE

### 1. Location and District Access

The resort's unique beach and elevated frontage location makes it one of the highest ambiance, liveable resorts on Luzon (see Introduction). The location was selected at Bolinao near Hundred Islands to be of sufficient distance from Metro Manila not to be over-run by tourists i.e., to protect the environment, yet close enough for ease of access for weekend holidays using SLEX-NLEX.

### 2. Activities, Education & Health

Package tours are available within the Bolinao district, to the Giant Clam sanctuary and Hundred Islands.



Guests are provided with easy access to countryside, riverside and seashore environments and a diverse range of activities for fun and to encourage education and understanding of the environment and local ecology. Educational facilities include display boards for seashell identification, permaculture and coastal features.

Internal activities include:

- River discovery by kayaking (included in room rate);
- Beach activities, beach volleyball, mini soccer and tug-of-war;
- Team Building obstacle courses;
- Cultural practices such as modern art exhibition and art classes,
- Support for organized cultural events e.g., annual Fiestas, boodle fighting;
- Healthy superfoods such as malungay, bitter melon. Tasty dishes such as dinakdakan.
- Formal education seminars, conferences, with lectures on Funshine Immunity Boosting and Health Improvement; and Permaculture for the Future of Tourism;
- Kiddy's playpark;
- Morning exercises, breathing, laughter yoga and Zumba dancing;
- Karaoke and entertainment (live in house band – singing and dancing).

The resorts Immunity Boosting Courses embraces improved Nutrition; Exercise; reducing Stress and Depression; Healthy Lifestyle; Education; and maintaining a Positive Outlook; all designed to help people cope with the Pandemic (see below).



At Punta we have developed a unique course for boosting your company's Immunity to Viruses and Increase General Health.

**• Liveable, Accommodating Home Style Resort for All**

The owners have designed and manage every aspect of the resort as their own home. The location, seabreezes, views, ambiance, landscaping, pool design, building and bridge aesthetics, rustic molave furniture, antique artifacts, standard of cleanliness, cuisine, entertainment, local art paintings, large murals, dragon-fruit, livestock and aquaponics system all give evidence of the resort's sustainability and liveability. This style and layout help with both guests' relaxation and staff participation; the latter trim and water the lawns and foliage, and clean the pools with love and care. Every morning staff engage in seaweed clearing of the beach and removal of flotsam. Seaweed and rice hal are collected, processed and recycled as organic fertilizers.

**• Staff Welfare**

Live-in staff and their families are accommodated in adjacent well maintained farmland cabanas, senior staff in several purpose designed rooms within the resort. Support is available for staff and families for medical/accident purposes.

The resorts staff have regular meetings to discuss the resort activities and to participate in inaugural classes, and training through our school. Staff participate in Team Building activities as marshals and facilitators. Incentive bonuses are given and Parties arranged at Easter, Christmas and Birthdays. Staff run a co-operative shop for themselves, and the resort's convenience store, bakery and farm.

**• Cultivation of Mangroves, Trees and Plants**

In addition to preservation of the century old coconut trees, systematic planting of mangroves along the river banks has been carried out to increase the diversity of marine and land life; first successfully implemented in 2012 (then 2017) in partnership with the DOT, DOA, Bolinao LGU, and local fish folks. Within the resort, extensive landscaping using umbrella and rubber trees (for shade) and a wide range of plants, bio-diversity is created as part of the resort's Permaculture.

## ECO INNOVATION/ USE OF CLEAN ENERGY TO MINIMISE CONSUMPTION

The resorts open seafront, in accordance with Permaculture principals, avoids wind blockages hence allows fresh sea breezes to cool the outdoor restaurant/meeting areas via the main gardens and is channeled towards the reception area in a form of a trumpet. The latest accommodation floor has also been designed to allow through ventilation, further reducing Air Conditioning (A/C) costs. Clean energy is provided from the German designed solar system with 135 panels and Korean Inverters generating up to 35KW of energy i.e., sufficient for base load of resort. Panels are also used for solar water heating and lighting. Six El Grande rooms house 12 to 24 guests, totaling 100 guests. These popular rooms achieve major power savings in A/C requiring only 18% of the power consumption of small rooms per guest. Further energy saving is achieved by painting of flat roof tops with Boysen 'Cool Shades' white reflective paint with infrared reflection, reducing heat buildup. Tornado revolving hot air extractors have been incorporated in our conference hall pitched roof.

## PERMACULTURE & SUSTAINABILITY

The resorts Permaculture aims to create stable, Sustainable productive systems that provide for human needs, harmoniously integrating the land with people. The ecological processes of plants, animals, water, weather and nutrient cycles are integrated with our own and tourists needs and technologies for food, energy, shelter and infrastructure. Adhering to these principals we:

- Observe and interact,
- Catch and store energy (food and solar),
- Share our yield with the local community,
- Apply self-regulation and feedback,
- Use renewables,
- Minimize waste by recycling,
- Think holistically,
- Integrate with our partners through collaboration and co-operation,
- Use diversity,
- Creatively use and respond to Change (e.g., designing and promoting Immunity Boosting and Health Improvement Courses during the Pandemic).

By the foregoing means we have developed a most sustainable and liveable resort.