

Local governance stakeholders gather

LOCAL GOVERNMENT Development Foundation (LOGODEF) recently held its partnership for DELGOSEA (Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia) event attended by local governance stakeholders thru 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 implementation of various projects at the local level.

Representatives from relevant national agencies, local government leagues, nongovernment and civil society organizations, academic institution 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. Among the many concerns raised during the workshops was the issue of advancing interlocal cooperation. Further promotion of interlocal cooperation was considered to be an important aspect in optimum project implementation as it does not only encourage sharing of resources but also highlights how collaboration among LGUs allows for efficient operation of facilities and services.

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.

BP replication is currently being done in four 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, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.