

MARIA CORAZON A. DE UNGRIA, PhD

Dr. Maria Corazon A. De Ungria is currently Head of the DNA Analysis Laboratory, Natural Sciences Research Institute at the University of the Philippines. The DNA Analysis Laboratory is promoting the development of forensic DNA technology in the Philippines through research and the conduct of DNA testing in actual cases. In 2005, the laboratory's project 'Research, Training and Extension Service for forensic DNA Testing in the Philippines' which was funded from 2001-2004 under the Human Rights and Democracy in Asia Budget of the European Commission was selected as 'Best Practice'. One major objective of the project was to study the feasibility of post-Conviction DNA tests in the Philippines. In 2004, the laboratory's proposal 'Incorporating DNA Evidence in The Resolution of Sexual Assault Cases in the Philippines' was selected for funding by the World Bank in its program 'Development Innovate Marketplace: Making Services Work for the Poor' from over 1800 proposals nationwide.

Dr. De Ungria's work was recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology by selecting her as one of the Outstanding Young Scientists (OYS) in 2003. In 2005, Dr. De Ungria was awarded the Gerry Roxas Leadership award and named as one of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) by the Philippine Jaycees Inc.