



WARREN L. AMBAT

Teacher II
Baguio City National High School
Baguio City, Benguet
Presidential Lingkod Bayan Awardee, 2008
Individual Category

In this world of dotcoms, a teacher high up in the Cordillera mountains has also caught the digital bug.

Warren L. Ambat, an English teacher from Baguio City National High School, introduced a novel way to help his students understand and appreciate Shakespeare's plays. He asked his students to choose and study a Shakespearean play with the help of the Internet, create an adaptation infused with local customs and traditions, and act out and film the revised script.

"In this project, localization was used to develop appreciation among students while technology was used to make authentic tasks or develop authentic skills," explained Ambat, who believes that information and communication technology (ICT) integration is a way to improve the quality of basic education.

The lesson was presented during the 3rd Philippine Innovative Teachers Leadership Awards and became one of the Philippines' entries to the

Microsoft Regional Innovative Teachers' Conference in Cambodia.

Eventually, it caught the attention of the judges and participants and became the only Filipino-made lesson showcased in the Worldwide Innovative Teachers Forum held in Finland. Not bad for an English teacher who has not had formal computer education.

Growing up in a family of public school teachers, Ambat learned the value of serving his own country despite more lucrative opportunities abroad. "I believe that one can make a difference just by being passionate about one's work. Being passionate ensures that a task that was begun is completed no matter how strong the opposition is or how sluggish the progress has been. One who is passionate is not easily lured by the glitter of gold because he knows what really makes him happy," he said. •