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ASEAN local governments meet in Batam to discuss good governance

Batam, Riau Island, Sept 28 (ANTARA) - The local governments of five ASEAN member states meet in Batam from Sept 27 to 28 to discuss best practices in governmental sector.

The meeting is organized by the DELGOSEA project design which is co-funded by the European Commission and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung of Germany. The meeting is also supported by the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN), Local Government Development Foundation of the Philippines (LOGODEF), National League of Communes of Cambodia (NLC), Thai Environmental Institute (TEI), United Cities and Local Governments for Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC) and the Association of Indonesian Regencies (APKASI).

"During the past 18 months DELGOSEA has started a pilot project to support the exchange of best governmental practice experience between local governments the five ASEAN member countries namely Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The two days meeting in Batam today gather representatives from local government associations in the five ASEAN countries, civil society organizations, academicians and media from the five countries," DELGOSEA Project Manager Susanne Stephan said here on Monday at a press briefing.

She explained DELGOSEA had earlier selected 16 regions in in the five ASEAN countries which were considered as successful in implementing good governance in sectors such as waste management, urban planning and improvement of people-private-government relation. After choosing the 16 best practices regions, she said, DELGOSEA facilitated an exchange of experience and system from the 16 best governmental practice regions to the chosen pilot cities in the five partnering ASEAN countries.

Among the 16 good governance best practices were Konkaen city (Thailand), Vinh city (Vietnam), Toul Sangke sangkat (Cambodia), Yogyakarta (Indonesia), Prik municipality (Thailand, Kartamantul (Indonesia), Guimaras (The Philippines), Lang Son city (Vietnam), Batta Mbang municipality (Cambodia), Udonthani city (Thailand), Muankiang town (Thailand, Marikina city (The Philippines), Olongpao city (The Philippines), Solo (Indonesia), Phuket city (Thailand) and Tubigon (The Philippines).

She added the chosen pilot cities that would replicate the successful program implemented in the 16 ASEAN cities were Choam Chao and Kampot (Cambodia), Kupang, Pangkal Pinang, Tarakan and Wakatobi (Indonesia), Bacolod city, Misamis Oriental and One Pangasinan Alliance (The Philippines), Chiang Rai city, Songkla city, Yala city and Pakkred (Thailand) and Da Nang, Tra Vinh and Vinh (Vietnam).

"The two days meeting in Batam will discuss a review of the exchange program that has started since March 2010 and possible ways to sustain it in the future after DELGOSEA project is over in August 2012," said Susanne.

Meanwhile Project Officer of EU Delegation to Indonesia Novianty E Manurung stated the exchange program was expected to improve the development in ASEAN countries in the years to come.

"Yogyakarta is considered successful in its e-government program while Muangklang town in Thailand is appreciated for its government's effort in lowering the carbon content in the city. We expect the chosen pilot cities will replicate such successful program in their areas," she said.
(ANTARA)