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2 PHL best local government practices now adopted in Cambodia, Indonesia

Mar 21, 2012

By Leonardo V. Micua

ALAMINOS CITY, March 21 (PNA) — Two local government best practices in the Philippines are now being replicated in three cities and a municipality in Southeast Asia.

This was disclosed by Antonio Avila, project director of the Democratic Local Governments of Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA), when he was in Alaminos Sunday as guest of honor during the groundbreaking rites of the city's first of its kind Constructed Wetland.

The first of the two best local government practices in the Philippines are the Eco-Savers project, pioneered in Marikina City which is now being replicated in Kampot, Cambodia Tarakan, Indonesia and Vhan City, also in Cambodia.

On the other hand, the mariculture project in Tubigon, Bohol, a coastal area, is now being replicated in a municipality similarly situated in Pangkal Penang, Indonesia.

In the Eco-Savers Project, dubbed by Avila as best seller for its impact on the environment and climate change, students of different public and private schools are mobilized to bring to school unusable and recyclable materials from their homes.

He said the students bring to school unusable and recyclable materials and earn points, recorded regularly in the passbooks earlier issued to them.

At the end of the school year, the points that they have accumulated from bringing unusable and recyclable materials to school can be exchanged for school supplies, like pencils, notebooks, crayons and others.

On the other hand, the mariculture project in Tubigon, Bohol, which was started in 1995, has caused the planting of 87,000 hectares of mangroves in the town and adjacent coastal areas.

Mariculture is the residents' own way of conserving marine resources to ensure that fishermen in Tubigon will have plenty of fish catch in their coastal areas and rivers.

Avila said it was in Tubigon, where the technology on fish cages at sea actually originated for growing groupers or “lapu-lapu.”

“With good mariculture technology, he said illegal fishing that used to be rampant in the waters of Tubigon eventually stopped.

Avila said officials of Pangkal Penang, Indonesia were impressed by the mariculture project when they visited Tubigon. When they went home, they brought samples of mangroves grown in the coastal areas of the town.

They later found that the mangroves planted in Tubigon were the same as theirs, and they put up a similar mariculture project in Pangkla Penang.

Both Marikina’s Eco-Savers and Tubigon’s Mariculture Project can be shared to other local government units in the Philippines through the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

Avila explained that DELGOSEA initiates cross-country sharing among officials of LGUs in Southeast Asia to make sure that the best practices in one place can be adopted in another.

In Alaminos City’s Constructed Wetland project, all the P5 million cost will be shouldered by the local government unit of Alaminos.

The European Economic Community and the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Foundation only provided opportunity and technical assistance to Alaminos without any cash commodity.

Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza and other officials were brought to Odunthani, Thailand two years ago where they observed the city’s model man-made wetland using the natural process in cleansing waste water.

Today, this first of its kind project in the Philippines is now being built in Alaminos City to be completed in seven to eight months. (PNA)