

**ERMIN F. GARCIA, JR.**

Executive Director and Trustee, Sinag ng Bayan Foundation

Mr. Ermin F. Garcia, Jr. works in a non-profit organization called SINAG, a People's Crusade for Good Governance which uses community networking, database and technology as main tools.

He continues the legacy of his father, the late Ermin Erfe Garcia, as he now serves as publisher of Dagupan City's *Sunday Punch*, the first Filipino community newspaper to be online in 1997.

Mr. Garcia has made a mark in media as a staunch advocate of truth and press freedom. When he was the publisher-columnist of the Manila Times in 1998, he withstood the political pressure and the P151 million libel suit filed against him and the newspaper by then president Joseph Estrada. Tirelessly, he also served as Executive Director of the Philippine Press Institute and Secretary General of Asia-Pacific Press Institutes, a network of press institutes in Asia and the Pacific. He was also one of the founding members of the network of major English newspapers in Asia, the Asia News Network.