

First Eastern Visayas CBMS Conference Held

The First Eastern Visayas Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Conference was held last February 16-17, 2006 at Ritz Tower de Leyte, Tacloban City. A total of 131 participants composed of local chief executives (LCEs), municipal planning and development coordinators (MPDCs), Local Poverty Reduction Officers (LPRAOs), and IDPG local partner NGOs coming from the 16 pilot municipalities and other municipalities in 4 provinces in the region (Leyte, Biliran, Samar and Eastern Samar) attended the conference.



Dr. Celia Reyes, the CBMS Network Leader, gave the Keynote Address. She noted that CBMS implementation in Eastern Visayas has grown by leaps and bounds after a year of its implementation. She said that CBMS is now being implemented province-wide in Eastern Samar and Biliran, with Leyte and Samar likely to follow suit. This, she attributed to the strong collaboration among LGUs, NGOs and regional line agencies (RLAs) in the region. She also mentioned that various national government agencies, have issued memo circulars and policy issuances supporting the use of CBMS as a monitoring tool to diagnose poverty at the local level.

Assistant Secretary Dolly Castillo and Ms. Suzette Pido of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) gave Inspirational Messages and updates on the efforts of NAPC in poverty reduction while ARD Aida Larruda of DILG 8 gave the Welcome Remarks.

The Municipal Mayors/MPDCs of four pilot municipalities (San Julian, Eastern Samar; Cabucgayan, Biliran; Basey, Samar; and Tolosa, Leyte) shared how CBMS is being implemented in their respective areas, highlighting its use in budgeting, resource mobilization, crafting of poverty reduction plans, and municipal and barangay profiling. San Julian was the first municipality in the country to implement CBMS.

Hon. Governor Ben. P. Evardone of Eastern Samar, in his Message of Commitment, expressed his full support to the implementation of CBMS in the province. He said that CBMS is one example of people's initiatives. He then challenged the participants to revolutionize the countryside through CBMS. Meanwhile, Provincial Administrator of Biliran, Mr. Avelino Hernandez, read the Message of Commitment of Gov. Rogelio J. Espina.

The two-day activity was intended to: (1) analyze the data gathered on the Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPIs) from the 16 pilot municipalities; (2) assess how these data were validated, and then used in the crafting of the Local Poverty Reduction Plans (LPRAPs), and 3) draw lessons learned from the conduct of CBMS in the 16 municipalities and define next steps in scaling up CBMS implementation in Eastern Visayas. The conference also advocated the use of CBMS in the other municipalities in the region.

The CBMS Conference was sponsored by the Institute for Democratic Participation in Governance (IDPG) headed by its Managing Trustee Mr. Oscar D. Francisco and facilitated by the members of the RTWG on CBMS composed of DILG, DSWD, NSCB and Runggiyan Social Development Foundation (RSDF), Inc..