

Chapter I. General Information

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Colonizers arriving in the late 16th century saw an unusual tongue of land thrust into Manila Bay and saw its potential as staging ground for their galleons. Close to the shape of a hook or kawit in Tagalog language, the hook-shaped land which is now Cavite City became a significant port linking the colony to other parts of the world. The port became a center for Chinese junks trading. In 1571, Spanish colonizers founded the port and City of Cavite and due to its strategic location, it then became a first line of defense for the City of Manila.

In 1614, the politico-military jurisdiction of Cavite was established covering all the present territories except for the town of Maragondon, which was also later ceded to Cavite in 1754. Serving as first line of defense for Manila and the Philippines, Cavite became very vulnerable to attacks of colonizers. One of which is the surprise attack of Dutch that led to British occupation of the port in 1672 which lasted for their two-year interregnum in the Philippines.

Under the Spanish colonizers, missionary orders acquired vast haciendas in Cavite and their abusive practices led to conflicts between the friar orders and Filipino farmers. This drove Caviteños to live outlaws, support reform and aspire independence. In 1872, a mutiny by disgruntled navy men in Cavite led to a large-scale crackdown on reformers and liberals. Three Filipino priests were executed and dozens others were sent into exile. In 1896, after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, Cavite took center stage as thousands of Katipuneros liberated most of the province's towns.

The last Spanish politico-military governor of Cavite, with headquarters in the *cabecera of Cavite* (now Cavite City), was Col. Fernando Pargas whom Emilio Aguinaldo, as captain municipal of *Cavite el Viejo* (now Kawit), saw on the morning of August 31, 1896 to ask for a detachment of soldiers to protect his town from bandits. Aguinaldo's plan was to ambush the government troops on their way to Kawit and seize their arms which his Magdalo followers needed urgently to start the armed uprising against Spain. While waiting for his turn to talk to Pargas in his office, Aguinaldo learned that only one company of soldiers was left in Cavite as all available infantry men had been sent to Manila upon urgent summons from Governor and Captain General Ramon Blanco, who had placed eight Luzon provinces (Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite) under martial law following the discovery of the Katipunan secret society.

With this valuable information, Aguinaldo returned posthaste to Kawit and with the help of two councilmen, Candido Tria Tirona and Santiago Daño, led the assault and capture of the town's *tribunal* (municipal building). Earlier that day the towns of San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) and Noveleta had risen in arms and taken over the control of the local government. It was this cry of Cavite on August 31, 1896, that signalled the beginning of the revolution. This soon spilled over to nearby provinces until it engulfed the entire country.

Emilio Aguinaldo, the first Philippine president who came from the town of Kawit agreed to go into exile in December 1897 but returned to the Philippines in May 1898. On June 12, he declared Philippine independence from the balcony of his home in Kawit.

American forces attacked the Spanish squadron in Cavite which marked the end of Spanish Rule in the country. The naval station in Sangley Point became the chief American naval base in the country. During World War II, the Japanese targeted the naval base during the first wave of attacks on military installations in the Philippines.

Corregidor served as the last resistance point of the retreating Filipino and American forces fighting the Japanese. Gen. Douglas MacArthur used Corregidor Island as a base for the Allied forces from 1941 to 1942. Also, it served as the temporary shelter for the government of President Manuel L. Quezon and his family for two months prior to the eventual exile of the Philippine Commonwealth government to the United States.

Legacy continues for Cavite and its people, as a place with a glorious history, and people fortified with strength to live and die for a worthy cause.



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Cavite province is situated south of Luzon, the most northerly of the large islands of the Republic of the Philippines. It is bounded by its neighboring provinces of Batangas in the south, Laguna in the east, Rizal in the northwest, Metro Manila and Manila Bay in the north, and China Sea in the west. Cavite belongs to Region IV-A or the CALABARZON region.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

The province is divided into seven legislative districts, composed of 19 municipalities and 4 cities having a total of 829 barangays (Table 1.1). The four cities include the seat of the Provincial Government- Trece Martires City, the defense frontier- Cavite City, the provincial summer capital- Tagaytay City and the newly declared City of Dasmariñas under the Republic Act 9723 which was ratified last November 25, 2009. The City of Dasmariñas also happens to be a lone legislative jurisdiction of District IV.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 1163, Imus is the provincial capital but the seat of the provincial government is located at Trece Martires City (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1. Legislative District Map, Province of Cavite

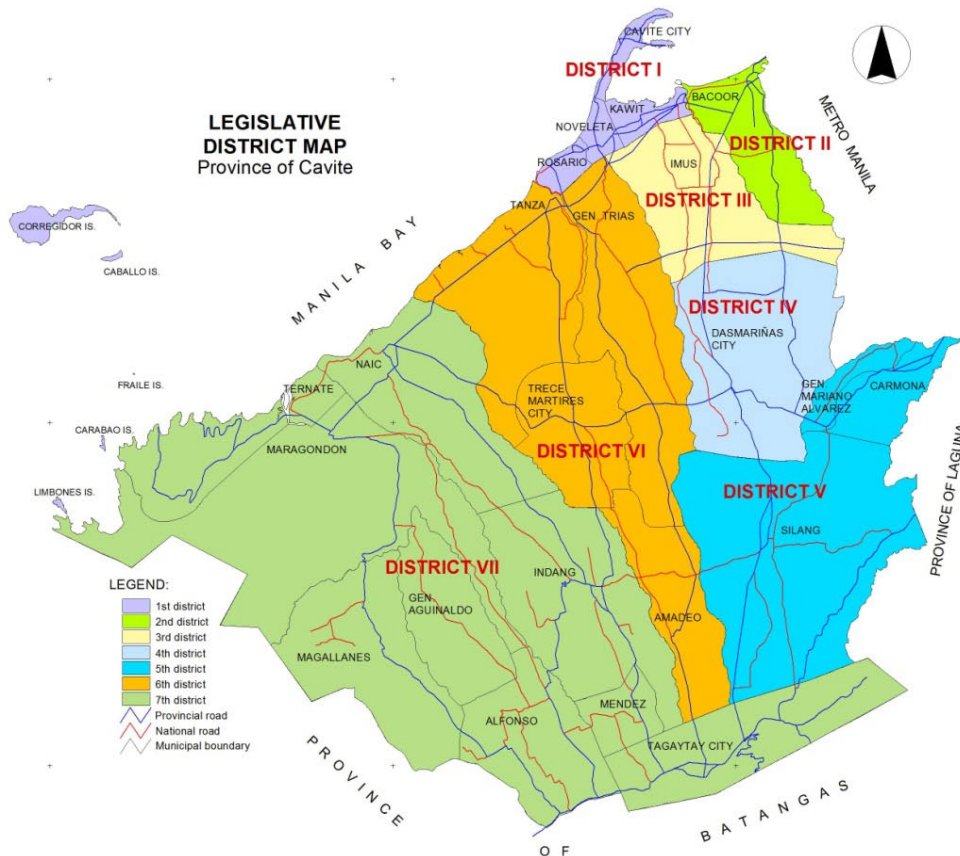


Table 1.1. Number of Barangays by City/ Municipality and Congressional District, Province of Cavite: 2009

City/Municipality	Number of Barangays
District I	
Cavite City	84
Kawit	23
Novelda	16
Rosario	20
District II	
Bacoor	73
District III	
Imus	97
District IV	
Dasmariñas City	75
District V	
Carmona	14
Silang	64
Gen. M. Alvarez	27
District VI	
Trece Martires City	13
Amadeo	26
Gen. Trias	33
Tanza	41
District VII	
Tagaytay City	34
Alfonso	32
Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo	14
Indang	36
Magallanes	16
Maragondon	27
Mendez	24
Naic	30
Ternate	10
TOTAL	829

Source: City/Municipal Profiles, Province of Cavite



NAMED ISLANDS

In 1909, Executive Order No. 124 of Governor-General W. Cameron Forbes, declared Act No. 1748 annexing Corregidor and the Islands of Caballo (Fort Hughes), La Monja, El Fraile (Fort Drum), Sta. Amalia, Carabao (Fort Frank) and Limbones, as well as all waters and detached rocks surrounding them to the City of Cavite. These are now major tourist attractions of the province.



Carabao Island
Source: www.riodebahra.tripod.com



Corregidor Island
Source: www.riodebahra.tripod.com



Caballo Island
Source: www.pacificwrecks.com/provinces/philippines/caballo.html



Source: rhanzdriguez2009



El Fraile Island
Source: www.riodebahra.tripod.com

Top to Bottom, L to R: Carabao Island, Corregidor Island, Caballo Island, Limbones Island and El Fraile Island. The five satellite islands of the Province of Cavite.

CAVITE'S WATER RESOURCES

MAJOR RIVERS

Six major rivers are identified in Cavite, namely: Maragondon River, Labac River, Cañas River, San Juan River, Bacoor River and Imus River. These rivers are known to have various tributaries passing through the municipalities of the province.

Numerous springs, waterfalls and rivers found in the upland areas of the province are observed to be useful for domestic, tourism, and industrial users. These include Balite Spring (Amadeo), Saluysoy Spring (Alfonso), Matang Tubig Spring (Tagaytay City), Malakas Spring (General Aguinaldo), and Ulo Spring (Mendez).

The province is also endowed with waterfalls such as Palsajingin Falls (Indang), Balite Falls (Amadeo), Malibiclibic Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Talon-Butas Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Saluysoy Falls (Alfonso) and Tala River (Gen. Aguinaldo) which are conducive for recreational and leisure activities like picnics and gatherings (Table 1.2).

SURFACE FRESHWATER RESOURCES

The hydrological network of the province is composed of main rivers and tributaries. These rivers and tributaries generally have a flowing direction from the highlands of Tagaytay City going to Manila Bay with stretches from the Municipality of Bacoor up to Ternate.

GROUND WATER RESOURCES

In the lowland areas covering the towns of Bacoor, Imus, General Trias, Dasmaríñas, Naic, Tanza, Ternate, hundreds of artesian wells and deepwells provide water supply for both domestic and irrigation purposes. These have caused the salt water intrusion in the aquifers due to over extraction of water. According to a study made by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the groundwater in Cavite is depleting at a rate of 1 meter water level decrease per year. In the upland areas of the province, groundwater is tapped mainly for domestic use through local water supply systems.

Based on the geological studies in Cavite, most of the ground water is stored in the pyroclastic rock reservoir and little in the volcano and clastic rock. Potable water is not reported in the near shore due to the presence of alluvium deposits which may be brackish and saline and are not safe for drinking and other domestic use. Another source of groundwater is called infiltrated rainfall which serves as the direct source of most near surface aquifers. Inflow from surface water reservoir and irrigation water also contributes to the ground water.

Freely-flowing wells occur in the 30-meter elevation of Southern Tanza and in the lower portions of near shore Naic and Ternate while in the municipality of Imus at elevation of about 15 meters.

COASTAL RESOURCES

Cavite boasts a stretch of about 123 kilometers of shoreline. These can be found along Cavite City, Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon, and Ternate. The richness of Cavite's coastal resources paved the way for our recognition as major producer of oysters and mussels. The fisherfolks are also active producers of sugpo/bangus. On the western coastlines lie the breathtaking beaches with pale gray sand. Thus, basically, coastal resource of the province contributes to the economic activities related to fishery and tourism.

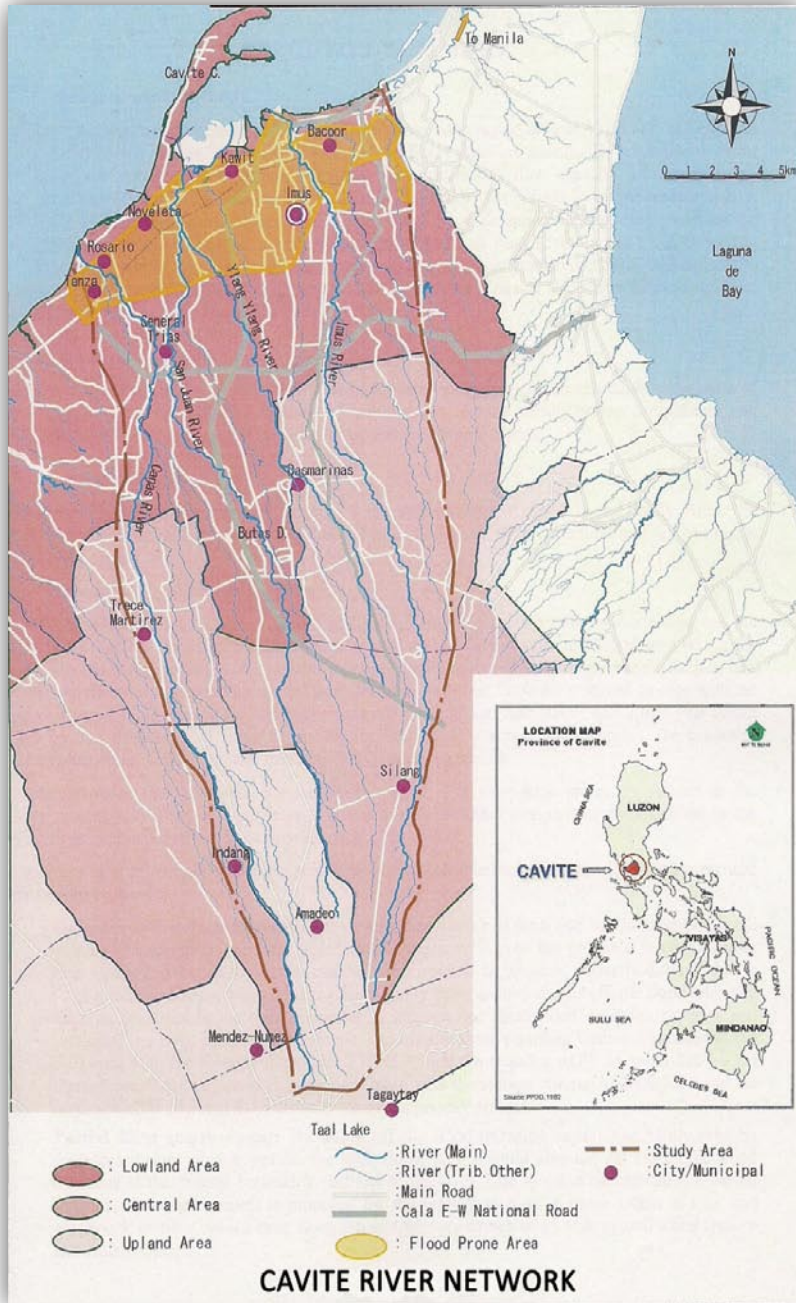


Table 1.2. Major Rivers, Province of Cavite

Name of Rivers	Length (km)	Point of Origin	Drainage Location
1. Bacoor River	12.3	Pintong Gubat, Molino passing Tanzang Luma, Salinas and Panapaan	Bacoor Bay, Bacoor
2. Imus River	38.4	North of Tagaytay passing Balite, Sabutan, Biga, Silang, Palapala, Dasmariñas, Pasong Bayog, San Agustin and connect to Pasong Bayog passing Salitran, Baluctot, Anabu II & Anabu I going to Tanzang Luma, Palico, Imus down to Salinas and Mabolo, Bacoor toward drainage. Tributaries which started from Bucal going to San Agustin join/connect Imus River in Pasong Bayog. Tributaries found in Baluctot also drain in Imus River.	Bacoor Bay, Bacoor
3a. San Juan River	39.0	Maitim, Amadeo passing Maitim, Lalaan I, Silang, Dagatan, Banaybanay, Calubcob, Panungyanan, Javalera, Biclatan, Manggahan, Jaime Baker; Buenavista, Pasong Kawayan, Bacao, Gen. Trias; Sta. Rosa, Noveleta and Putol, Kawit. Tributaries are in Bucandala and Panamitan.	Bacoor Bay Kawit
3b. Alang-Ilang River		Pasong Camachile River which started from Santiago passing San Gabriel connect with San Juan River San Jose, Dasmariñas converging with San Juan River at Bacao, Gen. Trias	
4. Cañas River	38.9	From Kaybagal, Tagaytay City passing Loma, Amadeo going to Polanan River, San Agustin, Gregorio, Osorio, Lucbanan, Conchu, Inocencio, Trece Martires City; Alingaro, Gen. Trias passing Lubluban River, Santol, Bucal to Julugan, Tanza. Also from Tagaytay City going to Salaban, Amadeo; Balagbag, Mahabang Kahoy, Limbon, Alulod, Indang and connect to Paradahan, Tanza Other tributaries are found in Buna Lejos, Limbon connecting in Alulod	Manila Bay Julugan, Tanza
5. Labac River	30.5	Two contributory rivers located in the upland area Starting from Buna Lejos, Indang passing Buna Cerca to Calumpang River going to Palangue, Naic to Kay-alamang River passing San Roque down to Labac River. Patutong Malaki, Tagaytay City passing Habulin River, Barangays II & III, Mendez going to Kayquit, Indang straight to Banaba Cerca going to Malainen Bago, Naic	Manila Bay
6. Maragondon River	35.6	Multi-sources Banaba Lejos passing Pantihan I & II. Tributaries are: Habulin River passing East Tambo to Banaba Lejos From Palocpoc passing Lumampong and Banaba Lejos Magay River to Maragondon River Narvaez River passing Tabora to Maragondon River Matagbak Buruhan River passing Sinaliw na Munti and Sinaliw na Malaki Aliang River in Magallanes starting from Kaytitinga joined Narvaez River passing Tabora Another river (unnamed) from west of Kaytitinga and Aliang River passing Magallanes and joined Tabora to Maragondon River	Manila Bay Ternate

Source: National Irrigation Administration, Naic, Cavite