

Special Achievement Award – David Michael GO

For his work in fighting the online abuse of children, the IAP is pleased to award a Special Achievement Award to David Michael Go of the Philippine Justice Department. In his role as prosecutor in the city of Taguig, Philippines, Mr Go is charged with the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving the abuse of children, particularly online exploitation. Twice, in 2018 and 2020, he was named best prosecutor in his city.

Notable among his recent cases is the online exploitation of three children, aged 8 to 13, by a relative, who was creating and selling pornographic videos of the children. The matter had come to the attention of authorities within the Philippines following the arrest of a foreign national for possession of pornographic video. The matter was successfully prosecuted during COVID lockdowns and quarantines within the Philippines. Another notable case involved two female accused who were providing very young children for sex to tourists, in exchange for money. In order to prevent the children from having to testify against their mother, prosecutor Go was able to negotiate a plea with the two accused.

The wellbeing of the child victims is always foremost in the mind of prosecutor Go as he manages cases that often involves foreign evidence, and evidence that is trauma inducing for its victims. As a result, he employs every available technique to spare the children that burden, including the use of electronic evidence of the offences.

Prosecutor Go was admitted to the Bar in the Philippines in 2013, and in addition to this excellent work in the fight against child exploitation, he passes on his knowledge and skill to others as a professor at the Far Eastern Institute of Law and the University of Makati School of Law.