October 16, 2014

The Pag-IBIG Fund Choral with (center) choir master Mr. Anthony Villanueva and VP for Human Resources Group, Ms. Delia Robles.

Pag-IBIG Fund Choral bags top prize in CSC Choral Competition

The Pag-IBIG Fund Choral took home the grand prize in the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Government Choral Competition held at the CCP Main Theater last September 30, 2014. The 21-member singing group wowed the judges with its rendition of *"Magkaisa,"* *"Mamayug Akun,"* and the contest song, *"Kaya Mong Maging Dakila."* The group also won the Best Entry for NCR in the elimination round.

This is not the first time that the choral group has been recognized for its talent. In 2006 and in 2007, it placed third and second, respectively, in the PMAP Annual Search for Best Choral Group. In 2009, it placed first in the Philippine Social Security Association (PHILSSA) Christmas Carol Competition. And in 2011, it took the second place in the CSC Government Choral Competition.

"I am very proud of our choral. This is another example of what we can achieve through hard work, focus, discipline, and consistency. The Pag-IBIG Choral has always supported our quest for excellence, proving that Pag-IBIG employees are not only capable of providing exceptional service to our members, but also dazzle in arts and culture, particularly music," says Pag-IBIG President and CEO, Atty. Darlene Marie Berberabe.

The Pag-IBIG Choral made its public debut in CCP's *"Liwliwa:Konsierto ng mga Kawani."* It also participated in various music festivals including the Madz Et Al Choral Festival from 2007 to 2011 and in Maestro Ryan Cayabyab's Thousand-Voice Choir Project. It has also guested in several TV shows and has spearheaded several outreach activities. Indeed, since its creation in 2005, the Pag-IBIG Fund Choral has proven to be an effective Ambassador of Goodwill for Pag-IBIG.

The group is composed of Pag-IBIG employees coming from the agency's Corporate Headquarters. They are: Ma. Rosario Magtoto, Levina Julian, Ma. Teresa Tayo, Diecebel Guerina, Lilibeth Antonio, Elma Abanono, Maybelle Baldorado, Lee Beth Costino, Jennifer Gana, Mary Grace Palanas, Junnelyn Bermudez, Florianne Jacinto, Ariel Acosta, Jonathan Haber, Franklin Delfin, Jr., Paul Michael Lacson, Darwin Lomentigar, Elmer Mari Hernandez, Roy Rowe Escoton, Elpidio Parayno, Jr., Bon Sam Art Go. The group is led by Mr. Anthony Villanueva, a multi-awarded choral conductor as well as piano and voice aficionado, renowned both here and abroad.