



SPECIAL ISSUE 2017 QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

# THE ADVOCATE

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## ENGAGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS A CONNECTED ASEAN

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*Promoting Local Governance through  
Policy and Legislation | page 10*

*Empowering ASEAN Cities for a  
Stronger Union | page 18*

*Building Sustainable and Resilient  
Communities | page 27*

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# *About the LCP*

Protecting the interests of cities, the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) is committed to bring its local urban governance agenda at the forefront of the country's development strategies.

As the mandated organization of all Philippine cities, the LCP believes effective change in the national consciousness starts with the primary visions of local government units.

Under Article III, Section 499 of the Local Government Code of the Philippines, the LCP is institutionalized with the "primary purpose of ventilating, articulating, and crystallizing issues affecting city government administration."

The change in nomenclature from the League of City Mayors also transformed the character of LCP from an organization of political personalities to a membership-based institution where cities-- and not their political leaders-- are members.

Ably guided by its General Assembly, the LCP is committed to pursue genuine local autonomy and protect the interests of its cities.

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# Table of Contents

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Message from the Secretariat	4
<b>1</b> Updates from the Board and the Secretariat	5
<b>2</b> Promoting Local Governance through Policy and Legislation	10
<b>3</b> Working towards Reforms in Social Welfare	13
<b>4</b> Empowering ASEAN Cities for a Stronger Union	18
<b>5</b> Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities	27
<b>6</b> Changing the Landscape of Local Urban Development	32
<b>7</b> Fostering a Global Community through International Engagements	37
<b>8</b> Cultivating Partnerships with the Private Sector	42
LCP NEB 2016-2019	45

# *Message from the Secretariat*

This special edition of The Advocate aims to highlight the various efforts of the League in response to prevailing issues affecting local government units such as rapid urbanization, innovations in public administration, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

Now more than ever, local governments in Southeast Asia are instrumental in ensuring a more solid ASEAN regional bloc. As the Philippines takes the helm of the Chairmanship of the ASEAN this year, we make sure that the policies we advocate, the exchanges we attend, and the projects we implement are all geared towards empowering Philippine cities, a cause that we believe can greatly contribute to a more connected, inclusive, and sustainable ASEAN.

We hope that through this newsletter, readers will realize that while all developmental goals take shape on a global and regional level, people in cities and urban communities are the forefront in implementing and ensuring the success of these commitments.

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# *Updates from the Board and the Secretariat*



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Tagum and Davao meetings set agenda for new LCP leadership

Duterte appoints five city mayors as NEDA regional chairs

Duterte appoints Mayor Lani as LEDAC's LGU representative

GenSan hosts 61st National Executive Board meeting

Local governments declare support for Martial Law in Mindanao at 5th

ULAP GEC meeting

# Tagum and Davao meetings set agenda for new LCP leadership

Fidel Pamintuan

To usher in a new administration for 2016-2019, city mayors gathered for a series of crucial meetings hosted by Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte last November 17-19, 2016. The discussions were geared towards setting a path for the new administration.

## Strategic Planning Workshop

The three-day gathering started with the 2016-2019 LCP Strategic Planning Workshop facilitated by the Ateneo School of Government and the LCP Secretariat last November 17, 2016 at Big 8 Hotel, Tagum City.

Attended by the new officers of the LCP National Executive Board (NEB), the workshop was a venue for participants to revisit and review the vision, mission, and objectives (VMO) of the previous administrations to match and conform with the current needs of member cities. Officers then came up with a new set of VMO and a strategy map that will be pursued for the 2016-2019 administration.

The workshop revealed the new administration's desire for higher membership engagement, stronger influence on policy decisions affecting cities, and maximizing resources and collaboration among member cities. They also envision the League to be the bridge between development partners and its member cities.

## 60th National Executive Board

Following the strategic planning workshop, the LCP NEB convened a board meeting the next day, November 18, 2016.

One of the key issues discussed included the House Bill No. 4149. To fast track their conversion into cities, the bill seeks to exempt municipalities with locally-generated income of PHP 250 million from either land area or population requirements.

The LCP NEB approved en masse the motion to oppose the bill and the adoption of the LCP Policy Unit's recommended position as the official position of the League.

Also discussed were issues surrounding the guidelines for the utilization of the Special Education Fund of Local School Boards, the 20% Development Fund of LGUs, and the Drug Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Health in cities.

Tony Lambino of the Liveable Cities Challenge Consortium also presented the results of the Liveable Cities Challenge Lab 1 (e-Government), which took place on the same day in Davao City. During the workshop,

cities identified pressing challenges that e-governance can address and the e-governance solutions they would like to implement.

## 64th General Assembly

During the 64th LCP General Assembly which took place on November 19, 2016 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City, various partners from the private sector presented their initiatives designed to benefit city infrastructure. Invited to speak were executives from Philips Lighting, Foton Philippines, and PLDT, Inc. To cap the three-day event, the mayors took part in a dinner sponsored by the Liveable Cities Challenge Consortium.



The Strategic Planning Workshop on November 17, 2017 was facilitated by the Ateneo School of Government in partnership with the LCP Secretariat.



Islamic City of Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra takes part in the discussions at the 60th National Executive Board Meeting.



The gathering of local chief executives of the LCP was an opportunity for Liveable Cities Challenge to advocate for sustainable and competitive cities.

## Duterte appoints five city mayors as NEDA regional chairs

Fidel Pamintuan

Five mayors from the LCP have been appointed by President Duterte to lead the Regional Development Council (RDC) of their respective region.

The RDC serves as a counterpart of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board at the sub-national level.

Appointed mayors include Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Chairman of RDC-Cordillera Administrative Region; Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo Medina, Chairman of RDC-Ilocos Region; Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, Chairman of RDC-Central Luzon; Tacloban City

Mayor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez, Chairman of RDC-Eastern Visayas; and General Santos City Mayor Ronnel Rivera, Chairman of the RDC-SOCCSKSARGEN Region.

The chairpersons took their oath during the first quarter of 2017 and will fulfill their duties until June 2019.

RDC Chairpersons are given the special task of steering, implementing, and monitoring all economic and social development efforts in their respective regions. They are also in charge of integrating local government programs with the regional and national development agenda.

## Local govt authorities declare support for Martial Law in Mindanao at the 5th ULAP GEC Meeting

Soleil Manzano

Members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) convened for the 5th General Executive Council (GEC) Meeting last May 24, 2017 at the Manila Hotel.

During the meeting, the National Executive Board (NEB) and member-representatives from local government leagues discussed the organization's activities and programs. The event was also a platform for the members to signify their support to President Duterte's declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao.

Presided by ULAP President and League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) National Chairman, Gov. Al Francis Bichara, and ULAP Executive Vice President and LCP National President, Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, together with LCP Secretary General

and Balanga City Mayor Francis Garcia, the meeting saw the approval of the organization's revised Constitution and By-Laws and the discussion of other organizational matters.

Also present in the meeting were representatives from national government agencies. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Assistant Secretary, Epimaco Densing III, discussed the agency's priority programs and initiatives towards a federal government. Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary, Karl Kendrick Chua, shared the new comprehensive tax reform package. Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary, Vernice Victorio, shared the committee's policies, plans, and programs and the technical and financial assistance which local governments can access.

*continued in page 9*

## Duterte appoints Mayor Lani as LEDAC's LGU representative

Fidel Pamintuan



*Mayor Lani receives her letter of appointment from NEDA Undersecretary Jose Miguel De La Rosa*

LCP Chairperson and Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano was appointed by President Duterte as a member and representative of local government units to the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC).

Her appointment letter was signed by the President last February 17, 2017.

The LEDAC was established through the Republic Act No. 7640 in 1992; it serves as a consultative and advisory body on certain programs and policies essential to the realization of the goals of the national economy.

It is also a venue for facilitating high-level policy discussions on vital issues and concerns affecting national development.

The LEDAC is composed of 20 members, with the President as chairman. Staff support for the LEDAC is provided the National Economic and Development Council (NEDA) Secretariat.

# GenSan hosts 61st LCP national executive board meeting

Fidel Pamintuan



LCP Mayors were given a tour of the GSC Fish Port Complex on February 22, 2017.

The LCP, in cooperation with the City Government of General Santos, held its 61st National Executive Board Meeting on February 21-22, 2017 in General Santos City.

The two-day event is the first executive board meeting of the organization to fully open its doors to all member cities of the League.

A total of 47 cities took part, including 22 non-board members, and all were given full access to reports and board discussions held in Greenleaf Hotel and to various events graciously hosted by the National Vice Chairman of the LCP and General Santos City Mayor Ronnel Rivera.

The board meeting was well-received by mayors, who commended the organization of the event and content of the program.

"It was a very productive executive board meeting," said Angeles City Mayor and National President of the

LCP, Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan. "The mayors were very enthusiastic and eager to contribute in exchanging information and best practices, especially those who attended conferences abroad."

Highlights from the two-day event included:

### **Dialogue with National Government Agencies:**

Keynote addresses were presented after the formal board proceedings on Feb. 21 by: Secretary of Mindanao Development Authority, Hon. Datu Abul Khayr Alonto; Executive Director of National Solid Waste Management Commission, Engr. Eligio Ildelfonso; and Chairman of Film Development Council of the Philippines, Ms. Liza Diño-Seguerra.

**Mayors' Presentation:** Mayors previously invited to attend international conferences reported on their experiences and contributions. These were Vigan City Mayor Carlo Medina; Sorsogon City Mayor Sally

Lee; Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon; and Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal.

**Partners Presentation:** The League also invited the following representatives from private companies and organizations to present their services and causes relevant to cities: Executive Director of Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development, Nong Rangasa; General Manager of Weather Philippines, Dave Michael Valeriano; Chief of Party of the USAID-SURGE Project, Maris Mikelsons; AVP for PLDT Public Sector, Dennis Magbatoc; and Business Development Manager of 51Talk, Vanessa Caceres.

**Mayors' Night:** Capping the first day of the board meeting, all participating mayors were treated to a grand dinner at Mt. Sabrina Resort, organized by the office of Mayor Rivera. Song and dance numbers and tourism videos were presented during the banquet.

*continued in page 9*

## GenSan hosts 61st LCP NEB meeting (from p. 8)

**Educational Tours:** On February 22, mayors were given a tour of the GSC Fish Port Complex and Philbest Canning Corporation, two major businesses involved in the fishing industry of General Santos City.

**Corporate Social Responsibility:** Mayors took part in the distribution of school kits and senior high school books, gifted through the generosity of Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation and Lucena City Councilor and Vice Chairman of Book Media Press, Hon. Benito Brizuela, to students of Calumpang Elementary School and General Santos City High School.

**Kalilangan Festival Opening Ceremony:** The two-day event ended with a celebration where the mayors attended the opening ceremony of the city's Kalilangan Festival which showcased the colorful, historical foundation of General Santos City through music and performing arts.



*Vigan City Mayor Carlo Medina shares his Beijing experience.*



*The 61st National Executive Board Meeting was hosted in GenSan through the generous support of LCP National Vice Chairman and GenSan City Mayor Ronnel Rivera.*

## Local govt authorities (from p. 9)

Plaques of honor were also bestowed to past ULAP presidents during the event to commemorate their leadership. Recipients included Gov. Joey Lina, Gov. Erico Aumentado (†), Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, Mayor Benjamin Abalos, and Gov. Alfonso Umali, Jr.

Forging of partnerships also took place between ULAP and Microsoft Philippines and PLDT, Inc. through the signing of memoranda of understanding.

The meeting was also deemed timely as ULAP was able to release an official statement signed by the NEB in support of President Duterte's declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao,



*ULAP NEB releases an official statement in support of President Duterte's declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao.*

a day after the reported terror attacks in Marawi City.

ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and

locally elected government officials. It was formed in 1998 and was formally endorsed in 2004 through Executive Order No. 351.

# *Promoting Local Governance through Policy and Legislation*

# 2

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League asserts position on various issues at the national level

Policy officers represent the League in Congressional legislation

# League asserts position on various issues at the national level

Godol Cualteros and Atty. Jiselle Villamor

*The LCP actively champions the welfare of its members when it comes to issues that develop at the national level through policy formulation. The following are recent examples where the League has demonstrated its capability to assert the interests of Philippine cities.*

## COA Jurisdiction Over LCP

The League firmly maintains that it is outside the jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit on grounds that it is not a government institution; it is governed by its Constitution and By-Laws; its financial policies and procedures are guided by the prescription of its Board; its financial records comply with the general accounting and audit procedures practiced in the private sectors; and it is externally audited.

## Local Budget Memorandum (LBM) No. 74-A: Adjustment of FY 2017 Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of Some Local Government Units

The League submits to the authority of the Department of Budget and Management (LBM) in its issuance of LBM No. 74-A with the effect of adjusting the IRA of certain LGUs brought about by the change of the computation of population.

While it subscribes to the contention of the LGUs that LBM No. 74-A results in tedious adjustment of the approved local budget ordinances of the LGUs, the League acknowledges that the memorandum adheres to existing laws. To prevent the recurrence of similar situations, the League proposed that "alterations, changes, adjustments and modifications made effective until June 15 of the current fiscal year shall be implemented in the subsequent fiscal year."

The issue was resolved to return the reduced IRA of affected LGUs as assistance to disadvantaged LGUs in 2018. The recommendation of the League regarding the June 15 cut-off was also duly recognized and considered.

## Paris Agreement on Climate Change

The Philippines, as a member of the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change, participated in the crafting of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which aims to limit the increase of greenhouse gas emission in the global average temperature to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

While the Philippines is not a major emitter of carbon, the League deemed it practicable for the Philippines to sign the agreement to broaden its network in advocating for common responsibility in climate resiliency and sustainability. It further gives the Philippines access to Green Climate Fund, "a mechanism under the pact where developed nations, for long the world's biggest carbon emitters, are obliged to pool together \$100 million annually to support vulnerable countries."

President Duterte acceded and signed the Agreement with the unanimous concurrence of Senate in a session held last March 14, 2017.

# Policy officers represent the League in Congressional legislation

*The LCP represented its member cities and manifested its position on pending legislation in various committee hearings and technical working group (TWG) meetings of the 17th Congress, both in the House of Representatives and the*

*Senate through legislative advocacy and technical assistance.*

*The League manifested support to the following bills among others, to wit:*

*House Bill No. 3023: "An Act Ensuring the Free Exercise by the People of their Right to Peaceably Assemble and Petition the Government"*

House Bill No. 3023 seeks to empower the local chief executives to issue permit to regulate the time, place and manner of assemblies. The local chief

*continued in page 12*

## Policy Officers represent the League... (cont. from p. 13)

executives may deny the permit on the ground of clear and present danger.

The League maintains that the Constitutional right to Peaceable Assembly is not subject to prior restraint and cannot be conditioned upon authorization by the government. However, the same can be regulated to avoid substantive evils in the exercise thereof, as held in several Supreme Court decisions. The League is in the position that this measure protects the peace and order of the public as the local chief executive is given the power to regulate the conduct of the assembly.

**Legislative status:** House Bill No. 3023 is pending with the Committee on People's Participation.

**Senate Bill No. 44: "An Act Instituting Reforms in Real Property Valuation and Assessment in the Philippines, Reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance, and Appropriating Funds Therefore"**

Senate Bill No. 44: seeks to depoliticize the issue of updating the Schedule of Market Value (SMV) of Real Property. Similarly, the League calls on the flexibility of SMV especially after calamities.

**Legislative status:** The said bill is pending with the Committee on Local Government and Finance.

**Senate Bill No. 1354: "An Act Establishing a National Mental Health Policy for the Purpose of Enhancing the Delivery of Integrated Mental Health Services, Promoting and Protecting Persons Utilizing Psychiatric, Neurologic and Psychosocial Health Services, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes."**

Senate Bill No. 1354 ensures the welfare of one out of five Filipino adults who are suffering from mental and psychiatric disorders, which has resulted in an average of 88%

reported cases of mental illness per 100 Filipinos. The League manifested that several local government units lack medical and mental health specialists. Thus, it recommends that DOH should designate a health personnel in every LGU to oversee the implementation of the measure.

**Legislative Status:** Senate Bill No. 1354 has been sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

**Conversely, the League manifested its opposition to the following, to wit:**

**Senate Bill No. 233 and House Bill No. 4149: "An Act Exempting from the Population and Land Area Requirements the Conversion of a Municipality into a Component City if it has a Locally Generated Average Annual Income of at least Two Hundred Fifty Million (P250,000,000.00), Amending for the Purpose Section 450 of the Local Government Code of 1991"**

The LCP strongly opposed the bills since they violate the spirit of the law on verifiable indicators as enshrined in the Local Government Code. The conversion affects smaller cities that are greatly dependent on the IRA to finance the bulk of their social services.

**Legislative Status:** Approved by the House, transmitted to and received by the Senate for deliberation

**House Bill No. 002: "An Act Lowering the Age of Criminal Responsibility from Fifteen (15) Years to Nine (9) Years, Amending for the Purpose RA 9344"**

As a permanent member of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council, the League manifested its opposition to the bill with the recommendation that proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act must first be enforced than criminalizing children.

Godo Cualteros and  
Atty. Jiselle Villamor

**Legislative Status:** A substitute bill retaining the age of criminal responsibility as provided by Republic Act No. 9344 was filed before the Subcommittee on Correctional Reforms.

**Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Local Government Code Review**

The League sits as an active member of the three TWGs created by the Senate to review the Local Government Code. The TWGs are simultaneously conducting meetings for discussions and recommendations vital to the amendment and revision of the Local Government Code.

**TWG on the Special Education Fund**

The League participated in the consultative meeting among the stakeholders to give inputs on the pending bill which seeks to expand the use of the Special Education Fund (SEF) from 1% actual collection of the Real Property Tax of the LGU concerned.

In solidarity with the other local government leagues, the League advocated that the additional allowances of the Department of Education (DepEd) teachers should be charged to SEF and not from the local general fund due to budgetary constraints, but will not prohibit other able and willing LGUs to charge from their general fund. The Local Sanggunian and the Local School Board shall be given the discretion to allot allowances for the national teachers.

On January 29, 2017, the Joint Circular for the Revised Guidelines on the use of the SEF was issued by the DBM, DepEd, and DILG.

# *Working towards Reforms in Social Welfare*

# 3

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LCP joins USAID's Sustainable Urban Land Coalition

League President attends National Anti-Poverty Commission  
en banc meeting

LCP backs Duterte administration's key agenda for housing

LCP hosts 2nd Sustainable Urban Land Coalition meeting

LCP commits to empowering urban slum-dwellers in partnership with  
the Philippine Alliance

World Bank launches PH Urbanization Review, highlights role of cities in  
managing urbanization

# LCP joins USAID's Sustainable Urban Land Coalition

Gabrielle Guevara

In support of the reforms toward the improvement of land administration, the LCP participated in the Conference on Sustainable Land Governance hosted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE) Project, in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the World Bank at the Diamond Hotel in the City of Manila, last February 8-9, 2017.

As one of the partners of the event, the League's delegation included city mayors and representatives from the LCP Secretariat, including its Executive Director, Atty. Gail Yu-Pamintuan.

The two-day event served as a venue for more than 350 delegates and experts to share best practices and new approaches geared towards sustainable land management and administration.

The conference showcased a series of panel discussions led by international and local speakers who discussed resilient land administration and management, land sector reforms, alternative land dispute resolutions, improving access to land records and information, asset management, and gender and social inclusion in property rights, among others.

Also present in the conference were U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Sung Kim; Philippines Department of Finance Secretary, Carlos Dominguez III; and USAID Mission Director, Dr. Susan Brems.

In addition, the event saw the official launch of the Sustainable Urban Land Coalition which is part of USAID's agenda in improving local land management in the country.

The Coalition is composed of 20 key representatives from national and local governments, business, international development, and civil groups, which includes the League of Cities of the Philippines.

To wrap up the event, key participants, including Atty. Yu-Pamintuan took part in the signing of the "Call to Action," an action-focused declaration that urges national and local governments

to improve and create more accessible programs and services that will fast-track the development and adoption of policy and procedural reforms in land governance.

City mayors and staff from the LCP Secretariat also expressed their support to the said declaration by signing large copies of the document installed in the venue.



*The Sustainable Urban Land Coalition calls on the Philippine government to expedite the development and adoption of policy and procedural reforms in land governance.*

# League President attends National Anti-Poverty Commission en banc meeting

Fidel Pamintuan



The LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor Ed Pamintuan represented the League of Cities of the Philippines at the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) En Banc Meeting in Malacañang last March 13, 2017.

President Rodrigo Duterte presided over the meeting as the NAPC Chairperson; matters discussed were based from a prior gathering of the NAPC Technical Action Officers-Technical Working Group (TAO-TWG) of which the League is a member.

Highlights included the motion to adapt the summary and agreements of the 1st NAPC En Banc; the introduction of the Ten Basic Needs of the poor, based on a universal, rights-based

approach to poverty; and the proposal to establish a comprehensive and streamlined approach to building information and data sources on poverty and poverty alleviation.

The NAPC is a government agency established to focus on and implement social reform and poverty alleviation through basic sector participation.

The League belongs to the Government Sector of the said commission, along with other local government leagues and national government agencies of the country. It is supported by a secretariat which is currently headed by its Lead Convenor, Secretary Liza Maza.

## LCP backs Duterte Administration's key agenda for housing

The LCP has expressed its support for President Duterte's agenda for the housing sector which seeks to increase affordable housing production and fast track the processing and implementation of housing programs.

Office of Cabinet Secretary (OCS) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chief, Leoncio Evasco, Jr., has spearheaded a series of consultative dialogues and meetings between the government and the business sector, which have been ongoing since February 2017.

The dialogues intend to create harmonious relations and coordination among the stakeholders to better serve the people and address the country's housing needs.

One such dialogue aimed to categorize issues hampering the housing production in the country into four (4) major concerns: permits and documentation, technical concerns, legal concerns, and financial concerns.

A Grand National Housing Summit was held last March 17, 2017 in Davao City where private housing partners and developers, as well as representatives from key housing agencies, convened and jointly identified emerging problems the country is facing with regard to housing.

LCP Executive Vice President and Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon, graced the event as a representative of government officials.

On behalf of the 145 member cities of the LCP, Mayor Rellon expressed his support for the administration's move to streamline and simplify the processes in the implementation of housing programs.

*continued in page 16*

## LCP backs Duterte Administration's... (from p. 15)

Atty. Jiselle Villamor

He further conveyed his commitment to advocate the administration's agenda on housing to the other member cities of the League.

As an off-shoot of the event, a composite team from the OCS and HUDCC was created to formulate a Strategic Implementation Plan that will address the identified issues and concerns in the housing sector.

The League, represented by its Policy Unit Officer, Atty. Jiselle Villamor, actively participated in the two-day Strategic Implementation Plan workshop last April 20-21, 2017.

Each agency and partner in the consultation gave inputs on how roadblocks can be addressed, if not

altogether eliminated.

For its part, the League made a commitment to advocate to its member cities the formulation of updated Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as this is one of the identified roadblocks which delay the process and implementation.

The said undertaking will not only benefit the housing sector, but it will also ensure up-to-date analysis and facilitation of resiliency measures towards socio-economic development.

To date, the League continues to take part in the dialogues for the formulation of more responsive, systematic, and pro-people housing policies and platforms.



Mayor Allan Rellon of Tagum City delivers his speech during the Grand National Housing Summit for Change in Davao City.

## LCP commits to empowering urban slum-dwellers in partnership with the Philippine Alliance

Soleil Manzano

Last May 8, 2017, the LCP met with representatives from the Philippine Alliance to discuss a possible collaboration in replicating the Alliance's work on community mapping and settlements profiling in urban communities.

The meeting was attended by LCP's Technical Advisor for Programs and Projects, Anna Abalahin, and LCP's Program Officer for Special Projects, Soleil Manzano. Mr. Dario Cubelo, Executive Director of the Philippine Action for Community-Led Shelter Initiatives (PACSI), Ms. Ofelia Bagotlo and Ms. Analiza Serrano, community organizers from Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines, Inc.

(HPFPI), and Mr. Ruel Orcajada, Project Director of Technical Assistance Movement for People and Empowerment Inc. (TAMPEI) represented Philippine Alliance.

During the meeting, the Alliance discussed the City-Wide Community Upgrading Strategy, an inclusive and community-led mapping and settlements profiling project that aims to capacitate slum dwellers in urban communities, enabling them to participate in the city's shelter development planning.

The Alliance has previously worked with Muntinlupa City for this project, with support from the World

Bank. With the project's positive impacts to the city government and communities, the Alliance aims to bring the project to other urban communities.

The LCP committed to help the organization by linking them with cities and raising funds through competitive grant proposal development to widen the project's reach. The League's support to the Philippine Alliance echoes its commitment in realizing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on sustainable cities and communities and the Habitat III's New Urban Agenda (NUA).

## World Bank launches PH Urbanization Review, highlights role of cities in managing urbanization



The LCP participated in the launch of World Bank's Philippine Urbanization Review last May 29, 2017 in EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

Attended by stakeholders from the national and local government, academe, private sector, development partners, and civil society organizations, the event aimed to discuss the challenges brought by urbanization and the necessary actions for the country to achieve a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

In her opening remarks, World Bank Country Director for the Philippines, Mara Warwick, emphasized how urbanization brings economic growth and prosperity to cities if managed well. The Philippines is considered as among the fastest urbanizing countries in the East Asia and Pacific Region. As such, the country is faced with various challenges such as growing population, connectivity, and limited access to basic

services and economic opportunities. To help address these challenges, the World Bank carried out the Philippine Urbanization Review, a key document capturing recommendations on how the country can attend to these challenges and reap the benefits of urbanization.

Keynote speeches were delivered by the Chairman and CEO of the Ayala Corporation, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, and by the Undersecretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Rolando Tungpalan. World Bank Practice Manager for Urban and Disaster Risk Management for East Asia and the Pacific, Abhas Kumar Jha, presented the Review's main findings and policy recommendations.

LCP Secretary General and Balanga City Mayor Francis Garcia served as one of the five resource speakers during the panel discussion and open forum at the launch. Mayor Garcia

was joined by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary, Austere Panadero; Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) President, George Barcelon; and the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines Inc.'s National Coordinator, Ruby Haddad.

In response to the recommendations of the Review, Mayor Garcia highlighted the ongoing initiatives of local governments, particularly cities in managing urbanization. The cities through its local programs and projects together with support from development partners and private sector are already embarking on applying solutions to urbanization issues, such as making cities competitive through activities on the ease of doing business and investing in education facilities to better create employment opportunities.

# *Empowering ASEAN Cities for a Stronger Union*

# 4

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Mayor Carlo Medina attends Belt and Road educational seminar in China

LCP President highlights importance of advocating ASEAN in cities

LCP sponsors the UCLG-ASPAC ExBu in Catbalogan

PH and China cities share tourism perspectives during mayors' dialogue in Guangdong

PH cities attend ASEAN Creative Cities Forum, apply for UNESCO

Creative Cities Network

## Mayor Carlo Medina attends Belt and Road educational seminar in China

Text by Vigan City Public Information Office | Edited by Fidel Pamintuan

To promote China's Belt and Road Initiative and improve bilateral relations between China and the Philippines, the Bank of China (BOC) hosted the Belt and Road International Financial Exchange and Cooperation Seminar on October 19-28, 2016 at BOC training institutes in Beijing and Shanghai, China.

The program, which was created for the Philippine Government, invited Vigan City Mayor Carlo Medina as representative of the LCP along with delegates from the local and national government, legislators, and executives from the DILG, Bureau of the Treasury, DTI, and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The seminar was formally opened at the College of International Finance in

Beijing on October 19, 2016 with BOC Vice President, Gao Yingxin, hosting the seminar and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Wang Xiquan, delivering his opening remarks.

Aside from a series of lectures, various field surveys and in-depth cultural exchanges were organized by BOC executives for the Philippine delegates.

The program was developed to address matters of economic concern in the Philippines and to foster economic and trade cooperation and communication between the two states.

A significant highlight of the event was the visit of President Duterte to BOC, where he participated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding

between the national departments of the Philippines and the BOC; the President took part in a high-level discussion with BOC officials thereafter.

The seminar concluded with BOC leaders conferring graduation certificates to the delegates. Mr. Xiquan pointed out in his speech that Chinese and Filipinos have a long history of friendship, and the Belt and Road Initiative will further elevate this friendship.

"The Bank of China has always been taking social responsibility as its mission and I sincerely hope that the seminar can better promote the development of strategic connection between China and the Philippines for a more in-depth exchange and cooperation to ensue," Mr. Xiquan said.

## LCP President highlights importance of advocating ASEAN in cities



*Mayor Pamintuan highlights the importance of popularizing the concept of the ASEAN in far-flung areas of the Philippines.*

Mayor Pamintuan was a panelist at the session called, "Importance of Local Government Participation in ASEAN Member States," along with the Governor of Guimaras Province, Samuel Gumarin; Daru Pratomo of Jambi City, Indonesia; and the Vice President of the National Association of Capital and Provincial Councils (NACPC) of Cambodia, Mum Krasal.

In his presentation, Mayor Pamintuan highlighted the importance of popularizing the ASEAN region among far-flung areas in the Philippines.

Last February 17, 2017, LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan took part as a plenary speaker in a conference entitled, "50 Years of ASEAN: Paving the Way for Local Dynamics in a Regional Context," which was held in Discovery Primea, Makati City.

The conference was organized by the United Cities and Local Governments - Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC) and Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) to raise greater awareness on the importance of local governments in the ASEAN region.

He shared that the local government of Angeles City was fortunate to host the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting last year as this enabled the city to appreciate how the ASEAN can be beneficial for Angeles City and the rest of the cities in the country.

*continued in page 20*

# LCP sponsors the UCLG-ASPAC ExBu in Catbalogan

Fidel Pamintuan



*LCP Executive Director Atty. Gail Yu-Pamintuan and LCP National Vice President Mayor Allan Rellon presenting tokens of appreciation to Paulo Alcazaren and Tony Lambino of Liveable Cities Challenge.*

The League played a central role in the conduct of the United Cities and Local Governments – Asia Pacific Executive Bureau (UCLG-ASPAC ExBu) last April 4-6, 2017.

Hosted by Catbalogan City Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan, the UCLG-ASPAC ExBu was a gathering of about 200 local chief executives across Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, as well as representatives from national government agencies and international

development organizations.

With the theme, “Kauswagan Kalibutan: Creating Connections for Sustainable Societies,” the conference tackled pressing issues in ensuring sustainable and inclusive progress in countries in Asia, particularly in the ASEAN region.

Among the key topics highlighted during the ExBu include local economic development; culture for sustainability;

enabling environment of cities; and localizing global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the New Urban Agenda (NUA), and the Sendai Framework.

## *LCP as National Coordinator*

With the request of Mayor Uy-Tan, the LCP took on the task of engaging and inviting state departments and organizations whose resources and

*continued in page 21*

## LCP President highlights importance... (from p. 19)

Also, the knowledge gained from hosting the meeting has allowed Angeles City to begin incorporating ASEAN integration strategies in their planning process.

During the discussion, the panelists were one in saying that local governments play a pivotal role in advocating the ASEAN to their constituencies.

However, there is a need to strengthen the participation of local governments

in the ASEAN process. To be able to do so, local governments must capitalize on the fact that most of the Presidents in the ASEAN were local chief executives before assuming state-level leadership roles, such as President Widodo of Indonesia and President Duterte of the Philippines.

Other sessions during the conference touched on other aspects of the ASEAN such as ensuring security and stability in the region and the value of higher education institutions in

facilitating inclusive and sustainable development in local governments.

With the Philippines as Chair of the ASEAN this year, the DELGOSEA Network also expressed its optimism over its accreditation to the ASEAN during the event.

The LCP is a member of the DELGOSEA Network, together with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

## LCP sponsors the UCLG-ASPAC ExBu... (cont. from page 20)

technical knowledge were sought for the discussions at the ExBu.

A series of meetings weeks prior the conference was conducted at the office of the LCP in Quezon City between the invited agencies and the team of Mayor Uy-Tan, with the LCP acting as the lead convener of the meetings.

Offices that have manifested their interest in extending their support for the ExBu include the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Department of Education (DepEd); Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); UNICEF Philippines; League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP); National Youth Commission (NYC); Philippine Commission on Women (PCW); and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

### Tacloban City Hosts Welcome Dinner for LCP Mayors

The LCP also took the task of inviting the mayors of its member cities to show their support and participate at the Catbalogan conference.

Mayors who have confirmed their attendance for the event were Dagupan City Mayor Belen Fernandez; Gapan City Mayor Emerson Pascual; Himamaylan City Mayor Ernesto Bascon; Lamitan City Mayor Rosita Furigay; Science City of Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez; Silay City Mayor Mark Golez; Talisay City, Negros Occidental Mayor Neil Lizares; and Victorias City Mayor Francis Palanca.

During their stay in Tacloban City prior their trip to Catbalogan, the office of Tacloban City Mayor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez hosted a dinner gathering to welcome her counterparts from other cities in the Philippines.

"It's an honor to host one of the ExBu dinners here in Tacloban," Mayor Gonzales-Romualdez said. "Through this dinner, we also would like to explore creative ways for greater



Tacloban City Mayor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez with the rest of the LCP mayors during the welcome dinner hosted by the City Government of Tacloban on April 4, 2017.



Catbalogan City Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan welcomes the delegates of the LCP Night on April 5.

networking and partnerships among mayors. We [can] all help each other through our ideas."

Video presentations showcasing the beauty of Tacloban City were played during the event and the Leyte Dance Theater capped the night off with a series of eye-catching cultural dance numbers.

### LCP Mayors Take Part in the ExBu

A number of mayors from the League were also invited as resource speakers at specific fora during the three-day event.

Vigan City Mayor Carlo Medina and Isabela City Mayor Bernard Dy

shared their insights on the future of youth in urban communities and their participation in governance at the Youth Pre-Conference held on April 4, 2017.

Tabaco City Mayor Krisel Lagman-Luistro and Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee actively took part in the panel discussions on gender equality, women empowerment, and leadership in peace and local economic development at the Women Mayors' Pre-Conference held on the same day.

On April 5, 2017, Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon described his city's efforts in delivering basic public services while

*continued in page 22*

## LCP sponsors the UCLG-ASPAC... (from p. 21)

empowering its citizens towards active community building at the Asia Pacific Conference on Creating Connections for Sustainable and Resilient Societies. He also shared challenges and opportunities in localizing key global commitments such as the SDGs and the NUA.

### LCP Night

Aside from providing liaison support, the LCP also sponsored a dinner called the "LCP Night" on April 5, 2017 after the Asia Pacific Conference at the M Grand Royale Resort, the main venue for the UCLG-ASPAC ExBu.

LCP National Vice President Mayor Allan Rellon delivered welcome remarks on behalf of the LCP National President Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan.

"May I express my confidence that



*A participant asks a question to Paulo Alcazaren, keynote speaker for the LCP Night, who discussed the importance of open, public spaces in cities.*

this event will deepen our realization on the importance of the role of local governments in the social, political, economic, and cultural development of our respective countries," said Mayor Rellon. "It is often said that all politics is local. May I add that all development

is rooted from our efforts in our respective localities."

Not only was the event an opportunity for LCP mayors to network with other Asian local chief executives and development partners, but it was also a platform for Paulo Alcazaren, an award-winning Filipino architect and international urban designer for over 30 years, to deliver a keynote presentation during the event and discuss the cultural and social value of public spaces in cities.

Invited guests were treated to a delectable menu of Filipino dishes and, afterwards, were serenaded with Original Pilipino Music (OPM) classics by Tony Lambino, a talented and accomplished public policy and communications specialist from the Liveable Cities Challenge Consortium (LCC), a partner of the LCP for the event.

## PH and China cities share tourism perspectives during mayors dialogue in Guangdong

Mayors from six member-cities of the LCP established friendly and cooperative ties with local chief executives (LCEs) from Guangdong Province in China during the Philippines-China Mayors Dialogue held last April 19-20, 2017.

The Philippine delegation, headed by the Chairman of the Philippine Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, was composed of Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan; Malolos City Mayor Christian Natividad; Science City of Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez; Tagbilaran City Mayor John Yap II; Taguig City Mayor Laarni Cayetano; and Zamboanga City Mayor Isabelle Climaco.

The two-day affair was hosted both in Guangzhou and Shenzhen City and was sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign

Countries (CPAFFC) and organized by the Guangdong People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (GPAFFC).

One the first day, the Philippine city mayors briefly gave an introduction of their respective cities and expressed their interest in forging partnerships with Chinese LCEs present in the event. Afterwards, vice mayors and deputy secretary generals from the cities of Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Nanning, Haikou, Dezhou, Foshan, and Jiangmen talked about their city governments and provided insights on policy, tourism, and local governance.

Delegates were also given a tour of Guangzhou, showcasing the city's great strides in urban development through the years.

*continued in page 23*

Fidel Pamintuan



*Mayors were given a tour of Huawei's Customer Solution Integration and Innovation Center in Shenzhen on April 20, 2017*



*At Shenzhen Hi-Tech Industrial Park, the mayors took part in an educational briefing attended by representatives who discussed SHIP's major contribution to the economic growth of China.*

## PH and China cities share tourism perspectives... (from page 22)

The following day, the Philippine mayors paid a courtesy visit to distinguished LCEs and officers of the city government of Shenzhen. The visit likewise included a tour of the first special economic zone of China.

At the Huawei Campus, Philippine mayors explored the ICT company's Customer Solution Integration and Innovation Center, a large exhibition that showcases the latest technological innovations addressing the needs of various industries including government, smart cities, public safety, transportation, and power.

At Shenzhen Hi-Tech Industrial Park (SHIP), the mayors took part in an educational briefing attended by representatives from the industrial park who discussed SHIP's history and its major contribution to the



*Philippine city mayors with local chief executives from China at the Philippines-China Mayors Dialogue held last April 19, 2017 in Guangdong*

economic growth of China, as well as the successful R&D and tech enterprises that have established their offices there. Mayors also visited the Shenzhen headquarters of DJI, the

world's leading manufacturer of civilian drones, to understand the impact of Shenzhen's history of economic liberalization, industrial modernization, and competitive business environment.

## PH cities attend ASEAN Creative Cities Forum, apply for UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Soleil Manzano

*The ASEAN Creative Cities Forum and Exhibition held last April 26-27, 2017 at the Bonifacio Global City Arts Center in Taguig City gathered various stakeholders from Southeast Asian cities to share knowledge on making culture and creativity a driving force in achieving sustainable development and urban regeneration.*

LCP Deputy Secretary General for Visayas and Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia and LCP Regional Representative for Region III and Science City of Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez attended the event together with council members and government staff from the cities of Angeles, Bacolod, Baguio, Catbalogan, Gapan, Iloilo, Muñoz, San Fernando (Pampanga), Tagum, Tayabas, Vigan, and Zamboanga.

Professor John Howkins, acclaimed creativity thinker from London, explained the concept of intellectual

property and the creative economy and how these help cities become competitive and sustainable, with creativity acting as the driving force of economic growth.

Resource speakers from other creative cities around the world, such as Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Pekalongan and Bandung in Indonesia, and the City of Dundee in Scotland, provided insights on how their cities have transformed into creative hubs by using creativity to generate income and employment.

Presenters from organizations working

on the field of creativity and the arts such as the UNESCO, British Council, Tom Fleming Consultancy, Campaign Asia, 98 Collaboratory, and the Ateneo Art Gallery also provided insights on the importance of the creative economy and the initiatives each has undertaken to demonstrate that creativity is indeed a high-value human resource.

The event was also a fitting venue for the UNESCO Philippines to invite cities with thriving creativity, culture, and design to participate in the 2017

*continued in page 26*



PROUDLY PRESENT

# ASEAN

## MAYORS FORUM

2017

50 Years of ASEAN :  
Empowering Communities  
for a Stronger Region

26-27 July 2017 | Taguig City, Philippines



## PH cities attend ASEAN Creative Cities Forum... (from p. 23)



*The ASEAN Creative Cities Forum Exhibition was organized by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Design Center of the Philippines.*

call for the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

The UCCN calls for applications to be part of an international network of cities that have placed importance on their respective creative industry as a major local economic growth factor and a way to achieve sustainable urban development, which is mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Currently, there are 116 member cities worldwide and the Philippines is yet to be represented by any of its cities in the network.

However, four member cities of the LCP have expressed their intent to apply for the 2017 UCCN. These cities include Angeles, for the creative field of gastronomy; Baguio for design; City of San Fernando, Pampanga, for crafts and folk art; and Tagum for music. The deadline for the call for applications for

this year's UCCN is on June 16, 2017.

The ASEAN Creative Cities Forum and Exhibition is part of the side events of the ASEAN Summit, which will be held in the country as the Philippines assumes this year's ASEAN chairmanship. The event is organized by the ASEAN Committee on Business and Investment Promotion, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Design Center of the Philippines (DCP).



*Representatives from the LCP Secretariat and Baguio City met with Paolo Mercado, a founding member of the Creative Economy Development Council of the Philippines, to discuss the city's bid to become a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.*



*Jefferson Chua from the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO shares advice on how Angeles City can further develop its application for the Creative Cities Network.*

# *Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities*

# 5

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LCP staff joins Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) Fellowship in Taiwan

LCP, DENR, CDO and CDORBMC organize the 3rd IRS

PH cities recognized for their DRRM efforts at the 18th Gawad Kalasag

LCP partners with LCCAD, continues assistance to LGUs  
in LCCAP formulation

Mandaue City gears up for the 4th International River Confab

LCP joins high-level conference for local leaders at the  
7th Eco Forum 2017

NSWMC approves more SWM plans of cities

## LCP staff joins Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) Fellowship in Taiwan

Alvidon Asis

The League, represented by its Environment Officer Alvidon Asis, was selected to be part of the 2016-2017 Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) Fellowship Program in Taiwan. The said fellowship program provides promising young researchers and professionals working on urban and disaster risk reduction under global environmental change with a unique opportunity for learning, training, and networking. This fellowship is in partnership with the Manila Observatory.

Mr. Asis' 2-month fellowship in Taiwan's National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) has provided him with an opportunity to understand best practices in Taiwan related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). His fellowship focused more on how the Center coordinates with the local government units and other stakeholders, which the Philippines can replicate. His experience involved engagement in consultations with renowned DRRM experts such as Dr. Wei-sen Li of NCDR. He also participated in disaster-related conferences and events, as well as field visits to Local Emergency Command Centers and to the LGUs



*LCP Environment Officer Alvidon Asis with Dr. Wei-Sen Li, Executive Director of NCDR during the awarding of the certificates during the Closing Ceremony*



*LCP Environment Officer Alvidon Asis (center in light blue, with shades) and Zamboanga City DRRM Officer Dr. Elmier Apolinario (right in dark blue, with shades and hat) join the PARR Fellows in the International Training Workshop on Natural Disaster Reduction in Taiwan on September 26-30, 2016*

of the cities of Taipei, New Taipei, and Hsinchu that house highly efficient DRR facilities.

These have taught him the value of science and technology, collaborative research, international cooperation, knowledge sharing, and capacity development in resilience building, both at the local government and community level. For him, the best practice that is most applicable to the Philippines is DRR data sharing to facilitate the fast and efficient exchange of information regarding disaster risk reduction.

Apart from gaining new knowledge on DRRM, the fellowship paved way for new friendships and potential partnerships and opportunity to access research grant from START International. Mr. Asis intends to share everything that he learned from this experience to the different LGUs in future DRR-related activities of the League, as well as explore the field of risk communication, and partner with co-fellows in future engagements – all geared towards addressing the concerns of the highly vulnerable communities in the country.

## LCP, DENR, CDO and CDORBMC organize the 3rd Int'l River Summit

The LCP, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Local Government of Cagayan de Oro (CDO) City, and the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC), has successfully organized the 3rd International River Summit (IRS) at Pryce Plaza Hotel, CDO on November 24-26, 2016. The Summit, with the theme "Healthy Watersheds-Clean Rivers-Safer Communities," has gathered almost 900 participants, guests, and speakers from 17 countries around the world.

Similar to the previous IRS held in Iloilo (2012) and Marikina (2014), the Summit served as a knowledge exchange

platform between important river stakeholders (e.g. scientists, policy experts, river administrators, advocates) regarding the latest technology and approaches to river basin governance from different participating countries.

LCP National President Edgardo D. Pamintuan has formally opened the event, highlighting in his speech the value of inter-agency cooperation and LGUs in river management. The event showcased the traditional river ritual called "Pananghid" for the protection and preservation of the watershed, river basins, and its tributaries.

It also featured highly interactive plenary and breakout sessions, which

has enabled the participants to discuss among themselves issues and concerns on river basin governance, share innovative solutions, and synergize strategies to address the different river basin. The four vital issues covered by the Summit are: governance, biodiversity conservation and management, climate change and disaster risk reduction management, and water quality.

The 3rd IRS concluded with the CDO Declaration, a call to action for the stakeholders to focus on indigenous communities, river resilience, and local government initiatives toward healthier and safer communities. Mandaue City will be hosting the next IRS in 2018.

Alvidon Asis

## PH cities recognized for their DRRM efforts at the 18th Gawad Kalasag

Short for Kalamidad at Sakuna Labanan, Sariling Galing ang Kaligtasan, the Gawad Kalasag is an award-giving body spearheaded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), that recognizes efforts and contributions in the field of disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian assistance.

Recipients of the award come from various stakeholders such as schools, hospitals, civil society organizations, volunteers, government offices, and LGUs.

As a member of the Gawad Kalasag National Selection Committee, the LCP is tasked to evaluate the efforts of City DRRM Councils at the local level.

For the 18th Gawad Kalasag National Awards, cities were evaluated against four components: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and rehabilitation.

Said components include indicators that reflect a city's capacity to prevent, mitigate, adapt, react, and recuperate from disasters.

On April 7, 2017, the Gawad Kalasag National Selection Committee, through Resolution No. A1-2017, declared the following cities as having the Best City DRRM Councils under the Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) category: Davao City (Rank 1), Olongapo City (Rank 2), and Quezon City (Rank 3). Under the Independent/Component Cities category the winners were Santiago City, Isabela (Rank 1), Bago

City, Negros Occidental (Rank 2), and Koronadal City, South Cotabato (Rank 3).

Representatives from LCP, April Mosquera and Broderick Sapnu, took part in the evaluation and on-site validation of cities under the (HUCs) category.

The resolution was approved by the Office of Civil Defense Administrator, Usec. Ricardo Jalad, and Usec. Catalino Cuy of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Formal Awarding Ceremony will be held on June 8, 2017, at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Brody Sapnu

## LCP, DENR, CDO... (from p. 28)



*LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan hits the gong to signify the start of the summit.*



*Mayor Gerardo Valmayor, Jr. of San Carlos City with Mayor Oscar Moreno of Cagayan de Oro City, LCP National President Edgardo D. Pamintuan, Most Reverend Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J. DD, Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro, and Ustadj Amin Macalantong, President of the Northern Mindanao Ulama League, Inc. during the Opening Ceremony.*

## LCP partners with LCCAD, continues assistance to LGUs in LCCAP formulation

Alvidon Asis

On April 25-29, 2017, the Local Climate Change Adaptation for Development (LCCAD) assisted the 30th batch of participants of the League of Cities of the Philippines/League of Municipalities of the Philippines' National Roll Out/Training-Workshop on the Formulation of Local Climate Change Action Plan in the Philippines and Federalism at St. Ellis Hotel, Legazpi City. This was conducted in partnership with the Office of the 2nd Representative of Albay, Hon. Joey Salceda, the City Government of Legazpi, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Project NOAH, and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Regional Office-V.

The 5-day workshop was participated by around 20 representatives from different LGUs. The goal of the workshop is to capacitate the participants in crafting a comprehensive LCCAP, as part of the mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) in the local government. It is believed that the efficiency and effectiveness of CCA initiatives lies in the local institutions. In addition, the workshop



*Mayor Belen Fernandez of Dagupan City (fourth from the left, back row) with other city officials and consultants.*

would enable the LGUs to comply with the requirements of the RA No. 9299 or the Climate Change Act of 2009, as well as help them to access the People's Survival Fund (PSF), an annual fund intended for local government units and accredited local/community organizations to supplement their annual appropriations for climate change-related programs and projects.

The LGUs were guided by Mr. Nong Rangasa, Executive Director of LCCAD. He discussed the key components of the LCCAP and provided workshop feedback on their draft LCCAPs to further improve the plans prior to their return to their respective LGUs.

# Mandaue City gears up for the 4th International River Confab

Alvidon Asis

After its successful bid to host the global environment event, the City of Mandaue starts the fire for the preparation for the 4th International River Summit. Slated on November 27-29, 2018 at J Center Convention Center in Mandaue City, it will be the first time in the region to host such an event.

Organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through its River Basin Control Office, this summit enjoins all river stakeholders, advocates and managers toward sustainable river governance and management. Best practices, studies, innovative programs and projects will be featured in the event.

The Summit will also highlight the 4th International River Exhibition and a forum focusing on water resources and management.



*Visioning Workshop participants with Vice Mayor Fortuna of Mandaue City*



*Mayor Luigi Quisumbing speaks in front of the organizing team for the 4th IRS*

Mandaue City Mayor Luigi Quisumbing said that the city is very much excited to host the Summit and showcase the initiatives of the city. As part of the Central Cebu River Basin System, Butuanon River will be the highlight of the upcoming event as it currently faces challenges brought about by urban development.

The LCP organized an orientation-workshop on how to effectively manage the International River Summit. The workshop focuses on the history of IRS, how to raise funds for the event, resource management, and manpower pooling. Mayor Quisumbing, Vice Mayor Carlo Fortuna, City Councilor Jun del Mar and other city officials attended the event. The city mayor is expected to meet DENR Secretary, Roy Cimatu, this June to discuss the event in detail.

# NSWMC approves more SWM plans of cities

Alvidon Asis

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) in its en banc session approved more 10-year solid waste management plans of cities and municipalities during its regular meeting last May 30, 2017 in Quezon City.

The Commission, which is under Office of the President, functions as the evaluator of solid waste management plans as endorsed by the Commission Secretariat and deliberated by the Commission's Technical Working Group.

The body unanimously approved the plan of Ligao City and Catbalogan City. Ligao City Mayor Patricia Gonzalez-Alsua presented her city's plan to the Technical Working Group members and mentioned that her city government has invested in solid waste management facilities. According to the mayor, Ligao City has strong SWM advocacy programs involving the communities at the barangay level.

The basic criteria employed for the evaluation of SWM plans included the mandatory solid waste diversion, the closure of open dumps for solid waste,

and the creation of a local solid waste management board. LGUs are also expected to establish a provisional residual containment area in the absence of a sanitary landfill.

The LCP, as member of the Commission, participates in the deliberation of plans and in conducting site visits with the Office of the Ombudsman to validate the reports of EMB regional offices regarding non-compliant LGUs. The Commission has also approved the city plans of Imus, Cavite, Tagaytay, Tabuk, and Bislig last April.

# LCP joins high-level conference for local leaders at the 7th Eco Forum 2017

Alvidon Asis



*BLSD Chair James Gregor Asuelo, Coordinative Services Head Lian de Guzman, and LCP Environment Officer Alvidon Asis present the Certificate of Appreciation to the Deputy Executive Director of the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, Jonas George Soriano, for serving as a plenary speaker.*

The LCP, along with various local leaders and stakeholders across the country, participated in the 7th Eco Forum 2017: Making Cities More Liveable 2nd Series organized by the Bridging Leaders for Sustainable Development (BLSD) and BLSD-Governance and Leadership Institute (BLSD-GLI), last May 25-27, 2017 at the Boracay Eco Village Resort and Convention Center in Malay, Aklan.

The Eco Forum Series has trained hundreds of local leaders, stakeholders, and various development frontrunners from across sectors, fields, and industries, creating an avenue to discuss topics across relevant urban issues such as sustainable development and the green economy.

With the theme, "Empowering Our Leaders: Crafting Sustainable

Solutions for a Better Future," this year's Eco Forum was participated by 180 attendees composed of key stakeholders concerned with the welfare of cities and urban communities in the Philippines.

Forum discussions focused on raising awareness on the complexity of threats caused by rapid urbanization to sustainable development.

Present in the plenary sessions were Assistant Secretary Jonas George Soriano, Deputy Executive Director of Office of the Cabinet Secretary, and Assistant Secretary Epimaco Densing III of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The forum was also a venue to crowdsource ideas and opportunities geared towards forging proactive,

innovative, and sustainable solutions that will bring out meaningful change in our urban centers and cities. The session topics include hunger and poverty alleviation, accessing funds for disaster preparedness and response, labor and employment, green jobs and economy, population management, urban development and clean energy.

An urban planning workshop was also conducted, enabling LGU representatives to envision what they want their LGUs to look like 20 years from now and to identify their possible contribution to this vision.

# *Changing the Landscape of Local Urban Development*



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Most Business-Friendly Local Government Units Award 2016

Mayor Allan Rellon advocates open government in Paris

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee articulates role of cities in developing the New Urban Agenda

LCP joins pioneering leadership network of women in transport

DICT Summit highlights the power of tech to improve quality of life in cities

LCP attends Beijing Conference on economic decoupling in Asian cities

CSOs and LGUs convene in the Philippine Open Government Partnership dialogues

LCP and PH cities participate in NZ scoping mission on ease of doing business

## Most Business-Friendly Local Government Units Award 2016

Godo Cualteros

The Most Business-Friendly Local Government Units Award is an annual search spearheaded by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which commends LGUs that have successfully instituted an environment conducive to business.

The award also aims to complement the efforts of the government to institutionalize standards in delivering quality services to the people as mandated by the Republic Act No. 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007.

The LCP is a permanent member of the award-giving body's technical working group that reviews, validates, and deliberates on the nomination of LGUs based on submitted documents that must observe established indicators.

On October 13, 2016, the following cities were conferred with the award: Quezon City, Level 1 – Highly Urbanized City Category; City of San Fernando, Pampanga, Level 2 – Component City Category; and Laoag City, Level 3 – Component City Category.

The awarding ceremony took place during the 42nd Philippine Business Conference of the PCCI at the Marriott Grand Ballroom.

## Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee articulates role of cities in developing the New Urban Agenda

Women Sector Representative of the LCP, Mayor Sally Lee, took center stage as one of the resource speakers in a plenary on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) during the two-day Partners Forum for Delivering the New Urban Agenda Together in Asia and the Pacific organized by UN Habitat last January 23-24, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In her presentation, Mayor Lee shared the mechanisms and frameworks being applied in the Philippines and in Sorsogon City to advance the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and to ensure that these are synergized with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mayor Lee mentioned that the Philippine government has adopted a National Urban Policy (NUP) which incorporates Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) in urban planning. She also revealed the Philippine Urban Agenda initiative of the national government.

She said that among the national government's top priorities is to push local government units to carry out a set of critical preparedness actions towards risk reduction and management, as embodied in the Operation Listo (Alert) Program set by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and to manage urbanization by encouraging

such units to update their respective Land Use Plans by incorporating CCA and DRRM components.

At the local scene, specifically in Sorsogon City, Mayor Lee shared how her city has implemented programs that support the NUA, such as the conduct of vulnerability assessment, the relocation of informal settler families (ISFs) to better settlement sites, and by forging partnerships to improve water quality and delivery under the UNEP-Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities.

She admitted that while SDGs are successfully localized, there are areas that still need improvement such as bridging the urban gender divide and the lingering issue of uncoordinated governance which can be resolved by promoting vertical integration and incorporating urban divide in discussions on climate change.

With respect to ensuring the proper rollout of global commitments on the local level, Mayor Lee mentioned that creating a strategy to develop culturally appropriate solutions is an example of an enabling mechanism that can ensure localization. She added that the implementation of the NUA will also need supporting mechanisms such as harnessing vertical integration via strict enforcement of planning standards and regulation and improvement of local capacities through compact urban settlements, resilience building, a more robust database, and informed actions.

Text by Sorsogon City Information Office | Edited by Fidel Pamintuan

## Mayor Allan Rellon advocates open government in Paris

The LCP National Vice President and Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon trumpeted the efforts of the City Government of Tagum and the Philippines in institutionalizing open governance as an effective anti-corruption measure during the Mayors Roundtable Conference of the Open Government Summit in the City of Paris last December 9, 2016, which is known

worldwide as Anti-Corruption Day.

Mayor Rellon is one of the four international mayors invited by the United Nations (UN) to speak in the roundtable moderated by Elisabeth Bleier of Transparency International Colombia.

Organized by the Open Government

Partnership and the UN, the Open Government Summit is a biennial event which gathered global leaders in Paris on December 7-9, 2016 to secure concrete commitments in promoting transparency, empowering citizens, fighting corruption and harnessing new technologies to strengthen governance.

## LCP joins pioneering leadership network of women in transport

The Women in Transport Leadership (WiTL) Network launched its first Aus-ASEAN WiTL workshop-meeting in the Philippines at the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies in Quezon City last March 10, 2017.

The LCP, represented by its Policy Unit Officer, Atty. Jiselle Villamor, took part and shared valuable inputs with respect to issues and challenges confronting women in the transport sector. Atty. Villamor actively contributed in identifying strategies that can help women overcome challenges in pursuing a sustainable transport system in the country.

During the forum, Atty. Villamor explained that to achieve the goal of creating innovative solutions to problems related to gender sensitivity, safety, and transportation, there must be a deep and clear understanding between entitlement and empowerment.

“While we push forward the indispensable contributions of women in the society, we must not mistake this for having to deserve special treatment in public transport just because we are women with particular circumstances. To have that mindset will have an adverse effect in our fight to promote women’s rights,” she said.

Atty. Villamor also added that in the cry for gender equality, women must not disempower men who are equally effective partners in transport policy-making and implementation.

As a member of the Aus-ASEAN Women in Transport Leadership (WiTL) Network, the League will represent the Philippines in the collaborative research and decision-making in sustainable transport leadership in the Asia Pacific region.

Atty. Jiselle Villamor



LCP Policy Unit Officer, Atty. Villamor, presenting her group’s key discussion points before the plenary



Atty. Villamor with fellow ASEAN participant, UP College of Social Work and Development Professor, Roselle Rivera, and Partners for Clean Air Executive Director, Victoria Segovia

## DICT summit highlights the power of tech to improve quality of life in cities

Brody Sapnu

The LCP was invited by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to take part in the i-CiTY 2017 Summit last March 13-14, 2017 at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. With the theme, “Safer and Better Connected Philippines,” the summit focused on information communication technology or ICT-enabled solutions to help cities attain their objectives and goals

in governance. Sponsored by Huawei Technologies, the event tackled the concept of “Safe Cities” or cities that are equipped to prevent crimes, mitigate and adapt to natural disasters, enhance public transport, and provide advanced security through the power of ICT. The summit also showcased case studies from across Asia that can be implemented in Philippine cities to make them more competitive in the digital economy.

## Mayor Rellon... (from p. 33)

Text by Tagum City Information Office | Edited by Fidel Pamintuan

“Over the years, we have institutionalized reforms aimed at eradicating a culture of secrecy in government as an effective anti-corruption measure,” the local chief executive told global leaders gathered at the historic Paris City Hall.

Mayor Rellon stressed that these efforts that adhere to the principles of open government “play a crucial role in strengthening our democracy.”

“The ACT Framework highlights the key principles that sets our direction

towards promoting efficiency and effectiveness in local governance,” he said, citing initiatives in exacting accountability through technology and innovation, citizens participation and collaboration, and transparency.

In his speech, Mayor Rellon cited the gains of institutionalizing the Philippine government’s Electronic Procurement System, technology-based platforms such as social media that promote accountability, the Full Disclosure Policy of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, as well as efforts to

remove the bureaucratic red tape.

He also shared the national government’s bold statement in providing more public access to government documents that matter to the public, as enshrined in an executive order on the Freedom of Information issued by President Duterte.

“Staying true to the words enshrined in the Paris Statement, local governments shall remain an important force in the fight against corruption,” he concluded.

# LCP attends Beijing conference on economic decoupling in Asian cities



The LCP, through its Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects, Veronica Hitosis, participated in "Decoupling in Asian Cities: An Infrastructure Transitions Perspective," a forum which was held at Jintai Hotel in Beijing, China last March 15-17, 2017.

The forum seeks to discuss how cities can transition from a linear economy to a circular economy through urban metabolism approaches.

Other attendees from the Philippines included Prof. Anthony Chiu of the De La Salle University, Prof. Virgil Bilaro of the Bicol University.

During the activity, Ms. Hitosis shared how Philippine cities are implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through various plans required by law in the country.

She mentioned that cities are required to prepare their comprehensive land

use plans and development plans which hits all the goals of the SDGs, whether it be poverty alleviation, environment protection, and sustainable urbanization.

On the second day, Ms. Hitosis shared the progress being made on the piloting of the Global Resource and Efficient Cities (GIREC) toolkit in Sorsogon City and the challenges in obtaining data which affect the robustness of the Sorsogon City report.

In response, experts during the forum shared ways and tools that may be employed to address data gaps in the said report.

The League's participation in the event was made possible by the Small-Scale Funding Agreement between UN Environment, Sorsogon City, and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

Veron Hitosis

## CSOs and LGUs convene in the Philippine Open Government Partnership dialogues

Soleil Manzano

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Budget Advocacy Group recently held a series of regional cluster dialogues for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao under the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) initiative.

Attended by representatives from local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), the dialogues aim to gather inputs for the drafting of the 4th PH-OGP National Action Plan (NAP), update stakeholders with the current initiatives of the OGP, and introduce the plans and participatory initiatives of the national government.

The LCP participated in both the Visayas and Luzon regional cluster dialogues.

The LCP Focal Person for Sustainable Development Goals and Carcar City Mayor Nicepuro Apura attended the Visayas cluster dialogue together with LCP Executive Director, Atty. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan, and LCP Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects, Veronica Hitosis, last April 25-26, 2017 in Cebu City.

On the other hand, LCP Technical Advisor for Programs and Projects, Anna Abalahin, and LCP Program Officer for Special Projects, Soleil Manzano, attended the Luzon cluster dialogue along with council members and representatives from the city budget offices of Caloocan City, Legazpi City, Muntinlupa City, Navotas City, Taguig City, Tanauan City, and the Science City of Muñoz. The event was

*continued in page 36*

## CSOs and LGUs convene... (from p. 35)

held at the PICC in Pasay City last May 18-19, 2017.

The dialogues focused on how the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and the 2017 National Budget complement each other in achieving the Duterte Administration's agenda.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director, Thelma Manuel, underscored that while the PDP does not dedicate a chapter for

cities and urban areas, it does have an urban lens.

On the other hand, Director of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary, Karl Kendrick Chua, explained that the proposed Comprehensive Tax Reform Package (CTRP) of the DOF is seen to ease existing budget gaps to support the programs in the PDP. In addition, the CTRP seeks to correct the inequities in the current tax system and aims for an equitable distribution of wealth.

The dialogues included a breakout session for stakeholders to provide inputs and identify top initiatives for the 4th PH-OGP NAP.

The OGP is a global initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The Philippines is among the eight founding countries of the partnership.

# LCP and PH cities participate in NZ scoping mission on ease of doing business

Representatives from the LCP and city business licensing officers took part in a series of scoping activities organized by the Government of New Zealand through the New Zealand Embassy, represented by the Ambassador to the Philippines David Strachan; the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); and the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) last May.

The scoping mission aims to bring New Zealand expertise to the Philippines to improve the business and economic climate according to President Duterte's priorities.

The opening session held last May 2, 2017 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City kicked off the two-week consultation meetings and scoping workshops facilitated by business development experts from the New Zealand. The session saw how New Zealand co-designs its public sector services by collaborating with the private sector.

Mr. Stephen Korn, one of the experts, highlighted the importance of customer centricity approach in which the government treats its citizens as customers by providing them the same

quality of service similar to private companies.

A participatory workshop followed to uncover challenges and pain points particularly in the business application and licensing process in city governments.

Participants were grouped according to national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs). Each group identified issues and deficiencies from their perspective.

For instance, business licensing officers from the cities of Mandaluyong, Parañaque, and Valenzuela identified obtaining of primary and secondary requirements as among the choke points in the business application process.

Interviews and focused group discussions (FGDs) with key city government officials and officers from business permitting and licensing offices (BPLOs) were also conducted in the highly urbanized cities of Quezon, Cebu, and Davao.

Results of the two-week scoping mission were shared in the closing session of the program where solutions,

recommendations, and next steps were proposed.

Mr. Guillermo Luz, Private Sector Co-chair of the NCC, was keen on pilot testing the results and recommendations of the scoping mission to cities that are willing to leapfrog their business application processes through innovations.

The LCP, through its Program Officer for Special Projects, Soleil Manzano, signified its support for further initiatives that will create enabling environments for LGUs to improve their business permitting and licensing system (BPLS) and to boost local economic development. In addition, LCP also committed to be the convening body that will gather feedback from LGUs on this matter.

Ranked as number one in the world by the World Bank in terms of the ease of doing business, New Zealand's scoping mission is just the beginning of the country's commitment to bringing economic reforms to the Philippines and making cities competitive and more attractive to investors.

Soleil Manzano

# *Fostering a Global Community through International Engagements*



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LCP mayors play active roles in back-to-back international summits

LCP partners with ICMA for YSEALI's fellows program

Mayors explore infra opportunities with Canadian businesses

French Development Agency visits LCP to discuss enhancement of local government initiatives

Bangladeshi local execs learn about PH municipal dev't fund

Nigerian delegates explore PH's local govt and planning system

# LCP mayors play active roles in back-to-back international summits

Fidel Pamintuan

*Philippine city mayors took part in two pivotal global conferences in neighboring countries of Colombia and Ecuador last October 12-20, 2016.*

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee, Catbalogan City Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan, and Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan attended the 5th World Congress and 2nd World Assembly of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) held in Bogota, Colombia on October 12-15, and the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) in Quito, Ecuador on October 17-20.

## 5th UCLG World Congress

Themed “Local Voices for a Better World,” the 5th UCLG World Congress was a four-day gathering of member mayors, local authorities, and policymakers from around the world in which delegates elected a new UCLG presidency and tackled issues centered on urban development.

The assembly was also a venue for local and regional constituencies of the UCLG to articulate and formalize their recommendations in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, which they conveyed at the HABITAT III Conference.

## HABITAT III

HABITAT III is a landmark multi-stakeholder conference that brought together mayors, regional leaders, civil society organizations, and urban planners from around the world to reinvigorate discussions on sustainable urbanization and urban development.

The event sought the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, an action-oriented document enshrined in the Quito Declaration on Sustainable



*Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee with fellow delegates from other countries.*



*Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan was invited to be one of the session speakers at the UCLG conference.*



*Catbalogan City Mayor Stephany Uy-Tan with UCLG-ASPAC Secretary General Bernadiah Tjandradewi and the rest of the delegates from the Asia Pacific region.*

Cities and Human Settlements for All.

Building on the Habitat Agenda of Istanbul in 1996, the New Urban Agenda is a new framework that lays out how cities should be planned and managed to best promote sustainable urbanization. Attendees, including the mayors from the LCP

and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, expressed their commitment to implement the Agenda.

# LCP partners with ICMA for YSEALI's fellows program

Fidel Pamintuan

The LCP took part in a series of activities in support of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Professional Fellows Program (YSEALI-PFP) last February 2017.

The YSEALI-PFP is a professional development exchange program funded by the US State Department wherein deserving community leaders from the ASEAN shall participate in a month-long fellowship at a US nonprofit or government office to enhance their practical expertise and leadership skills in addressing issues affecting their own communities.

Under a partnership agreement, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will manage and implement exchanges in two cohorts (environmental sustainability and legislative process and governance) with the cooperation of the LCP and the US Embassy in Manila. The three organizations have been facilitating the selection and pre-departure of Philippine participants since 2015.

## Spring 2017 Fellows

For spring of this year, the following applicants were selected to participate in the exchange program: Ashley

Monsanto from the Development Academy of the Philippines; Aubrey Bahala from the Local Government Development Foundation; Zephania Repollo from the Ibon Foundation; Sophia Mo from the Energy Regulatory Commission; Patrick Dizon from the City Government of Dagupan; Jerico Mendoza of the Department of Science and Technology; and Mark Duavis of the Department of Health.

The fellows were invited to an informal gathering last February 24, 2017 in Eastwood, Quezon City where they were given the opportunity to share their personal advocacies.

Ms. Frances Adao, a YSEALI-PFP alumnus under the Legislative and Governance cohort (Fall 2016), and Mr. Bryan Hernandez, an alumnus under the Environmental Sustainability cohort (Fall 2015), were also invited to share their YSEALI-PFP experience with the outbound delegates.

The Spring 2017 fellows are set to fly to the US on April 26, 2017.

## US Counterpart Visits the LCP

On February 28, 2017, Ms. Sally Born, a Denver-based US fellow

from the YSEALI-PFP exchange, visited the LCP Secretariat office and shared her two-week experience of providing technical assistance to the Municipality of Nagbukel, Ilocos Sur. She also explained her career in Denver, where she worked as a public health investigator specializing in environmental health and food safety.

Afterwards, Ms. Born paid a courtesy call to the National Chairman of the LCP and Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano, who shared her city's best practices when it comes food handling and sanitation. Together with the city's legal counsel, Atty. Maricar Loinaz-Sarmiento, they described the technical aspect of how a highly-urbanized city such as Taguig conducts safety and sanitary inspection of businesses that are involved in food handling.

Mr. Born's stay in the Philippines was made possible by the efforts of YSEALI-PFP alumni, headed by Ms. Adao, Mr. Hernandez, and Mr. Vermon Timbas (Fall 2016).



*LCP Program Officer, Divs Mosquera, joins the outbound Philippine fellows during the pre-departure orientation with the US Embassy and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas*



*Bryan Hernandez, a YSEALI alumni, shares his experience with the outbound fellows*



*Sally Born, a public health investigator in Denver and the US counterpart of the YSEALI reciprocal program, pays a courtesy visit to LCP National Chairman and Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano*

## Mayors explore infra opportunities with Canadian businesses

Fidel Pamintuan



*From left, Fidel Pamintuan, LCP Program Officer for Marketing, Advocacy, and Networking; LCP Secretary General and Balanga City Mayor Francis Garcia; His Excellency John Holmes, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines; Anna Abalhin, LCP Technical Adviser for Programs and Projects; and Inah Tolentino, LCP Program Officer for Special Projects*

The LCP was invited to attend the 2017 Canadian Infrastructure Mission, a B2B event last January 18, 2017 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

Organized by Export Development Canada and the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service of Global Affairs Canada, the Manila leg of the trade mission was a venue for Canadian business suppliers to interface with decision makers from Philippine companies and representatives from the public sector.

During the technical briefing on January 18, 2017, Canadian executives briefly presented their business solutions to infrastructural challenges in the country. Philippine participants were then invited to one-on-one table discussions with the representatives;

the League seized this opportunity to identify suppliers that can be of value to its member cities.

Shortlisted companies were then invited to a dinner with select mayors from the League on January 20, 2017. The networking event became a platform for Canadian representatives to mingle directly with city mayors and match their business capabilities with the specific infrastructural needs of each city.

The League is thankful for the efforts of Mr. Dodjie Paras, Trade Commissioner of the Canadian Trade Commission Service and Mr. Chia Wan Liew, Chief Representative - Southeast Asia of Export Development Canada, in holding the two-day event.



*The networking event on January 20, 2017 became a platform for Canadian representatives to mingle directly with city mayors and match their business capabilities with the specific infrastructural needs of each city.*

## French Development Agency visits LCP to discuss enhancement of local government initiatives

The LCP Secretariat headed by its Executive Director, Atty. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan met with Louis Antoine Souchet and Matthieu Robin, representatives from the French Development Agency (AFD), last March 31, 2017 to discuss how AFD's developmental assistance in the country can be improved.

The AFD is currently helping the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) enhance its Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Program by incorporating a disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) component in the award-giving body.

Veronica Hitosis, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects of the LCP, shared that while the League recognizes the value of incorporating DRRM in the SGLG, the ultimate gauge of determining the success of DRRM interventions is when the number of disaster-related casualties decreases over time due to proper planning and investments in better infrastructure. Thus, relying solely on the presence or absence of DRRM plans is not enough.

The LCP also expressed its gratitude to AFD for extending its assistance in the review of the Local Government Code that was implemented by the Asian Development Bank.

AFD representatives appreciated the inputs provided by the LCP and expressed their commitment to recommend the inclusion of LCP in the DILG working group tasked to integrate a DRRM framework in the SGLG. Both parties conveyed their interest to collaborate in future programs and projects.

Veron Hitosis

## Bangladeshi local execs learn about PH municipal dev't fund

Veron Hitois

Last April 18, 2017, the LCP Secretariat, headed by its Executive Director, Atty. Shereen Gail Yu-Pamintuan, met with the delegates from the Bangladeshi Municipal Development Fund (BMDF).

The ten-person delegation, led by its Managing Director, Hasinur Rahman, consists of bureaucrats and municipal mayors from Bangladesh; their visit is in fulfillment of the Municipal Governance and Service Project financed by the World Bank Bangladesh Office.

During the meeting, LCP Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects, Veronica Hitois, presented an overview of the League, specifically its membership mechanism, its functions, and the services it offers to its 145 member cities.

Ms. Hitois also mentioned that the LCP supports the Municipal



*Christopher Pablo of World Bank - Bangladesh explains the objectives of their visit. In attendance from the LCP were Atty. Yu-Pamintuan, Anna Abalahin, Veron Hitois, and Soleil Manzano.*

Development Fund Office (MDFO), BMDF's Philippine counterpart, by acting as a channel for the latter to share its products and services to LCP members.

Since the BMDF is in its initial stages, Ms. Hitois emphasized the importance of making sure clients are aware of its financial services and the

accompanying benefits. According to her, BMDF must take advantage of the events organized by Bangladeshi government agencies to present their products and services.

At the open forum, Bangladeshi delegates inquired about the financial standing of LCP and the benefits it provides to its members. Atty. Yu-Pamintuan said that among the local government leagues in the country, the LCP is in the best financial health. The League ensures that the membership dues paid by cities are spent properly and wisely and to the benefit of its members.

As an example, the League organizes knowledge fora and negotiates projects with partners to ensure that the capacity of cities to deliver services to their constituents are improved and sustained.

## Nigerian delegates explore PH's local govt and planning system

Soleil Manzano

Twenty-three Nigerian delegates from the National Defense College of Nigeria visited the office of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Quezon City last May 23, 2017 to learn about strategies on local governance in the Philippines that can be applied in Nigeria.

Organized by the DILG's Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD), the one-day interface conference outlined the national agency's framework and programs, projects, and activities (PPAs), which were supplemented by the inputs from other government agencies related to local government development.

The LCP participated in the discussion together with resource persons

from the DILG-BLGD, Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Local Government Academy (LGA).

In his opening message, the DILG OIC, Catalino Cuy, underscored the similarities of the Philippines and Nigeria on urban planning and environment-related issues, as both countries are rapidly urbanizing.

Discussions focused on the Rationalized Local Planning System (RLPS), the country's local development planning process; PNP Patrol Plan 2030, the long-term plan of the country's national police service; and the capacity-building programs for LGU officials and personnel of the LGA.

Meanwhile, Veronica Hitois, Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programs, and Projects of the LCP, introduced the League, its mandate, and the issues and challenges confronting LGUs. Among the issues that were highlighted were rapid urbanization particularly in Metro Manila, mainstreaming gender in urban development planning, and the need to improve technical capacities of cities in strategic planning. Important points from the Philippine National Report, which were submitted to the HABITAT III were also shared.

The Nigerian delegates were also set to visit other national government agencies and organizations as part of their study tour in the Philippines.

# *Cultivating Partnerships with the Private Sector*



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LCP, PLDT-SMART partner to improve teaching standards in PH cities

JobStreet.com to offer job opportunities in the gov't sector

World Vision Philippines invites LCP to celebrate its 60th anniversary in the PH

# LCP, PLDT-SMART partner to improve teaching standards in PH cities

Fidel Pamintuan



From left: AVP for Finance and Gabay Guro Housing Pillar Head, Mr. Servillano Padiz; Senior Relationship Manager for Public Sector and Gabay Guro Livelihood Pillar Head, Mr. Juan Alonzo IV; LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan; and LCP National Vice President and General Santos City Mayor Ronnel Rivera.

The LCP partnered with PLDT-Smart Foundation for its Gabay Guro Program which aims to foster professional development, enhance the quality of life of teachers, and improve the country's standard of education.

Under a memorandum of agreement signed during the League's 61st National Executive Board Meeting held in Greenleaf Hotel, General Santos City last February 21, 2017, the League will promote the activities of the 2G Program to its member cities and identify key cities where the 2G Program shall be conducted.

The agreement was signed by AVP for Finance and Gabay Guro Housing Pillar Head, Servillano Padiz; Senior Relationship Manager for Public Sector and Gabay Guro Livelihood Pillar Head, Juan Alonzo IV; LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor,

Edgardo Pamintuan; and LCP National Vice Chairman and General Santos City Mayor, Ronnel Rivera.

## Teaching English Online

PLDT also also invited Ms. Vanessa Caceres, Business Development Manager of 51Talk, the largest online English education platform and its partner for the Gabay Guro Program, to discuss the benefits that public teachers can get from teaching at the online school.

According to Ms. Caceres, 51Talk allows teachers to earn extra income at the comfort of their homes and without having to leave their day jobs.

## Digital Governance

In the same event, LCP, PLDT, and Smart Enterprise also signed a memorandum of agreement establishing a "Joint Innovation Team"

which will study possible solutions to, and automation of public service operations in cities.

The agreement was signed by Head for Regional Business of PLDT, Inc., Benedicto Perez; AVP for Public Sector of PLDT, Inc., Mr. Dennis Magbatoc; LCP National President and Angeles City Mayor, Edgardo Pamintuan; and LCP National Vice Chairman and General Santos City Mayor, Ronnel Rivera.

## 61st National Executive Board Sponsor

PLDT, Inc. is the principal sponsor of the LCP's 61st National Executive Board Meeting. At the event, the company presented its digital public safety and response systems and introduced PayMaya Citizen ID, a government-issued ID equipped with the transactional capabilities of PayMaya.

# World Vision Philippines invites LCP to celebrate its 60th anniversary in the PH

QUEZON CITY, March 23, 2017 -- The LCP was invited by World Vision Philippines last March 23, 2017 to take part in celebrating the 60th year of the child-focused, Christian organization's presence in the Philippines.

With the theme, "Caring for Children, Building Sustainable Communities," the lunch event paid tribute to World Vision's partners, supporters, donors, and beneficiaries through the years.

The same event saw the launch of World Vision's latest advocacy campaign called, "It Takes a World to End Sexual Exploitation of Children," in light of the grim reality of sexual abuse of children. The campaign comes at a time when children are more vulnerable to online sexual exploitation due to the

increase of internet accessibility.

The advocacy hopes to raise more awareness and resources to bring people to action and to better address the issue of sexual exploitation of children. Funding and manpower assistance under this program will support prevention training, rescue operations, after-care and reintegration programs, and engagement of children survivors to be advocates of the cause.

Prominent agencies in support of this program include the DSWD, International Justice Mission (IJM), Compassion International, and the Inter-agency Against Trafficking (IACAT).

Fidel Pamintuan

# JobStreet.com to offer job opportunities in the gov't sector

A partnership sealing took place last March 3, 2017 between JobStreet.com and national government agencies (NGAs) and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), during a media conference that invited the LCP in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

It was in the last quarter of 2016 when JobStreet.com undertook the expansion of its network to include not only private companies and institutions, but also the government and public sector in offering employment opportunities to its users.

Joy Payumo

## LCP National Executive Board 2016-2019

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*National Vice Chairman:* Hon. RONNEL C. RIVERA  
*National President:* Hon. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN  
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# Smart SOS Dispatch

## The Smart Public Safety and Emergency Response System

### FAST FACTS



Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Such disasters include earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and typhoons.



The Philippines is visited by at least 20 tropical cyclones every year.



Bureau of Fire Prevention Statistics 2016

2016 Fire incidents  
8884 buildings  
285 casualties  
Over P3 Billion in damages



An Average of 299 road crash incidents occur everyday in Metro Manila

## Smart SOS Dispatch

Instantly respond to emergency and other public safety concerns!

It's an end-to-end system designed to efficiently record, dispatch, and monitor incidents reported to your emergency response desk so that life-saving information doesn't get lost in the process.

It also gives first responders an open line of communication to make sure they have access to all the information they need to do their jobs and save lives.

All these, in near-real time!

#### Components

- Nowforce Web Dashboard (for the Command & Control Center)
- Nowforce Responder Mobile App
- Handset Ruggedized Android Device with Walkie Talkie (UHF or VHF) functionality
- Network Connectivity (SMART M2M SIM)
- ePLDT Cloud Hosting

### FEATURES



Command & Control Center Web Dashboard (via Tablet/Desktop) for SOS Dispatch Dispatchers easily locates, communicates with, and dispatches the right responder at the right time.



Mobile application with in-app alerts and notifications, reporting facility user-friendly, intuitive interface.



Ability to create responder groups



Analytics tool to monitor historical data of reported emergency incidents

# SAVE TIME AND EFFORT AND POTENTIALLY SAVE LIVES

Receive immediate feedback  
and respond to emergencies faster

## Emergency Scenario with SOS Dispatch



### Emergency Caller

Calls the LGU hotline to give details on the emergency



### LGU Dispatcher

Logs the comprehensive call incident, as well as the needed emergency tools and equipment in the Command and Control Center Web Dashboard (NowForce Web Tool) and assigns it to the nearest appropriate responder



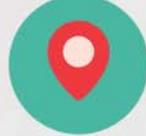
### Responder

Receives details of the emergency situation through the NowForce Responder Mobile App and proceeds to the exact emergency location.

The responder can also send status updates, photos and videos to the Command and Control Center.

## BENEFITS

### DISPATCHER



Gain situational awareness, everywhere



Monitor your personnel



Minimize incident response times

### RESPONDER



Respond Faster



Situational awareness, in your pocket



Sync everyone in your network

**LEARN MORE ON HOW YOU CAN TRANSFORM YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT**  
Build a smart city with our suite of technology and emergency response solutions!

PLDT  
CCaaS  
911

Create your very own "911" Command Center and combine this with CCTV for surveillance to keep city safe

ePLDT  
Web Builder

Put your municipality on the digital map by creating a customized website

PayMaya

Digital Payment Portal and Customized Cards for your Municipality

Takatack

Promote your city's local products in your very own digital marketplace

## CONTACT US

We'd like to hear from you! You may directly course your inquiries to your Relationship Manager







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