

LOGODEF unveils partnership for local democratic governance project

The Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF) recently unveiled its DELGOSEA (partnership for democratic local governance in Southeast Asia) project attended by local governance stakeholders through its national workshop for policy recommendation.

Among the pilot areas coordinating with DELGOSEA are the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Bacolod City, and Alaminos City. Their rich and diverse experiences in best practice (BP) replication served as basis in improving the imple-

mentation of various projects at the local level. Representatives from relevant national agencies, local government leagues, non-government and civil society organizations, academic institutions and development partners were also present during the event. Their attendance and active participation fostered a continuous and mutual exchange of ideas with the representatives from the pilot areas. Such coordination resulted to several proposals in formulating policies.

NGOs in attendance also expressed

interest in extending their services to pilot areas, matching their advocacy with the pilot area needs. Apart from being a measure for sustainability, multi-stakeholder involvement secures more support from various sectors.

As governance transformed into a broader subject, "we cannot avoid but look into partnerships not only in between and amongst governments and agencies and units but among the different stakeholders including the civil society," said Prof. Edmund Tayao of LOGODEF, DELGOSEA's implementing partner organization in the Philippines.

"It must be pointed out that the purpose of inter-local co-

operation is not only to do better, by working more efficiently, but also to do more, by offering new services," said Mayor Roberto Lagrosas of Manticao, Misamis Oriental.

BP replication is currently being done in 4 other Southeast Asian countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam as initiated by the DELGOSEA network. In the Philippines, the project is spearheaded by LOGODEF with substantial assistance from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).