

Cambodian delegation impressed with Bacolod's strategic plan

BACOLOD CITY, March 7 (PIA6)--Cambodian delegates were impressed with the strategic management plan of Bacolod City for the year 2004-2013 during a presentation of Roger Balo, Ph.D. at the Masskara Hall of the New government Center here.

The five-man team led by Soy Kosal, a high ranking government official, said they have learned a lot from what they heard from Bacolod City officials and seen in their tour especially in the area of local governance and in the city's version of Public-Private Partnership Program.

In a press conference here, he pointed out the flexibility of the government's and the private sector's role in the local infrastructure development where either of the two can initiate programs and come up with a desired outcome.

The group also noted the crucial role that the NGOs and the people's organization play in the city's infrastructure development.

"I will bring all what I have learned from Bacolod to my country," Soy added.

He took notice of the city's strategic planning that interested the group and the dynamism of Mayor Evelio Leonardia who showed signs of flexibility in his leadership delivered with a smile, referring to the city's tag as a 'City of Smiles.'

In his opening words, the country's Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast-Asia, DELGOSEA, national coordinator said Antonio Avila explained that the project between the two country focuses on the sharing of best practices hoping that they can learn from each other and apply the knowledge in their respective governments.

Soy cited the infrastructures found in the city and compared the New Government Center Bldg. to that of the White House of the U.S.

Last year, Leonardia led a delegation to Cambodia to learn from their 'One Window Service' that allows its citizens to avail of government service under one roof.

It simplified a service that previously can be had after falling in long lines and hopping from one office to another, the delegates explained.

They were also briefed on the PPP program of Cambodia on infrastructure development.

The mayor said he is ready to implement in the city what they have learned from their trip to Cambodia.

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