

European Commission-Funded DELGOSEA Activity Held In Negros Occidental Capital

By **ROWENA SANTOS**

BACOLOD CITY, Negros Occ. – Project participants of the Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA) recently organized a one-day workshop gathering representatives from DELGOSEA's three project sites namely, Bacolod City, Alaminos City and Misamis Oriental province.

Said representatives identified obstacles related to political and legal frameworks after several months of replicating Best Practices from other Southeast Asian countries.

The workshop also provided a chance for the provision of project sustainability strategies after funding from the European Commission has ended.

The DELGOSEA, which has had joint funding from the European Commission and the German Ministry for Development Cooperation, has partners in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

It involves a network of local government associations, local authorities, non-government organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions focused on transnational exchange of sustainable good governance practices in four main areas, that is, People's Participation, Institutional Governance, Urban Environment and Fiscal Management.

Bacolod City councilor Ms. Em L. Ang said the workshop on policy recommendation is only one part of project sustainability mechanism. "The policy recommendation crafted should not be shelved but should be

promoted and advocated to come to full use," said Ang.

Local Government Leagues have also been given an important role in promoting best practices documented by DELGOSEA among their member LGUs.

Meanwhile, during said workshop, representatives from Bacolod City proposed legislation which would strengthen the people-private-public-partnership in both the local and national levels.

Ang further shared that DELGOSEA project proponent Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and partner United Cities and Local Governments-Asia Pacific are encouraging a dialogue with ASEAN on good local governance.