

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

FRIDAY

MAR. 10, 2006

3:30 - 4:30 pm

**ROOM
NUMBER
6-205/211
(Conference Centre)**

**LIGHT
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED AT 3:20 PM**

Dr. J.M. (Lito) Arocena
**Natural Resources and Environmental
Studies Institute
UNBC**



Soils In Our Daily Life

A soil is not dirt because of the unique arrangement and interactions of organic matter (including organisms), mineral, air and water in a soil system. The presentation will substantiate soil descriptors such as “soil is life”, “the final frontier”, “the ecstatic skin”, “the living skin”, and “the fragile interface”. I will highlight some of our past and on-going research projects to demonstrate the role of soils in our daily life including agriculture, forestry, environmental quality (eg. remediation), archaeology, forensics, engineering, and recreation. For example, we used biological, molecular (rDNA sequence) and determinative mineral (X-ray diffraction, electron microscopy) techniques to understand the differential formation of calcium oxalate, quartz and clays in various lichen colonies during the breakdown of basaltic rock. Soil is fundamental to life; don’t take it for granted and help conserve this valuable natural resource.