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Kill bill propagating commercial interest of milk companies, demand breastfeeding advocates

Health/Lifestyle

Palawan to launch TB Dotted Program in line with TB Awareness Month
 By Celeste Anna B. Formoso
 Oklahoma reports first death of West Nile virus this year
 Catanduanes dialysis center starts full operation

Agri-business

1,000 Region 12 farmers sign up for info drive on pest management
 (Update) Farm damage due to Genar, southwest monsoon now at P1.18B-DA
 Farmers see outlook rains and floods with "Subanmo rice-RRR"

Provincial

South Cebu cops net P5.7-M illegal drugs in six months
 More than 114,000 Iloilo voters delisted from list
 ARMM lawmakers to probe what triggered Maguindanao atrocities

Business

Shanghai sees surging foreign investment in first half
 DOTC, PCG to build 33 new tollhouses worth P97.65 M
 PSE's net income grows 85% in H1

Foreign

26 Afghan rebels killed within 24 hours
 Sri Lanka's top body concerned over SEC chairman resignation
 4 children killed in eastern Afghan roadside bombing

Sports/Entertainment

Bolivia to host Tanzania in friendly clash
 UFL ignites flame of social change through London 2012 Olympics
 Six Mindanao teams to vie in Kadayawan sa Dabaw off-road blastfest

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DELGOSEA Final Conference up in Bangkok

MANILA, Aug. 14 (PNA) -- The Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA) network calls for a more permanent dialogue on decentralization and local governance to be established between ASEAN member states and for expanded collaboration with local authorities (LAs), as well as civil society, in a multi-stakeholder approach.

The importance of regional cooperation on local governance with the aim of securing better living conditions for the people of Southeast Asia has been recognized by ASEAN and support for a joint approach by the member states is growing.

The final conference of the Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia (DELGOSEA) on Aug. 7 and 8 in Bangkok, Thailand, will concentrate on the further integration of local governance into the ASEAN framework.

The conference signals the end of the EU co-financed project activities.

Hosted by the Municipal League of Thailand (MLT) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) on behalf of the DELGOSEA network, the conference brings together over 150 participants, representing the project partners and Local Government Associations (LGAs), pilot cities, best practice cities, academia, media, national governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

The focus of the conference will be on sustainability of the project results and future possibilities for the network. The aim is to develop a strategy for a permanent dialogue on democratic local governance on the regional level.

The participants will also be looking to develop an exit strategy to secure sustainability and project results.

Another important aspect is to look at the organizations and institutions that are able and willing to offer a support system to cities and municipalities: the Local Government Associations (LGAs) and associations on a regional/global level, such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and, on the European level, the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The conference will explore the role of these institutions and how they can contribute to good local governance in the Southeast Asian region.

"The 'final conference' will not be final at all, more the end of a chapter and the beginning of a new one", project manager Susanne Stephan said while finalizing the conference preparations.

She also said that "the conference will be an opportunity to look at what we have already accomplished and at the same time to discuss the roadmap for further learning and exchange amongst local governments in Southeast Asia as well as their stronger role at the regional level in the future".

The project manager said that "two and a half very successful years lie behind us and even more fruitful years are ahead!" (PNA)
 RMA/PR/utb

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