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Bacolod partnership starts March

BY CHRYSEE SAMILLANO

Bacolod City is teaming up with the Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia to replicate local governance best practices on People Private Public Partnership from Cambodia starting March.

DELGOSEA project manager Susanne Stephan yesterday said the project covers five countries in Southeast Asia – Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

She said the project activities in the Philippines will start in March 2011 and they will work in three pilot areas – Pangasinan, Misamis Oriental and Bacolod.

Bacolod, which was chosen pilot city out of the 121 others in the country for the project that is co-funded by the European Union, is considering replicating the best practices of Cambodia such as traffic management and illegal vendors.

Stephan said they will work out the transfer concept from Bacolod in February and March followed by capacity building program for local stakeholders so that Bacolod will be ready to start replication from March 2011 onwards.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung plays a lead role in the management of the project which will be implemented in close coordination with regional organizations and local government associations in countries involved.

TRAINING IN THAILAND

In November 2010, trainers and coaches met and trained for 10 days in Thailand to replicate the best practices in the Philippines and in other countries. They will then start capacity building of local government units in their individual countries this month.

Stephan said Bacolod will have to transfer the best practices coming from Cambodia to its local circumstances – not only traffic but solid waste and illegal vendors and be able to replicate it to other areas in Bacolod.

She said they have 16 best practices from the five countries. If Bacolod is through with the Cambodian project, it is always free to select another project, she added.

“You have to select the best practice that will suit you and which you think will solve your problems here,” Stephan also said.

DELGOSEA national coordinator Crescencio Doma Jr., said the tourism of Phuket is the best practice model from Thailand which will be replicated by Misamis Oriental. The Phuket model focuses on the preservation of the cultural heritage of the municipality which is an integral part of their tourism industry, he said.

PUKET, THAILAND MODEL

Doma said Misamis will try to replicate how tourism was restored in Phuket, Thailand after the tsunami tragedy in the area.

Pangasinan, on the other hand, has a project that would address the waste water of an urban community, he said.

They would like to address the waste water of Alaminos, which is the pilot area for replication, so they are constructing the wetland near the poblacion leading to the outer side of the city because they would like to protect the waters of Pangasinan considering that it is the home of the hundred islands which is a tourist destination, Doma added. *CGS