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Leonardia in Indonesia for ASEAN conference

Mayor says Cambodia trip sharing of best practices

Mayor Evelio Leonardia led a delegation from Bacolod City to meet with officials of Toule Sangke, Cambodia early this month on a DELGOSEA-funded study trip where they shared lessons on best practices of both countries.

Bacolod had been chosen from among 122 cities in the country as pilot area in the Democratic Local Governance for Southeast Asia transfer concept program.

Leonardia said he has chosen to replicate the program on “people-public-private-partnership,” after communicating with city officials and employees, a press release from City Hall said.

The mayor returned recently after a three-day trip with his project team members composed of Councilors Em Ang and Caesar Distrito, Human Resource Management Officer IV and project pilot coordinator Gilda Luisma, Social Services and Development head Sally Abelarde and Elsa Leonardia.

With the delegation was Cambodian national coordinator Muny Min, and Philippine national coordinator for DELGOSEA, Antonio Avila, and national coach Yvette Yap, the release said.

In Cambodia, the team paid a courtesy call on the Capital Governor who was represented by his Deputy Governor, Nuon Someth, who introduced some government officials and gave them an overview of Cambodia’s political structure and policies. In return, Leonardia also gave them an overview of Bacolod City.

The delegation also met the Toul Sangke Council, staff and learned about Cambodia's development reform program and structures in Toul Sangke through Chief Say Kosal, the main host of the delegation.

It also met with businessmen, interacted with communities, and saw the proposed global city, the first in Phnom Penh, the release said.

Leonardia and his team also met with Pok Sokundara the Secretary General of the National League of Commune, or sangkat, which is the basic unit of governance of Toul Sangke, where they were informed of the role, works and best practices of the commune or sangkat of the National League.

They also had a debriefing with the Sangkat Council meeting in Toule Sangke, and discussed future bilateral action plans with the sangkat council, it said.

The DELGOSEA funded-trip was on the invitation extended by Toule Sangke officials to Leonardia and his project team members so they can exchange or share lessons in people participation in local governance.

Bacolod was found to have complied with the requirements for a pilot city that include good track record in exercising local government functions; solid potential of human resources; strong leadership quality of the mayor and senior local government officials; and capability of the city to successfully replicate the best practice chosen, the release added.*