



PROJECT 10.10.10. TERMINAL REPORT

*National Observance of the 10th Anniversary
of the 1991 Local Government Code and a
Tribute to the Gains of Decentralization*

*United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)*



PROJECT 10.10.10. TERMINAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE LOCAL GOVERNANCE CONGRESS

On October 9-10, 2001, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in coordination with other National Government Agencies, Academe, Business Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Leagues of Local Governments, and International Development Partners, convened the **First Philippine Local Governance Congress** at Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita Manila to highlight Project 10.10.10.

The theme of the Congress is **SAGOT NG PAMAHALAANG LOKAL!** “*PAGAKAIN, EDUKASYON, TAHANAN, TRABAHO, AT KALUSOGAN, KATIWASAYAN, KALIKASAN, AT KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN*”. This clearly puts the local government units in the frontline of the national war against poverty.

More than 2,000 participants registered for the Congress covering elective officials, guests, DILG officials, and other elective officials and functionaries. Overall, the event was participated in by close to 3,000 people including the media, the exhibitors, and the working committee members. The National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) took charge of the registration process.

The program started at around 1:40 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. The master of ceremony, Director Serafin Benaldo of DILG-NCR called for Ms. Gigi Salazar-Manzanilla, Board Member of the Province of Albay

to lead the invocation. Shortly after the invocation, DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr., delivered the welcome message and declared the formal opening of the Congress. Secretary Lina pointed that the local governance congress is convened,

“not just as a ceremonial gathering, but as a tribute to all sectors – local government leaders, national government executives, union of the local authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), leagues of local governments, civil society representatives, business groups, academics, members of international donor organizations – all of us, who have made the Local Government Code what it is today”.

DILG Undersecretary for Local Government Eduardo R. Soliman, Jr. provided the overview of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress. USEC Soliman stressed that the activities of the Congress are aligned to the objectives of the Project 10.10.10. Specifically, he said that the Congress activities were organized around the three themes of *pagbalik-tanaw, pagpugay at pagsulong*. After delivering the Overview of the Congress, Usec Soliman invited all participants to the opening of the exhibits and LGU market fair at the foyer of the Manila Midtown Hotel. The ribbon-cutting was led by Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. together with other functionaries.



PROJECT 10.10.10. TERMINAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ENROLLED ACTIVITIES

Project 10.10.10. encouraged various agencies and international development partners to undertake process of “enrollment” where activities and initiatives are noted and disseminated by the Secretariat to a wider public. Below are the highlights of these activities:

Month of August

Project 10.10.10. Launching held at Sulo Hotel, Quezon City, where the heads of the Leagues of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, and Barangays together with representatives from the academe, civil society organizations, and international development partners signed the *Project 10.10.10. Covenant* with Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government signifying their commitment to the Project. The commitments of various stakeholders outlining their support to Project 10.10.10 are attached as *Annex E*.

Local Governance Forum. The Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) of the DILG held their first series of fora that tackled various issues as well as discussed the programs in local governance. This particular forum focused on the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) with representatives from the Department of Budget and Management interacting with local officials.

Congress of Local Government Women Executives. The Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) gathered some of the countries elected women chief executives to discuss gender and governance issues and develop a framework that will aid them in formulating their executive agenda during their three-year term.

Orientation Seminar of the Local Government Financial Development Program (LOGOFIND) held in several cities nationwide. The LOGOFIND is another local finance window for the 4th and 6th class local governments under the Municipal Development Fund Program of the World Bank. The Municipal Development Fund Office of the Department of Finance (MDFO-DOF) in partnership with the Local Government Academy manages this orientation.

Workshop Series on Municipal Bonds. The Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) organized seminars for local officials all over the country to familiarize them on the processes of municipal bond floatation as a viable financing option. To serve guide to the local governments, FINEX also distributed the Manual on Municipal Bonds. This is a joint undertaking with the AGILE project of the USAID.

LCE Governance and Accountability Course. As part of their commitment to good local governance, the Philippine-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP) organized training programs for local officials on governance and accountability. The program aims to make them aware of important considerations in developing an executive agenda and managing their local communities. LGSP was assisted by the Center for Local and Regional Governance of the University of the Philippines, Ateneo School of Government, Development Academy of the Philippines, and the Asian Institute of Management. Officials of the LGUs covered by the LGSP (Region VI and Mindanao Regions) attended the training program.

Information and Dissemination of MC 2001-89. Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr., signed the Memorandum Circular 2001-89, which strengthens the

accreditation and representation of civil society organizations in the Local Development Councils and other local special bodies. The Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA) and the members of the Local Forum initiated the dissemination and orientation among their local networks nationwide.

Month of September

Dialogue Series with NGAs. The Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) organized series of consultation dialogue with the different national government agencies to discuss and thresh out post-devolution issues, and strengthened relations with local governments in the program implementation. The result of the dialogue will be part of the working documents for the discussion groups of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress.

Local Government Forum on Red Tape. The Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) of the DILG held a forum to launch and showcase LGU initiatives on the reduction of red tape, especially in the issues of business permits.

State of the World Children's Report 2002. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) formally presented this Report 2002 during the National Convention of the National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) to influence local legislation to be more child-friendly.

Jumpstarting Local Development: Managing the First Steps. This is an orientation course for newly elected local officials offered nationwide by the Local Government Academy and the DILG Regional Offices in partnership with the leagues of local governments. A major feature of the course is the showcasing and sharing of best practices in local governance by local chief executives, who were recipients of various national awards programs.

Seminar on Indicators for Good Governance. Organized by the CLRG-NCPAG of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. It presented

local governance indicators, which were reacted to by representatives from congress, government agencies, academe, local officials, and former mayors.

Launching of the Gender Budget Trail: The Philippine Experience. The Asia Foundation launched this compilation of case studies on gender analysis of local government budgets in some major cities in the country.

Roundtable Discussions on Poverty Reduction Through Improved Urban Governance. The League of Cities of the Philippines conducted series of regional transparency and accountability roundtable discussions in various cities to address issues of corruption with city strategies and definite actions plans.

Month of October

National Convention of the Liga ng mga Barangay. The Liga ng mga Barangay held its 5th National Convention at Waterfront, Cebu City with the theme, *Barangayanihan Laban sa Kahirapan: Implementing Strategies and Improved Delivery of Services.* This includes the launching of a benchmark survey of the level of devolution of services and facilities at the Barangay level.

Crafting the Civil Society Agenda for the Next Decade of Local Autonomy. To show their full support towards excellence in local governance, about 150 civil society organizations came together at Traders Hotel to craft the “Civil Society Agenda for the Next Decade of Local Autonomy”, which was then presented to the President during the First Philippine Local Governance Congress.

The First Philippine Local Governance Congress highlights Project 10.10.10. at the Manila Midtown Hotel, where action plans for genuine local autonomy were presented to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Ugnayan ng Timog at Hilaga sa Lokal na Pamamahala. To emphasize the importance of people’s participation in good governance, the

Volunteer Workers Association of Bondoc Peninsula Inc. (VWAB) organized this forum in partnership with UNDP, GTZ, and the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Governance (CCAGG).

National Forum on Indicators for Local Development. The Development Academy of the Philippines is presenting the provisional indicator system to measure local development administration performance drawn from the results of a series of local consultations.

Working Conference on Information Technology and Local Governance: Best Practices in the Philippines, Korea, and Singapore. The Yuchengco Center for East Asia, De La Salle University holds this event as an effort to disseminate best practices in local governance using Information Technology (IT). Replication of the best practices is being encouraged these days as means of promoting good governance.

Tracking Policy Recommendations from the Rapid Field Appraisals on Decentralization. The Ateneo School of Government conducted a study tracking the policy recommendations on decentralization and local development during the decade of decentralization in the country.

Month of November

League of Municipalities of the Philippines 11th General Assembly was held at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The 11th General Assembly adopted the theme, “LMP in the New Century: Globalizing Municipal Administration”.

National Population Congress. With population increase as one of the major challenges in governance, the Commission on Population will hold a national congress with the theme, “Local Governance, Population, and Reproductive Health”. The interrelated issues of population and governance will be the focus of presentations and discussions during this congress.

SALIN-ARAL: People to People Dialogue and Local Governance. International Development Partners, the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and the German Technical Cooperating Agency (GTZ) sponsored series of dialogue among various people's organizations (POs) coming from the Southern and Northern parts of Luzon to share their experiences on local governance, particularly on issues on transparency and accountability.

Month of December

Assessment of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress held at the Local Government Academy (LGA) participated in by members of Project 10.10.10. Steering Committee.

Post-Congress Action Planning Workshop held Astoria Plaza to ensure the translation of issues, agreements, and processes reached during the First Philippine Local Governance Congress into concrete action agenda outlining next steps, roles and partnership among stakeholders, and resource commitment for a continuing advocacy for local governance.

Group discussions on cross-cutting issues

Twenty minutes after viewing the exhibits and LGU market fair, four concurrent group discussions on crosscutting issues were convened. The themes under this cluster were (1) Local Government Code Amendments, (2) People's Participation, Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability, (3) Financing LGU Programs, and (4) Peace and Order and Public Safety. Below are the highlights of each group discussion:

a. Local Government Code Amendments:

Governor Rodolfo del Rosario, President of the Union of the Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), presented the discussion paper on local government code amendments. The major proposals raised in the presentation pertain to the following: (a) Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and national wealth, (b) local fiscal administration, (c) popular participation, (d) local taxation, credit, and finance, (e) devolution of powers, functions, systems, and structures, and (f) real property tax. DILG Assistant Secretary Marius Corpus moderated the discussion and the following comprised the panel of reactors: Director Euleterio Dumugho of the Office of Senator Pimentel, Congressman Emilio C. Macias Jr., Atty. Marlon Manuel of Saligan, and Ms. Heredina Abad, Ph.D of the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG).

Eight major issues were discussed under this theme, these are on: (1) IRA, (2) Unfunded mandates, (3) Control vs. General Supervision in the Code, (4) Civil Society Participation in Local Special Bodies, (5) LGU-NGA Relations, (6) Environmental Protection, (7) Regulation of Gambling, and (8) Devolution of Infrastructure Projects. Among the proposals to address the issues include:

INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT

- Increase IRA share to 50%

- Consider IRA as share in all national taxes
- Include provision for penalties for NGA officials not complying with automatic release of the IRA
- Delete provisions allowing the President to withhold IRA in cases of unmanageable public sector deficit
- Rename IRA to Internal Revenue Share (IRS)

ON UNFUNDED MANDATES

- Pursue strengthening Code provision on mandatory prior consultations in implementing national programs

ON THE STRATEGY FOR PUSHING THE BILL IN CONGRESS

- Adopt two options: as special legislation or include in the omnibus bills
- Optimize opportunities presented by the newly created Congressional Commission studying amendments to the LGC
- Lobby and generate support of key legislators through the LGU leagues.
- Provide corresponding funds to devolved national functions
- Define “general supervision” in the Code
- Improve LGU-NGA relations
- Strengthen LGUs’ responsibilities in managing the environment
- Regulate gambling
- Devolve management of infrastructure projects

The suggested strategies in pursuing proposed amendments to the Code were: (a) amendment to IRA provisions as special legislation, not to be included in Omnibus Bill, (b) take advantage of the opportunities presented by the newly-created Congressional Commission to study amendments to the Local Government Code, and (c) lobby particular amendments with personalities affiliated with or related to opposing legislators.

b. People’s Participation, Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability.

Mr. Dennis Lopez of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) presented the result of the conference on crafting a civil society agenda for local governance. The main points raised in the presentation pertain to advocating for a more vigorous and productive participation of civil society organizations in local governance. The moderator of the discussion was Mr. Jaybee Garganera, Program Officer of Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in the Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA). Among the reactors were: Mayor Julio Uy of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) and BM James Marty Lim of the Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB).

This group discussed the following issues: (1) Low level of awareness on the LGC and the role of the various stakeholders in participatory governance, (b) Non-implementation of some provisions of the LGC that enhance peoples' participation, (c) Ambiguous laws and policies that are contrary to the principles of local autonomy and genuine people's participation, and (d) Lack of Interfacing between civil society networks and the leagues of LGUs that strengthen linkages and promote the exploration of common agenda and strategic directions between them. Participants to this discussion group agreed on the following:

ON POLICY ADVOCACY

- Pursue reforms to strengthen composition and functions of local special bodies and increase civil society representation in these bodies
- Advocate for the enactment of an enabling law for implementing LGC provision on Local Sectoral Representation to the Sanggunians
- Review LGC provisions vis-à-vis laws promoting equity-led development such as the AFMA, IPRA, CARL, UDHA, NIPAS, among others
- Pursue enactment of the National Land Use Act

ON PROGRAMS / PROCESS

- Promote and popularize laws and good practices in people's participation
- Establish better linkages among CSO networks, between CSO and LGUs, CSO and the Leagues, LGUs and communities through the conduct of regular dialogues/ interface, establishment of monitoring and evaluation and feedback mechanisms, networking and coalition-building
- Monitor LGUs and CSOs performance along good governance, recognize best practices while imposing sanctions for non-fulfillment of functions

ON PROCESS / RESOURCES

- CSOs to upscale advocacy work and IEC towards good governance and interface with leagues' local chapters.
- CSO networks to assist primary organizations in their continuing engagement in local special bodies
- LGUs to provide resources to operationalize LSBs, and craft a common local development framework with the CSOs
- DILG to facilitate interface between CSOs and leagues in capacitating the Local Government Operation Officers (LGOOs) in performing their duties relative to participatory governance. In collaboration with CSOs, DILG to document, monitor and assess people's participation in local governance.

c. Financing Local Government Units Programs.

Discussion papers were presented by the following: (a) Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, (b)

Governor Luis Villafuerte of the League of Provinces in the Philippines, and (c) Mr. Jesus Tirona of the Local Government Unit Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC). Ms. Lydia Oriol of the LGUGC moderated the discussion. Among the reactors were, Director Erlito Pardo of the Department of Finance (DOF), Director Olando Garcia of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Director Mario Gabreles of the Commission on Audit (COA), Ms. Cecelia C. Borromeo of Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Ms. Teodora I. San Pedro of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and Director Norberto Malvar of the Department of Finance (DOF).

The issues raised were: (a) IRA share to be based on gross not on net, (b) IRA withholding by NGAs or Congress, (c) Automatic release of IRA, (d) LGU collection on unreleased IRA, (e) LGU bonds marketability improvement, (f) Rationalizing the financial recording system of LGUs, (g) Establishing guidelines for service contracting, and (h) eliminating competition between GFI loans to LGUs and LGU bond development. Among the agreements were:

ON THE IRA

- Base the IRA computation on gross and not on the net, as provided for in the Constitution
- Abolish the IRA withholding for LGSEF and unprogrammed funds in the GAA
- LGUs to sign proposed Sanggunian Resolutions to file a case in the Supreme Court to facilitate release of withheld IRA portions by the national government

ON MUNICIPAL BONDS

- LGUs to advocate towards making the value of municipal bonds equal to government securities
- BSP to consider assigning lower than 100% risk-weight for LGU bonds DOF to seek other approaches to facilitate and pursue LGU financing framework, and develop guidelines for engaging services of financial consultants, underwriters, trustees and guarantors

ON LGU FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Concerned NGAs to develop a unified LGU financial report requirements
- Subject to further study the proposal on the creation of the LGU Credit Cooperative
-

d. Peace and Order and Public Safety.

Atty. Verulo C. Mapanao, Director III, Legal Affairs Service of NAPOLCOM and Major General Melchor P. Rosales of OCD presented the discussion papers on the proposal for the return of police control to local chief executives. Director Lourdes Aniceto of NAPOLCOM moderated the discussion. The reactors include Mayor Sylvia Adame and Mayor Marino Morales both from the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).

Two major issues were tackled on this theme. The first is on the turn-over of police supervision and control to LGUs and the other is on the development of Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan (IACPSP). The following agreements were reached:

ON CONTROL OVER THE POLICE

- LGU Leagues to draft position papers on the LCE supervision and control over the police taking into consideration the proposed Senate bills on this matter
- LCEs to fully exercise their functions as NAPOLCOM deputies for the time being
- NAPOLCOM to conduct orientation seminars on LCEs functions and responsibilities over the police

ON OTHER ISSUES RAISED ON PROJECT PROCESS

- Declaring the second decade of local autonomy and defining strategic directions for local governance
- Mainstreaming gender and governance

Group discussions on sectoral- issues

After a short break, the next concurrent group discussions on sectoral issues were conducted. The themes under this cluster were: (1) Urban Development and Housing, (2) Food Security, (3) Employment and Job Generation, (4) Social Services, Environment, and Natural Resources. Highlights of each discussion are presented below.

a. Urban Development and Housing.

A paper on City Development Strategy was presented by Mayor Mary Jane Ortega of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP). Dr. Proserpina Tapales of the University of the Philippines moderated this discussion group. Among the reactors were Director Janet Cruz of HUDCC, Commissioner Francisco Dagnalan of HLURB, and Commissioner Rogue A. Magno, also of the HLURB.

Seven issues were discussed, namely: (a) Completion of the Comprehensive Land Use Policy (CLUP) (b) Creation of Local Housing Board to address local housing concern, (c) Urban Migration, (d) Resettlement, (e) Information technology, (f) Urban development and housing strategy, and (g) Financing urban development and housing programs. Agreements reached were:

ON HOUSING

- National agencies to provide financial and technical assistance to LGUs in the design and adoption of the CLUP
- LGUs to prioritize formulation of CLUP
- Provinces to assist component cities and municipalities in formulating the CLUP to provide financial and technical assistance
- LGUs are tasked to identify housing beneficiaries and land for subsidized housing.
- LGUs to establish local housing boards and offices

ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- LGUs to provide tenure assistance to urban poor communities before providing development assistance
- Improve job and social service access in the rural areas to minimize migration to the cities
- LGUs to learn different ways of achieving housing targets by innovative leadership.

b. Employment and Job Generation.

Discussion paper for this theme was presented by Mayor Luzviminda Valdez of the League of Cities of Philippines (LCP). Ms. Connie Pabalan of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) moderated the discussion. Among the reactors were: Undersecretary Benedicto R. Bitonio Jr., of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Director General Federico Laxa of TLRC, Assistant Secretary Zenaida C. Maglaya of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Director Candelario Versoza, Jr. of Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Director General Lucita S. Lazo of the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Mr. Luis Lorenzo of the Office of the President (OP).

The issues raised in this theme were: (a) Establishment of the an investment-friendly community, (b) supervision for infrastructure support, (c) Provision of administrative support, (d) Need to establish partnership with various stakeholders, and (e) Need to create job opportunities. Agreements reached were:

ON JOB GENERATION

- Tap non-traditional sources of funds such as Build-Operate Transfer
- Use 20% development fund for infrastructure support
- Make it easy for investors to apply for business permits

ON EMPLOYMENT

- Reduce bureaucratic procedures through creation of one-stop shops

- Establish feedback mechanisms such as complaint desks.
- Promote teamwork among LGUs, NGAs, private sector and civil society organizations
- Improve skills development through collaboration with TESDA, DECS, DTI and other relevant institutions

c. Food Security

Governor Rosette V. Lerias of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) presented the discussion paper that assessed the food security covenant '99 between the Department of Agriculture and the League of Provinces during the governors' workshop on food security. Dr. Heredina Abad of the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) moderated the discussion. Among the reactors were: Usec Ernesto Ordoñez of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Manager Dominador de Guzman of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and Assistant Manager Eduardo Pascua also of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The issues discussed with this theme were: (a) Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plans (AFMA) and their implementation, (b) Capability-building, (c) Financing, (d) Land Use re-classification and conversion, and (e) Communal irrigation systems. The agreements were:

ON FOOD SECURITY

- Immediate completion of programs in accordance with AFMA
- Review and assess food security covenant between DA and the Leagues in 1999
- Review existing marketing policies to ensure protection of interests of small farmers
- Improve human development and capability-building for agricultural productivity and viability
- Ensure adequate technical and funding support to implement food security programs
- Advocate that funds for farm to market roads be directly allocated to LGUs
- Advocate for the passage of the National Land Use Act to address problems relating to reclassification and conversion
- Explore co-financing schemes between NGAs and LGUs

d. Social Services, Environment and Natural Resources.

Paper presenters for group discussion were Mayor Melchor Nacario and Mayor Estelita Aquino both of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP). Director Teresita Mistal of the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) and Assistant Director Marivel Sacendoncillo of the Local Government Academy (LGA) both moderated the group discussion. The panel of reactors include Asec Lourdes de Vera of the Department of Education (DED), Ms. Vilma Lim of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Asec Celia Yangco of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Ms. Cielo Magno of the Civil Society Organization (CSO).

Six major issues were discussed, namely: (a) Need to incorporate the cost of specific items on devolved services, (b) Disbursement procedure for the 5% calamity fund, (c) purchasing of education materials still lodged with the national government, (d) SEF allocation between provinces and municipalities, (e) Municipal water boundaries, (f) Inconsistency on local-national enforcement of environmental laws and conflicting decisions on the use of natural resources. Agreements reached were:

SOCIAL SERVICES/ENVIRONMENT

- Create an oversight committee composed of DOH, DILG and the LGUs to discuss and resolve post-devolution concerns;
- Tap volunteer groups in the disbursement of the 5% calamity fund
- Devolve decision making process in the purchase of educational materials
- Modify the allocation of the Special Education Fund
- Further study the determination of the municipal water boundaries

Fellowship Night

After the group discussions, fellowship night followed at the Grand Ballroom. Director Serafin Benaldo of the DILG-NCR and Usec Eduardo R. Soliman of the DILG were the masters of ceremony of the fellowship night program. During dinner, a video documentary on Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, who was the guest of honor, was presented. Among other special guests were members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from the international donor communities, and other national government agency functionaries.

Highlights of Part I of Program for October 10, 2001

Registration opened between 8:00 and 8:30 in the morning. Those that registered early still had chance viewing the exhibits. Between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m., most of the participants were already in the Grand Ballroom. The Program for the second day was divided into two parts. Part I highlighted the Congress Declaration, while Part II was the Program with the President.

The master of ceremony for the First Part was Director Serafin Benalod of DILG-NCR, and the master of ceremony for the Second Part was DILG undersecretary for local governance, Eduardo R. Soliman, Jr.

On the second day (October 10, 2001), the master of ceremony Director Serafin Benaldo of DILG-NCR, called the NAPOLCOM Choir to formally open the program for the second day. The NAPOLCOM Choir sang the Philippine National Anthem and Doxology. While waiting for other participants to get into the Grand Ballroom, NAPOLCOM Choir sang more songs.

Rapporteurs-General Reports

Two rapporteurs-generals presented the outputs of group discussions.

Governor Rodolfo del Rosario, President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), presented the outputs of the Crosscutting cluster. Governor del Rosario highlighted the issues on each theme. In his report, he mentioned that the group discussion on local government code amendment focused on the issues related to the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). Among the proposed amendments they agreed to pursue were: (a) increase IRA share to 50%, (b) consider IRA as share in all national taxes, (c) inclusion of a provision for penalties for national government officials, who do not comply with the provision of automatic release of IRA, and (d) deletion of the provision allowing the President to withhold IRA in cases of unmanageable public sector deficit. In general, the group on local government code amendment likewise agreed to push for the renaming of IRA to Internal Revenue Share (IRS).

The group discussion on people's participation, ethics, transparency, and accountability generally agree that in order to enhance people's participation and to promote transparency in local governance, programs having on the following areas maybe adopted: (a) Programs that promote and popularize laws and good practices in people's participation, (b) establish better linkages among Civil Society Organization networks as well as between CSOs and the Leagues, CSOs and LGUs, LGUs and communities through conduct of regular dialogue/interface, establishment of monitoring and evaluation and feedback mechanisms; and networking and coalition-building, (c) monitor LGUs' and CSOs' performance along good governance and recognize best practices while imposing sanctions for non-fulfillment of functions.

As far as financing LGU programs is concerned, the group expended time to discuss IRA concerns. Relative to this, the national

government agencies agreed to (a) base the computations of IRA on the gross and not on net, as provided for the Constitution, (b) abolish the IRA withholding for LGSEF and unprogrammed funds, (c) automatic release of IRA share to LGUs and thus, no more need for appropriations and impositions by the Congress. As to other LGU financing schemes, the following agreements were: (a) LGUs will work towards making the value of LGU bonds equal to government securities. BSP on the other hand will consider assigning lower than 100% risk-weight for LGU bonds, (b) DOF will seek other approaches to facilitate and pursue the LGU financing framework it has developed. In addition, it will develop guidelines for engaging the services of financial consultants, underwriters, trustees, and guarantors. Other agreement was for concerned NGAs to meet and develop a unified LGU financial report requirements and to further study the LGU proposal on the creation of LGU Credit Cooperative.

On peace and order and public safety, the major issue discussed was on the turnover of police supervision and control to LGUs. According to the report, the following commitments were made: (a) Leagues of local governments to draft position paper on the issue taking into consideration the proposed Senate Bill on this matter, (b) NAPOLCOM will conduct orientation seminars on LCEs functions and responsibilities over the police.

Atty. Gil Cruz, Executive-Director of the League of Cities of the Philippines, presented the outputs of the sectoral cluster. Atty. Gil Cruz highlighted the main issues in each theme.

In his report, he mentioned that the group discussion on urban development and housing emphasized the sharing of responsibilities among local government units, national shelter agencies, the private sector, and civil society organizations. Among the proposed institutional arrangements in this area were: (a) NGAs to provide financial and technical assistance to LGUs in the design and adoption of comprehensive landuse plans, (b) LGUs to prioritize the formulation of CLUP, so that

funding agencies will know the needs of LGUs, (c) provinces to assist the component cities and municipalities in the formulation of CLUP and to provide financial and technical assistance, (d) to tap private sector for financial assistance, (e) LGUs to identify housing beneficiaries and land for subsidized housing, (f) LGUs endeavor establishing Housing Boards and Offices, and (g) LGUs to provide tenure assistance before providing development assistance.

The group discussion on job generation discussed issues relating to the establishment of an investment-friendly community, provision for infrastructure support, provision of administrative support, establishing partnership with various stakeholders, and creation of job opportunities. Some proposals were: (a) tap non-traditional sources of funds such as Build-Operate Transfer, (b) use of 20% development fund for infrastructure support, (c) make easy for investors to apply for business permits, (d) reduce bureaucratic procedure through creation of one-stop shops, (e) establish feedback mechanisms such as complaint desks, (f) improve skills development through collaboration with TESDA, DECS, DTI, and other relevant institutions.

On food security, the group discussed the following areas of concern, agriculture and fisheries modernization, capacity-building, financing, land use, and communal irrigation systems. The proposals were: (a) immediate completion of programs in accordance with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), (b) review and assessment of food security '99 targets (c) review existing marketing policies to ensure that interests of small farmers are protected, (d) improve human development and capacity building for agricultural productivity and viability, (e) ensure adequate technical and funding support to implement the food security programs, (f) advocate that funds for farm to market roads be directly allocated to LGUs, (g) advocate for the passage of National Land Use Act to address problems relating to reclassification and

conversion, and (h) explore co-financing schemes between NGAs and LGUs.

The group discussion on social services, according to the report tackled several concerns. Among these were, health, social welfare, education, and environment and natural resources. The following actions were identified: (a) need to create an oversight committee composed of DOH, DILG, and LGU, (b) in the disbursement of 5% calamity fund, volunteer groups maybe tapped, there is also need to augment this fund, (c) in the purchase of education materials, there is a need to devolve the decision-making process to lower level, (d) need to modify the allocation of Special Education Fund, and (e) need to look at the determination of municipal water boundaries.

Adoption of the Declaration of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress

The master of ceremony read the highlights of the Declaration of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress. Participants of the Congress were asked to raise their comments. After reading, all the participants simultaneously adopted the Declaration of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress by affixing their signatures on the sheets that were distributed.

The Declaration of the First Local Governance Congress adhere to the following principles in crafting and implementing the strategic direction of the Philippine Local Autonomy for the next decade: *Transparency and Accountability, Participatory Local Governance Processes, Effectiveness and Efficiency, Gender Responsiveness, Ecologically-sustainable, Results-oriented, Equity and Inclusion, Responsive and Timely, Rule of Law, and Fiscal Viability.*

In addition, to individually and collectively implement the strategic direction and plan of action for the next decade of local autonomy, the participants commit to the following roles and responsibilities:

National Government Agencies – strengthen policies that promote local autonomy by institutionalizing consultation with various stakeholders in local governments, aligning structures and processes to create an enabling environment for local governments;

Leagues of Local Government Units– continuously advocate and adopt a united position on vital policies affecting local autonomy including the preparation and lobbying for amendments to the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly in securing the just share in the Internal Revenue Allotment of local governments; serving as venue to promote excellence in local governance and facilitate collaboration between and among stakeholders;

Local Government Units- pursue continuous innovations in local government operations to ensure the delivery of responsive and timely services based on acceptable standards of performance;

Academe- increase its support through information-based policy reforms and capacity building of local governments;

Civil Society – actively participate in local governance; upscale the information and awareness-raising aspect of their community work; and promote proper understanding and appreciation of their strategic role as partners of people in local governance; and,

Private Sector- increase involvement in local governance specifically in creating a vibrant local economy by being active and socially responsible stakeholders.

Statement of Support from the International Development Partners

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative Terence Jones read the “Statement of Support for Local Governance and Decentralization from the International Development Partners” immediately after the Declaration of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress was adopted.

The International Development Partners recognize the need to: (a) promote participation in development planning and other decision-making processes, (b) support the development of sound decentralization policies that enable the effective and efficient performance of local government units, (c) develop the capacity of local authorities and communities, and (d) strengthen the management of and access to resources. Taking all these into consideration, the International Development Partners collectively expressed the gains of decentralization on the first decade and move to complement and converge our efforts and resources in addressing the gaps of urgent and persistent local governance concerns.

Among the international development partners, who signed the statement of support were: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Embassy of Belgium, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), European Commission in the Philippines, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank (WB), and World Health Organization (WHO).

Launching of Good Local Governance Initiatives

A total of fourteen new initiatives on good local governance were launched after the International Development Partners presented their statement of support. These new good local governance initiatives were grouped into four. Namely, (a) Tools to improve local governance, (b) New initiatives and projects, (c) Campaign and Advocacy, and (d) Awards

a. Tools to Improve Local Governance

1. Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) Web Database – ILO
2. Local Productivity and Performance Measurement System (LLPMS) – DILG
3. Consumer Satisfaction Index System (CSIS) – DILG
4. DevWatch – DILG
5. Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System (TRACS) – DILG

b. New Initiatives and Projects

6. USAID Projects (LGUGC, AGILE, BJSS, Kalusugan)
7. Eco Governance

c. Campaign and Advocacy

8. Anti-Red Tape – DILG
9. Building Cooperative and LGU Partnerships – CDA/UNDP Project
10. Good Urban Governance – League of Cities of the Philippines
11. Child-Friendly Locality – UNICEF

d. Awards

12. Journalism Awards – AusAID
13. Gawad Galing Pook Awards 2002
14. Kaban Galing – GPF/DILG

One of the projects, which has direct relevance to LGUs is the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning Procedure of **IRAP III**. This is a capability-building project jointly implemented by the International

Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). IRAP is a three-year project that started in 1999 and aims to contribute to the socio-economic development and poverty reduction efforts of the country through effective development planning capacity at local, regional, and national levels. It aims to empower local government units in development planning and investment decision-making. In view of its objectives, IRAP III offers the following technical assistance package: (a) training, (b) on-site activities, and (c) data banking and networking support. Through these activities IRAP III will deliver the following outputs: (a) modified comprehensive gender sensitive process, (b) application of IRAP in all provinces, municipalities, and barangays nationwide, (c) IRAP databank and website developed and in used, and (d) poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation tool.

Another project launched by the DILG was a self-assessment tool for local governments, the Local Productivity and Performance Measurement System or **LPPMS**. The foci of the assessment of LPPMS are the following: (a) Internal Capability along the areas of Local Legislation, Development Planning, Local Financial Administration and Organization, and Management – measures of LGU Performance, (b) Evaluation of Service Delivery focusing on the physical services of the LGU in the areas of Social, Economic, and Environmental Services -- the measure of LGU Productivity, (c) Service Delivery Outcome Assessment, also in the areas of Social, Economic, Environmental, and Peace and Order Services, meaning the measurement level of the effect of services to the socioeconomic conditions, whether positive or negative change in the quality of life of the people, with emphasis on the members of the marginalized sectors of our society.

The Citizens' Satisfaction Index System (CSIS) is another tool launched that complements the LPPMS. As a community empowerment tool, this system creates an environment where ordinary citizens feel that they are consulted and are represented in the decision making process,

ultimately generating trust and confidence in the government. Pilot tested areas include the municipalities of Bamban, Tarlac, and Agoo, La Union, and the cities of Calamba and Lucena. This system is set for nationwide implementation by year 2002.

The DevWatch project is a web-based system to measure the development of LGUs, particularly of the following aspects, social well-being, economic well-being, and ecosystem well-being. DILG through the Bureau of Local Government Supervision initiated this project. DevWatch performs analyses and display the results graphically. Using this system, indicators, indices, and an overall index can be compared within an LGU over time, or other similar LGUs nationwide. This will allow reporting, monitoring, and feedback mechanisms between DILG and LGUs to be institutionalized. DevWatch will be piloted in 38 cities and municipalities and will be implemented nationwide.

A new tool called Tax Revenue Assessment and Collection System or **TRACS** is a computerized system designed to assess LGUs in tax assessment and collection functions. It is implemented under the municipal Development Project supported by AusAID. The primary objective of TRACS is to improve the efficiency of the LGU in the assessment, recording, and collection of taxes in order to increase LGU revenues. The system actually cuts time in the processing of tax assessments, billing and payment transactions. Essentially, there will be no more long lines and long processing time for business permits, tax payments, and collections. As a result, there will be an efficient tax collection and higher income for the LGUs. TRACS is currently implemented in six cities namely; Iligan, General Santos, Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Puerto Princessa, and Cagayan de Oro.

New USAID-lead project initiatives were also launched. Among these are (a) **CO-GUARANTEE** Project sponsored by the Local Government Unit Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC) and the United States Agency for International Development. This project aims to maximize mobilization of

private sector financial resources for LGU infrastructure projects and accelerate the creation of more creditworthy LGUs, (b) Barangay Justice System Service (*BJSS*) is sponsored by USAID with the Gerry Roxas Foundation and other various centers for local governance. This project aims to improve access to justice services for the disadvantaged, particularly women and children. It focuses on the effectiveness of the Katurongang Pambarangay to prevent indiscriminate filing of cases in the courts, which congest court dockets and increase government expenses, (c) Accelerating Growth, Investment, and Liberalization with Equity (*AGILE*) sponsored by USAID with the Department of Finance to provide support to activities aimed at improving local government finance. Project activities include seminars on municipal bond floatation, the improvement of financial database on LGUs, and the expansion of the LGU Credit Rating database, (d) *TULONG-SULONG SA KALUSUGAN: MOVING HEALTH SECTOR REFORMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL* is USAID project with the Department of Health, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, LGUs and NGOs. The project provides technical assistance to increase the coverage and benefits of social health insurance, improve the efficiency of health care in public hospitals through fiscal management autonomy measures, and improve and expand public health programs.

The EcoGovernance Program is sponsored by USAID with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). This program attempts to address critical threats to the country's coastal resources and forests, primarily over-fishing and use of destructive fishing practices, illegal logging and conversion of natural forest. The program will also strengthen the ability of the LGUs to implement integrated Solid Waste Management.

One of the DILG campaigns launched was on Anti-Red Tape. To reduce red tape at the LGU level, DILG proposed to do the following: (a) reduce process time of permits through one-stop shops, (b) Client

Feedback System, and (c) recognition of LGU efforts in eliminating red-tape through an awards program.

Another campaign was on Building Cooperatives and LGU Partnerships. This campaign is sponsored by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Mr. Roberto Pagdanganan, Chair of the Philippine Cooperative Center presented the principles of the campaign.

The Roundtable Discussions on Improved Urban Governance is an advocacy effort lead by the League of Cities of the Philippines to pave way towards poverty reduction. The roundtable discussions focuses on “human development approach” in poverty reduction. Poverty is addressed using three pillars namely, (a) opportunity, (b) security, and (c) empowerment. Good urban governance is directly linked as an instrument to poverty reduction.

UNICEF also launched the campaign for “Child-Friendly Locality”, a recognition program for local government units that have adopted specific programs for children.

The Journalism Awards for Good Local Governance by AusAID is an initiative to encourage campus and professional journalists, and photojournalists to take a closer look at the local governance initiatives in the country. Cash prizes and an awarding ceremony in 2002 will be launched.

The Gawad Galing Pook Award for 2001 was also launched by the Galing Pook Foundation. Galing Pook is a well-known awards and recognition initiative for innovations and best practices in local governance. The Kaban Galing, a compendium of best practices in local governance, was also launched. Copies were given to the local government units and partner institutions.

Signing of Memoranda of Agreement

Three memoranda of agreement were signed between the DILG and various partners. These were:

a. Creation of Local Councils for Women: National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) agreed on the following:

- DILG shall encourage all LGUs at all levels to create a Local Council for Women in their respective jurisdictions;
- The NCWP shall coordinate with the DILG in formulating subsequent procedures, roles, and responsibilities of the Local Sanggunians, and other relevant requirements in the creation of Local Councils for Women;
- The DILG and the NCWP shall coordinate and collaborate in the conduct of advocacy and dissemination of information materials to the LGUs; and
- The DILG and NCWP shall coordinate in developing and institutionalizing an effective monitoring system.

b. Facilitating Health Care Services to Filipino People, among Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Local Government Leagues.

- PhilHealth shall conduct sustained information campaign aimed at appraising the beneficiaries of the program in identified LGUs on the policies, rules, and regulations relative to Program benefits, availment procedures, and their and obligations under the said Program;
- DILG shall issue guidelines to LGUs encouraging companies or businesses within their jurisdictions, to participate in the PhilHealth Program, and
- LEAGUES of Local Governments shall actively assist the DILG in promoting the participation of all LGUs in the Indigent Program and Individually Paying Program (IPP) of PhilHealth in accordance with the NHIP rules and regulations.

c. Technical Assistance Agreement between Province of Davao de Norte and the Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation.

- The Province is responsible for the implementation of the project and provide CCPSP or Consultants with project facilitation assistance; and
- The CCPSP shall provide technical assistance in the preparation of TOR; assistance in the LGUP/PDF loan application; assistance in the supervision, monitoring, review of consulting work, and assistance in the processing of payments to the Consultants; assistance in the marketing and promotion of the Project; assistance in government approval

Highlights of Part II of Program for October 10, 2001

Part II of the Program for October 10 started at around 11:30 a.m. with the arrival of Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. and the heads of the Leagues of LGUs received her.

The Local Governance Report

Secretary Lina presented the Local Governance Report, a summary assessment of the intended gains of the 1991 Local Government Code for the past ten years. He posed questions on whether the pursuit for local autonomy has indeed improved the quality of life of the Filipinos? Outlining the trends in policies, programs, process and resources, he summarized that the Code has delivered substantially on its promise but not yet completed. He said that the most important contribution the Code has provided is changing the perspectives, attitudes, behaviors, relationships, and character of governance. He outlined these changes along various areas:

First, in the way LGUs manage their local affairs:

- From dependency to self – reliance;
- From traditional routine to embracing innovations;
- From process and structure to performance and result; and
- From individualism to building alliances.

Second, in the way national government agencies relate with LGUs:

- From regulator to facilitator and enabler; and
- From generic to customized demand-driven policies and programs.

Third, in the way people participate in local governance:

- The private sector has shifted from being passive observers to active stakeholders; and
- The civil society organizations have related with the LGUs from an adversarial standpoint to critical collaboration and engagement.

He said that in essence, the state of local governance today can be characterized by the above changes that the Code promised - changes that has been delivered, but not yet completed.

Presentation of the Congress Declaration to the President

Governor Rodolfo del Rosario, President of the League of Provinces, presented the Congress Declaration and Action Plan to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He also presented the civil society agenda for participatory governance in the next decade of local autonomy, the campaign for good urban governance spearheaded by the League of Cities of the Philippines, and the statement of support signed by fifteen (15) institutions from the international development partners.

Keynote Speech: The State of Local Governance Address

The President then delivered her State of the Local Governance Address or SOLGA. The President's speech primarily centered on her response to the issues surrounding the Internal Revenue Allotment and encouraging the DILG to play a more active role in catalyzing changes for improved local government performance.

After her SOLGA, the President joined the participants for lunch.

Adjournment of the Congress

The First Philippine Local Governance Congress was adjourned at around 2:00 p.m.

Highlights of Part II of Program for October 10, 2001

Part II of the Program for October 10 started at around 11:30 a.m. with the arrival of Her Excellency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. and the heads of the Leagues of LGUs received her.

The Local Governance Report

Secretary Lina presented the Local Governance Report, a summary assessment of the intended gains of the 1991 Local Government Code for the past ten years. He posed questions on whether the pursuit for local autonomy has indeed improved the quality of life of the Filipinos? Outlining the trends in policies, programs, process and resources, he summarized that the Code has delivered substantially on its promise but not yet completed. He said that the most important contribution the Code has provided is changing the perspectives, attitudes, behaviors, relationships, and character of governance. He outlined these changes along various areas:

First, in the way LGUs manage their local affairs:

- From dependency to self – reliance;
- From traditional routine to embracing innovations;
- From process and structure to performance and result; and
- From individualism to building alliances.

Second, in the way national government agencies relate with LGUs:

- From regulator to facilitator and enabler; and
- From generic to customized demand-driven policies and programs.

Third, in the way people participate in local governance:

- The private sector has shifted from being passive observers to active stakeholders; and
- The civil society organizations have related with the LGUs from an adversarial standpoint to critical collaboration and engagement.

He said that in essence, the state of local governance today can be characterized by the above changes that the Code promised - changes that has been delivered, but not yet completed.

Presentation of the Congress Declaration to the President

Governor Rodolfo del Rosario, President of the League of Provinces, presented the Congress Declaration and Action Plan to Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He also presented the civil society agenda for participatory governance in the next decade of local autonomy, the campaign for good urban governance spearheaded by the League of Cities of the Philippines, and the statement of support signed by fifteen (15) institutions from the international development partners.

Keynote Speech: The State of Local Governance Address

The President then delivered her State of the Local Governance Address or SOLGA. The President's speech primarily centered on her response to the issues surrounding the Internal Revenue Allotment and encouraging the DILG to play a more active role in catalyzing changes for improved local government performance.

After her SOLGA, the President joined the participants for lunch.

Adjournment of the Congress

The First Philippine Local Governance Congress was adjourned at around 2:00 p.m.

II. KEY RESULTS AND IMPACT

Project 10.10.10. provided various opportunities to appropriately assess the gains and difficulties of implementing the local government code. Among the most apparent results are:

It brought together key players in local governance. Stakeholders to local governance came together to share experiences, tools, strategies, and initiatives. Specifically, the local governance agenda of different partner institutions such the civil society organizations, the local government leagues, the public sector, the national government agencies, the international development partners, the academe, and the business sector were facilitated towards convergence.

It consolidated and refined the activities among partner agencies. Several new programs and projects were proposed. A consolidated plan of action has been designed to achieve genuine local autonomy for the next decade or more.

It draws commitment of support for excellence in local governance. The international development partners, the leagues of local government, the business sector, the academe, and the civil society organizations jointly expressed commitment for continued support on efforts to attain excellence in local governance.

It opened new avenues for partnerships among DILG, local government leagues, civil society organizations, and other partner institutions. While various stakeholders presented new initiatives, tools, and programs on local governance, these likewise opened new avenues for partnership.

It facilitated synergistic involvement among stakeholders. Synergy within the DILG operating units was achieved, especially during the preparation for the First Philippine Local Governance Congress. The leadership of the USLG in mobilizing the DILG bureaucracy and partner institutions was key to the success of the Congress. Different operating units were tasked to handle specific activities, thus holding them accountable for their own concern areas. Synergy between the DILG and other partners was increased. For instance, the Leagues (LCP, LPP, LMP, and LnB) were mobilized to craft their agenda for excellence in local governance.

CONSTRAINTS AND DIFFICULTIES

Several constraints and difficulties were observed and experienced during the implementation of Project 10.10.10. Though it received commendations for the successful conduct of the First Philippine Local Governance Congress, the following concerns need immediate actions.

First, how to sustain advocacy beyond Project lifetime? The local governance congress, which highlighted Project 10.10.10., came up with various agreements and recommendations that need immediate follow through activities. The challenge is how to sustain active involvement and commitment of stakeholders to sustain advocacy for genuine local autonomy.

Second, how to sustain mobilization of partners beyond the event? Corollary to the perceived difficulty of sustaining advocacy effort is the challenge to sustain mobilization among partners. For instance, the international development partners recognized the need of advancing excellence in local governance thus, declared to continue their support along these efforts. The leagues of government, the civil society organizations, the academe, the public sector, and the business sector likewise expressed their support and commitments. The challenge here is how to sustain coordination and transform these commitments in concrete programs and projects.

Third, how to mainstream the agenda within DILG and other institutions? Project 10. 10.10. unveiled rich experiences and activities (at different levels) in pursuing excellence in local governance. Each of the stakeholders has significantly contributed in one way or another towards attainment of genuine local autonomy. In essence, Project 10.10.10. has facilitated the crafting of an agenda in advancing excellence in local governance. The challenge is how to mainstream these agenda within appropriate operating units of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as well as to other institutions.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information and experiences drawn from implementing Project 10.10.10., the following are recommended:

Mainstream Agreements within the DILG Bureaucracy: To ensure that the DILG bureaucracy is well primed to take on the above tasks, it is recommended that a consultative meeting be convened by the USLG among the heads of the key operating bureaus on or before **Wednesday, 21 November 2001**. The primary objective of the said meeting is to determine the DILG focal units that will steer or implement the agreements and monitor their implementation (*Attached is a summary matrix on the agreements reached by the concurrent discussion groups during the Congress*).

Sustain Partnerships with Other Key Stakeholders: To sustain the partnership among stakeholders, and as a way of extending our gratitude for their support to Project 10.10.10., it is recommended that a post-Local Governance Congress assessment and action planning conference be convened by the Department on or before **12 December 2001**. One of the expected outputs of this activity is a consensus local governance agenda that will outline specific actions and partnership agreements, key result areas within a time frame, and resource commitments to sustain the advocacy for excellence in local governance. Participants to the Post-Local Governance Congress will define mechanisms of institutionalizing partnership with stakeholders and continue dialogue with other agencies.

Upscale Donor Support for Local Governance Capability-Building Initiatives: As a result of the assessment and planning workshop with key partners, it is also recommended that DILG takes the lead in formulating a portfolio on Local Governance Capability-Building Facility or LOGOCAP that will support continuing advocacy, capability-building

and research activities. The Governance Program Manager of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) expressed interest to provide initial support to this initiative. The LOGOCAP can also be used as leverage for other donor institutions to complement in their 2002 programming.

As soon as a working document on the LOGOCAP is formulated together with our key partners, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government may wish to convene a dialogue with the donor agencies. In this way, the department maintains its catalytic role as we lobby and broker for a sustained donor support for local governance capability building initiatives. This meeting with the donors could be scheduled on the third week of December 2001.

IV. APPENDICES

A. Agreements Reached during the First Philippine Local Governance Congress

Priority Issues to Address	Areas of Agreement	Timetable of Specific Measures	Responsible Head of Agency or Organization
<p>Local Government Code Amendments</p>	<p>INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase IRA share to 50% • Consider IRA as share in all national taxes • Include provision for penalties for NGA officials not complying with automatic release of the IRA • Delete provisions allowing the President to withhold IRA in cases of unmanageable public sector deficit • Rename IRA to Internal Revenue Share (IRS) <p>ON UNFUNDED MANDATES:</p> <p>Pursue strengthening Code provision on mandatory prior consultations in implementing national programs</p> <p>ON THE STRATEGY FOR PUSHING THE BILL IN CONGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt two options: as special legislation or include in the omnibus bills • Optimize opportunities presented by the newly created Congressional Commission studying amendments to the LGC 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby and generate support of key legislators through the LGU leagues. • Provide corresponding funds to devolved national functions • Define “general supervision” in the Code • Improve LGU-NGA relations • Strengthen LGUs’ responsibilities in managing the environment • Regulate gambling • Devolve management of infrastructure projects 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition and functions of local special bodies and increase civil society representation in these bodies • Advocate for the enactment of an enabling law for implementing LGC provision on Local Sectoral Representation to the Sanggunians • Review LGC provisions vis-à-vis laws promoting equity-led development such as the AFMA, IPRA, CARL, UDHA, NIPAS, among others • Pursue enactment of the National Land Use Act <p>ON PROGRAMS / PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and popularize laws and good practices in people’s participation • Establish better linkages among CSO networks, between CSO and LGUs, CSO and the Leagues, 		

	<p>LGUs and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities through the conduct of regular dialogues/ interface, establishment of monitoring and evaluation and feedback mechanisms, networking and coalition-building • Monitor LGUs and CSOs performance along good governance, recognize best practices while imposing sanctions for non-fulfillment of functions <p>ON PROCESS / RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs to upscale advocacy work and IEC towards good governance and interface with leagues' local chapters. • CSO networks to assist primary organizations in their continuing engagement in local special bodies • LGUs to provide resources to operationalize LSBs, and craft a common local development framework with the CSOs • DILG to facilitate interface between CSOs and leagues in capacitating the Local Government Operation Officers (LGOOs) in performing their duties relative to participatory governance. In collaboration with CSOs, DILG to document, monitor and assess people's participation in local governance. 		
	<p>ON THE IRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base the IRA computation on gross and not on the net, as 		

	<p>provided for in the Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish the IRA withholding for LGSEF and unprogrammed funds in the GAA • LGUs to sign proposed Sanggunian Resolutions to file a case in the Supreme Court to facilitate release of withheld IRA portions by the national government <p>ON MUNICIPAL BONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGUs to advocate towards making the value of municipal bonds equal to government securities ▪ BSP to consider assigning lower than 100% risk-weight for LGU bonds ▪ DOF to seek other approaches to facilitate and pursue LGU financing framework, and develop guidelines for engaging services of financial consultants, underwriters, trustees and guarantors <p>ON LGU FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned NGAs to develop a unified LGU financial report requirements • Subject to further study the proposal on the creation of the LGU Credit Cooperative 		
<p>Peace and Order and Public Safety</p>	<p>ON CONTROL OVER THE POLICE</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGU Leagues to draft position papers on the LCE supervision and control over the police taking into consideration the proposed Senate bills on this matter • LCEs to fully exercise their functions as NAPOLCOM deputies for the time being • NAPOLCOM to conduct orientation seminars on LCEs functions and responsibilities over the police <p>ON OTHER ISSUES RAISED ON PROJECT PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring the second decade of local autonomy and defining strategic directions for local governance • Mainstreaming gender and governance 		
<p>Urban Development and Housing</p>	<p>ON HOUSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National agencies to provide financial and technical assistance to LGUs in the design and adoption of the CLUP • LGUs to prioritize formulation of CLUP • Provinces to assist component cities and municipalities in formulating the CLUP to provide financial and technical assistance • LGUs are tasked to identify housing beneficiaries and land for subsidized housing. • LGUs to establish local housing boards and offices <p>ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGUs to provide tenure assistance 		

	<p>to urban poor communities before providing development assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve job and social service access in the rural areas to minimize migration to the cities • LGUs to learn different ways of achieving housing targets by innovative leadership. 		
<p>Employment and Job Generation</p>	<p>ON JOB GENERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap non-traditional sources of funds such as Build-Operate Transfer • Use 20% development fund for infrastructure support • Make it easy for investors to apply for business permits <p>ON EMPLOYMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bureaucratic procedures through creation of one-stop shops • Establish feedback mechanisms such as complaint desks. • Promote teamwork among LGUs, NGAs, private sector and civil society organizations • Improve skills development through collaboration with TESDA, DECS, DTI and other relevant institutions 		

<p>Food Security</p>	<p>ON FOOD SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate completion of programs in accordance with AFMA • Review and assess food security covenant between DA and the Leagues in 1999 • Review existing marketing policies to ensure protection of interests of small farmers • Improve human development and capability-building for agricultural productivity and viability • Ensure adequate technical and funding support to implement food security programs • Advocate that funds for farm to market roads be directly allocated to LGUs • Advocate for the passage of the National Land Use Act to address problems relating to reclassification and conversion • Explore co-financing schemes between NGAs and LGUs 		
<p>Social Services, Environment and Natural Resources</p>	<p>SOCIAL SERVICES/ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an oversight committee composed of DOH, DILG and the LGUs to discuss and resolve post-devolution concerns • Tap volunteer groups in the disbursement of the 5% calamity fund • Devolve decision making process in the purchase of educational materials • Modify the allocation of the Special Education Fund 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further study the determination of the municipal water boundaries		
--	---	--	--

IV. APPENDICES

A. Agreements Reached during the First Philippine Local Governance Congress

Priority Issues to Address	Areas of Agreement	Timetable of Specific Measures	Responsible Head of Agency or Organization
<p>Local Government Code Amendments</p>	<p>INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase IRA share to 50% • Consider IRA as share in all national taxes • Include provision for penalties for NGA officials not complying with automatic release of the IRA • Delete provisions allowing the President to withhold IRA in cases of unmanageable public sector deficit • Rename IRA to Internal Revenue Share (IRS) <p>ON UNFUNDED MANDATES:</p> <p>Pursue strengthening Code provision on mandatory prior consultations in implementing national programs</p> <p>ON THE STRATEGY FOR PUSHING THE BILL IN CONGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt two options: as special legislation or include in the omnibus bills • Optimize opportunities presented by the newly created Congressional Commission studying amendments to the LGC 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby and generate support of key legislators through the LGU leagues. • Provide corresponding funds to devolved national functions • Define “general supervision” in the Code • Improve LGU-NGA relations • Strengthen LGUs’ responsibilities in managing the environment • Regulate gambling • Devolve management of infrastructure projects 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition and functions of local special bodies and increase civil society representation in these bodies • Advocate for the enactment of an enabling law for implementing LGC provision on Local Sectoral Representation to the Sanggunians • Review LGC provisions vis-à-vis laws promoting equity-led development such as the AFMA, IPRA, CARL, UDHA, NIPAS, among others • Pursue enactment of the National Land Use Act <p>ON PROGRAMS / PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and popularize laws and good practices in people’s participation • Establish better linkages among CSO networks, between CSO and LGUs, CSO and the Leagues, 		

	<p>LGUs and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities through the conduct of regular dialogues/ interface, establishment of monitoring and evaluation and feedback mechanisms, networking and coalition-building • Monitor LGUs and CSOs performance along good governance, recognize best practices while imposing sanctions for non-fulfillment of functions <p>ON PROCESS / RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSOs to upscale advocacy work and IEC towards good governance and interface with leagues' local chapters. • CSO networks to assist primary organizations in their continuing engagement in local special bodies • LGUs to provide resources to operationalize LSBs, and craft a common local development framework with the CSOs • DILG to facilitate interface between CSOs and leagues in capacitating the Local Government Operation Officers (LGOOs) in performing their duties relative to participatory governance. In collaboration with CSOs, DILG to document, monitor and assess people's participation in local governance. 		
	<p>ON THE IRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base the IRA computation on gross and not on the net, as 		

	<p>provided for in the Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish the IRA withholding for LGSEF and unprogrammed funds in the GAA • LGUs to sign proposed Sanggunian Resolutions to file a case in the Supreme Court to facilitate release of withheld IRA portions by the national government <p>ON MUNICIPAL BONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGUs to advocate towards making the value of municipal bonds equal to government securities ▪ BSP to consider assigning lower than 100% risk-weight for LGU bonds ▪ DOF to seek other approaches to facilitate and pursue LGU financing framework, and develop guidelines for engaging services of financial consultants, underwriters, trustees and guarantors <p>ON LGU FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned NGAs to develop a unified LGU financial report requirements • Subject to further study the proposal on the creation of the LGU Credit Cooperative 		
<p>Peace and Order and Public Safety</p>	<p>ON CONTROL OVER THE POLICE</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGU Leagues to draft position papers on the LCE supervision and control over the police taking into consideration the proposed Senate bills on this matter • LCEs to fully exercise their functions as NAPOLCOM deputies for the time being • NAPOLCOM to conduct orientation seminars on LCEs functions and responsibilities over the police <p>ON OTHER ISSUES RAISED ON PROJECT PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring the second decade of local autonomy and defining strategic directions for local governance • Mainstreaming gender and governance 		
<p>Urban Development and Housing</p>	<p>ON HOUSING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National agencies to provide financial and technical assistance to LGUs in the design and adoption of the CLUP • LGUs to prioritize formulation of CLUP • Provinces to assist component cities and municipalities in formulating the CLUP to provide financial and technical assistance • LGUs are tasked to identify housing beneficiaries and land for subsidized housing. • LGUs to establish local housing boards and offices <p>ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGUs to provide tenure assistance 		

	<p>to urban poor communities before providing development assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve job and social service access in the rural areas to minimize migration to the cities • LGUs to learn different ways of achieving housing targets by innovative leadership. 		
<p>Employment and Job Generation</p>	<p>ON JOB GENERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tap non-traditional sources of funds such as Build-Operate Transfer • Use 20% development fund for infrastructure support • Make it easy for investors to apply for business permits <p>ON EMPLOYMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce bureaucratic procedures through creation of one-stop shops • Establish feedback mechanisms such as complaint desks. • Promote teamwork among LGUs, NGAs, private sector and civil society organizations • Improve skills development through collaboration with TESDA, DECS, DTI and other relevant institutions 		

<p>Food Security</p>	<p>ON FOOD SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate completion of programs in accordance with AFMA • Review and assess food security covenant between DA and the Leagues in 1999 • Review existing marketing policies to ensure protection of interests of small farmers • Improve human development and capability-building for agricultural productivity and viability • Ensure adequate technical and funding support to implement food security programs • Advocate that funds for farm to market roads be directly allocated to LGUs • Advocate for the passage of the National Land Use Act to address problems relating to reclassification and conversion • Explore co-financing schemes between NGAs and LGUs 		
<p>Social Services, Environment and Natural Resources</p>	<p>SOCIAL SERVICES/ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an oversight committee composed of DOH, DILG and the LGUs to discuss and resolve post-devolution concerns • Tap volunteer groups in the disbursement of the 5% calamity fund • Devolve decision making process in the purchase of educational materials • Modify the allocation of the Special Education Fund 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further study the determination of the municipal water boundaries		
--	---	--	--

B. List of Institutional Partners

Leagues of Local Governments

Lady Local Legislators League
Lady Mayors Association of the Philippines (LMAP)
League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
League of Provinces of Philippines (LPP)
League of Vice-Governors of the Philippines (LVGP)
Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB)
Pambansang Pederasyon in Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)
Philippine Councilors League (PCL)
Philippine International Sisterhood and Twinning Association (PISTA)
Philippine League of Local Budget Officers (PLGBO)
Philippine League of Secretaries to the Sanggunian
Provincial Board Members' League of the Philippines (PBMLP)
Provincial Communicators of the Philippines (PCP)
Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)
Vice-Mayors' League of the Philippines (VMLP)

Academe

Ateneo School of Government (ASoG)
National College of Public Administration and Governance University of the
Philippines (NCPAG-UP)
Yuchengco Center for East Asia, De La Salle University

Civil Society Organizations

Caucus for Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)
Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP)
Center for Legislative Development (CLD)
Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP)
Consortium of Center for Local Governance Philippine Foundation,
Inc.(CCLGPF)
Evelio Javier Foundation, Inc. (EBJF)
Galing Pook Foundation (GPF)
Institute of Politics and Governance (IPG)
Local Governance Policy Forum (LGPF)
Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF)
Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resource in Rural Areas
(PhilDHHRA)
Volunteer Workers Association of Bondoc Peninsula Inc. (VWAB)

National Government Agencies

Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
Department of Agriculture (DA)
Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Department of Finance (DOF)
Department of Health (DOH)
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD)
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
Housing and land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW)
National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP)
National Housing Authority (NHA)
National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM)
Philippine Information Agency (PIA)
Philippine National Police (PNP)
Population Commission (POPCOM)
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

Public Sector

Financial Executives Institution of the Philippines (FINEX)
Local government Unit Guarantee Corporation (LGUGC)

International Development Partners

Accelerating Growth, Investment, Liberalization with Equity Project (AGILE)
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA)
Philippine Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP)
The Asia Foundation (TAF)
The World Bank (WB)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

C. List of Exhibitors to the First Philippine Local Governance Congress

Total number of booths set up	109
Total number of booths occupied	86
Total number of booths vacant	23

Exhibitor	# Booth
LGA	1
Galing Pook	1
PPSC	2
NAPOLCOM	1
BFP	1
BJMP	1
PATROL 117	1
JICA-LGD	1
IRAP-ILO	1
DAP	1
CCPSP	1
LCP	1
SK	1
LOGODEF	1
BULACAN	1
BONDON PENINSULA	1
DA	1
DOH-BLGD	1
DOLE-BLE	1
BLGF-MDFO	1
LCC-DECS	1
HUDCC-PAG-IBIG	1
DENR	2
DSWD	1
NAPC	1
WORLD BANK	1
USAID-AGILE	1
AUSAID	1
DBP	1
LANDBANK	1
PLANNING	1
FFW	1
MSIP	1

Exhibitor	# Booth
PRMDP	3
WSSP	2
AAPBP	3
PHILHEALTH	2
LGU GUARANTEE	1
MSH	1
ASIA FOUNDATION	1
PCPS	1
PCIJ	1
CCLG	1
MSEP	1
ATENEO	1
LEGRAND	2
BP SOLAR	1
MITSU/CYGNET	3
MJ PUBLISHING	1
TKMD	1
IHEC	2
KD SURPLUS	1
AMELLAR SOL	6
LUMBAN BARONG	1
RASELLA SUITES	2
LABRADOR MDSE	1
TESDA	1
GSIS	1
TLRC	1
DTI	1
UNDP	3
ULAP	1
LPP	1
INH	1
BEACON FRONTLINE	1
PROJECT T-SHIRT	1

D. Summary of Participants to the First Local Governance Congress

PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF ATTENDANCE	% OF ATTENDANCE
Elective Officials	1,117	55.74
Guests	450	22.46
DILG Officials	226	11.28
Other Elective Officials/LGU Functionaries	153	7.63
Other DILG Officials	58	2.89
Total Number of Participants	2,004	

Project 10.10.10. Regional Activities

F. Regional Activities

The Department of the Interior and Local Government issued **MC 2001-74** dated July 4, 2001 *enjoining* all concerned to actively participate in the 10th anniversary celebration of Local Government Code and submit consolidated report of the same to the Office of the Secretary.

MC 2001-128 dated September 28, 2001 *enjoining* all provincial governors, city and municipal mayors, DILG Regional Directors and others concerned to initiate the display of streamers starting October 1-10, 2001.

Activities Conducted in the Regions

REGION	PROVINCE/CITY/ MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT 10.10.10. ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
I La Union	DILG-I and Municipal LGUs	DILG Region I reported the following activities conducted in line with Project 10.10.10.: (a) hanging of streamers in municipal halls and other buildings, (b) People's Fora, (c) Skills training on food technology, and (d) Passage of vital measures to uplift the living conditions of constituents.	September- October 2001
II			
III <i>Pampanga</i>	Bataan, Bulacan, Neuva Ecija, Pampanga, Zambales, Angeles, Olongapo, Palayan, San Fernando, Tarlac, San Jose, Cabanatuan City	These LGUs in region 3 actively participated in Project 10.10.10. by either implementing the following: (a) conduct of Local Governance Forum, (b) Hanging of streamers, (c) Advocacy on Project 10.10.10., (d) conduct of	September – October 2001

		seminars pertaining to local governance, (e) cleanliness drive, (f) medical mission, (g) interface with local government officials, (h) training workshops, (I) and attendance to the First Philippine Local Governance Congress in Manila Midtown Hotel.	
--	--	---	--

REGION	PROVINCE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT 10.10.10. ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
IV			
V Bicol			
VI Iloilo	DILG Region VI in cooperation with CSOs and Galing Pook LGU Awardees in Region VI.	<i>Photo Exhibit</i> on the Innovations and Best Practices in Local Governance was presented between October 10-14, 2001 at SM City, Iloilo city. Among those presented were: Prov. of Negros Occidental, Bacolod City, Roxas City, Mun. of Calinog, Mun. of Banga, Mun. of Pandan, Province of Antique, Bago City, Mun. of Dumangas, Mun. of Concepcion, Mun. of Murcia, Mun. of Sagay, Mun. of Ivisan, Province of Iloilo, Province of Aklan, and Ivisan, Capiz.	October 10-14, 2001
VII Cebu	Danao City, and other LGUs in the province of Cebu: Alacantara, Alegria, Barili, Carcar, Sogod, Tuburan, and Ronda.	These local government units in the Province of Cebu conducted Project 10.10.10. activities and displayed streamers in observance of the 10 th anniversary of Local Government Code.	Months of September and October 2001.

REGION	PROVINCE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT 10.10.10. ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
VIII			
IX			
X			
XI			

REGION	PROVINCE/CITY/MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT 10.10.10. ACTIVITIES	DATE OF ACTIVITY
XII Cotabato	DILG-XII, Lanao del Norte Province, and Kidapawan City	The DILG-XII conducted various activities on Project 10.10.10. Among these are: (a) seminars/workshops pertaining to governance, (b) Jumpstarting Local Development, (c) display of streamers at various local government units.	September-October 2001
XIII			
CAR	DILG CAR	The DILG in Cordillera Administrative Region conducted the following activities in line with	September-October 2001

		Project 10.10.10. (a) Training on Jumpstarting Local Development, (b) People's Fora, and (c) Meetings and Conferences pertaining to local governance.	
NCR			

G. Calendar of Enrolled Activities

PROJECT COMPONENT AND SPEARHEADING AGENCY	ENROLLED EVENT	DATE OF ACTIVITY	VENUE OF ACTIVITY
POLICY AND ADVOCACY			
Ateneo School of Government (ASOG)	Tracking of Policy Recommendations from the RFAs on Decentralization and Local Development	Ongoing	
Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)	Discourse and Reflection on New Politics and Local Governance A Study Towards the Demutualisation of the Philippine Stock Exchange Developing a Comprehensive Framework for Competition Policy in the Philippines Guidelines on Strategic Planning in Urban Areas Institutional Capacity Strengthening in Financial Management and Health Finance Policy	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	

	Local Development Watch Project			
Bureau of Local Government Development –Department of the Interior and Local Government (BLGD-DILG)	Local Governance Forum NGA-Leagues Consultations on: - Environment and Natural Resources - Education - Health - Poverty Reduction - AFMA - Housing	Aug. to Oct. September 6		Quezon City
Bureau of Local Government Supervision- DILG (BLGS-DILG)	Local Governance Forum on Red Tape	September 10		
Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP)	Congress of Local Government Women Executives	August 28-30		Sheraton Hotel, Manila
Consortium of Centers for Local Governance – Philippines Foundation, Inc.	World Goodwill Network of Local Governance Launching of the Consortium of Centers for Local Governance	Ongoing October 2001		National Coverage
Department of Budget and Management (DBM)	Financing Local Autonomy			
Department of the Environment and natural Resources (DENR)	DENR Policy Studies			

	Forest Policy Studies		
Department of Health (DOH)	Local Health Reform Summits	August 14 August 23-24 August 30-31	Negros Oriental, Misamis Occidental Pasay
DILG	Philippine Local Governance Congress	October 10	Manila
Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)	Culture and Governance		
Housing and Urban Development Council (HUDCC)	Housing and Urban Development Summit		
League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)	City Mayor's Forum on Poverty Eradication Through Good Urban Governance	October 8-9	
League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)	Launching of Provincial Capitol Exhibit Galleries	September 10	Provincial Capitol and LGUs
	General Assembly	October 8-9	
Liga ng mga Barangay	5 th National Convention	October 15-17	Cebu City
National Commission on the Role	Display of GAD Tools/Photo		

of Filipino Women (NCRFW)	Exhibit and Launching of Website for Women Executives Against (Graft)		
National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP) with PWD Sectoral Council and NAPC	Launching of Website for Women Executives Against Graft (WAG)		
Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)	Presentation of PWD Issues in Relation to the Implementation of RA 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Person), BP 344 (Accessibility Law) and RA 7160		
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) w/ NMYL	LGU Performance and Benchmarking		
UP-NCPAG w/ College of Social Work & Community Development	State of the World Children's Report	September 12-14	Westin Philippine Plaza
Volunteer Workers Association of Bondoc Peninsula, Inc. (VWAB, Inc.)	Ang Local Government Code sa Kanayunan	September 20	
w/ Concerned Citizens on Good	Seminar on National Governance Assistance to Devolution Local Governance Forums	Sept. 15-30	
	Ugnayan ng Timog at Hilaga sa	Oct. 8-9, 2001	Manila

Governance for Abra (CCGA), UNDP, and GTZ	Lokal na Pamamahala		
CAPABILITY BUILDING			
AUSAID)	<p>Agriculture and Tourism Local Resources Inventory and Mapping Project</p> <p>Barangay Development and Land Use Planning for the Metro Naga Development Council of Camarines Sur</p> <p>Building Institutional Efficiency and Participatory Development in Northern Samar</p> <p>Capability Enhancement of Local Government Units in Camiguin</p> <p>Development and Testing of a Training Manual on Community-based Resource Management for Barangay Leaders</p> <p>Development of an Eco-tourism Plan and Information System in Bohol</p> <p>Development of Financial and</p>	Ongoing	Ongoing

	<p>Contracting Arrangements to Support the Philippine Electric Power Industry</p> <p>Development of Portfolio Management System for LGUGC</p> <p>Enhancing Public Accountability Through Performance Audit and the Audit Team Approach</p> <p>Formulation of Performance Indicators and Standards</p> <p>Groundwater Resource Assessment for Sustainable Rural Water Supply in Northern Mindanao</p> <p>Institutional Partnership Towards Enhancing Capability Building Interventions for Local Governments</p> <p>Performance Measurement Training</p> <p>Philippines-Australia for Local Sustainability Program (PALS)</p> <p>Philippines – Australia</p>	<p>2001</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
--	---	---	--

	<p>Governance Facility (PAGF)</p> <p>Philippines Regional Municipal Development Project (PRMDP) 1 year extension</p> <p>Power Sector Restructuring Program</p> <p>Promoting Good Governance through the Strengthening of Local Revenue and Resource Generation of LGUs</p> <p>Quality Management and Standards in Hospital in Eastern Samar</p> <p>Quality and Productivity for Small and Medium Enterprises</p> <p>Quality Service Standards in Barangay in Naga City</p> <p>Technical Assistance for Southern Bukidnon Strategic Development Plan and Investment Program</p> <p>Training Manual on Reporting Against Corruption</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
--	---	-------------------------------	--

Department of Finance (DOF) with the Municipal Training Program (MTP)-LGA	Orientation Seminar of the Local Government Finance (LOGOFIND)	August 1 August 2 and 3 August 3 August 7 August 14 August 16 October 3 October 4 October 5	Cagayan de Oro Butuan Makati Dipolog Bacolod Davao Legaspi City
Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)	Sharing a Report Card Survey Results (A Survey of Urban/Municipal Public services in Metro Manila Validation Workshop on the Results of the Project "Formulation of Performance Indicators and Standards for Local Development Administration"	October 2001 September 2001	DAP
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)	Seminar Workshop Series on Municipal Bonds and Book Release of Municipal Bonds: A Manual	August 3 August 17 August 31	Cagayan de Oro Iloilo Cebu Davao Bacolod
Gerry Roxas Foundation – Center for Local Governance	Consensus Building for Developing LGU Development Agenda Katarungang Pambarangay	Ongoing Ongoing	Capiz Roxas City

	Facilitators/Trainers Manual		
League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)	Roundtable Discussion on Poverty Reduction Through Improved Governance	Sept 14-15 Sept. 21-22 Sept. 28-29	Bacolod City Angeles City Davao City
Local Government Academy - DILG (LGA)	Jumpstarting Local Development: Managing the First Steps (A Course for New Local Managers)	Provinces Sept. 12-13 Sept. 19-20 Cities: Sept. 14-15 Sept. 21-22 Sept. 28-29	Cebu City Manila Bacolod City Angeles City Davao City
Philippine- Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP-CIDA) w/ AIM, UP-CLRG, ASOG, and DAP	LCE Governance and Accountability Course Local Public Administration Orientation Seminar for CSOs and LSB members LDC Operationalization / Orientation	Aug. 20-24 Aug 27-30 1 st Wk. of Oct. 1 st – 2 nd Wk. of Oct.	 Region XII Region XII
Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)	A Conference on Trends, Milestones and Breakthroughs: Ten Years of Local Autonomy		
UP-NCPAG w/ ULAP & Philippine Society for Public Administration w/ Management & Organizational	Seminar on Indicators for Good Governance	September 26 September 21	 Rembrandt Hotel,

Development for Empowerment, Inc. (MODE) w/ UP center for Women's Studies	Impact of ODA Projects on Local Governance	September 13	Quezon City
Volunteer Workers Association of Bondoc Peninsula	Validation of Training Modules on Gender and Local Governance Participatory Barangay Development Planning	2001 Yearound	Bondoc Peninsula Barangays
BEST PRACTICES			
Australian International Agency for Development (AUSAID)	Best Practices in Health Care Delivery Systems: A Capacity Building Project for Local Government Health Workers		
Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF)	Galing Pook Videos and Modules for Citizen Education Research Project on Dissemination of Best Practices		
Consortium of Centers for Local Governance – Philippines Foundation, Inc.	Experimentation, Incubation, Documentation and Replication of Best Practices	August - Onwards	
Local Government Academy – DILG (LGA), Galing Pook Foundation, & UNICEF	Compendium of Local Best Practices		

Nueva Vizcaya Province	Gawad Magat Project	May 7, 2001 (start)	Province of Nueva Ecija
Philippines-Canada Local Government Support Program (LGSP-CIDA)	Shaping the Future: The LGSP Experience		
Yuchengco Center for East Asia, De La Salle University	Working Conference on Information Technology and Local Governance: Best Practices in the Philippines, Korea, and Singapore	October 19-20	Manila
PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION			
AUSAID	A Study on People's Participation in Local Development Councils	Ongoing	
	Building Capacity for Modeling Community Participation Technologies	Ongoing	
	Empowering Women for Effective Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation at the Local Level		
	Participatory Barangay Development Planning and Resource Mobilization		
	Pilot Schools of Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions		

	<p>Promoting Participation in Barangay Governance: Distance Learning Courses</p> <p>Seeding a Consumer Movement in the Philippines</p> <p>Strengthening the NGOs and POs Capabilities via the Naga City People's Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>CODE-NGO</p>	<p>CSO Directory Development</p> <p>Creation of National/Provincial Monitoring Committees</p> <p>Criteria Development for LDC/LSB CSO Representative</p> <p>Development Agenda Formulation for CSO</p> <p>Project Orientation for Local CSO Networks</p> <p>Information Dissemination of MC 2001-89</p> <p>National Conference on People's Participation in Local Governance</p>	<p>Aug.-Sept. 2001</p> <p>October 8-9</p> <p>September 30</p>	<p>various local levels</p> <p>Manila</p> <p>Manila</p>
<p>w/ LGPF</p>			
<p>w/ LGPF</p>			
<p>w/ LGPF</p>			

<p>w/ KAISAHAN</p> <p>w/ SALIGAN</p> <p>w/ PhiIDHARRA</p>	<p>Presentation of CSO papers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Participation • Fiscal Autonomy • Delivery of Basic Services • LDCs & LSBs Operationalization <p>Presentation and Donors' Forum on Barangay Development Plans</p> <p>Publication of Primer on Accreditation & Selection Process</p> <p>Project-Assist Accreditation and Selection of CSO Representatives to the LSB and LDCs</p>	<p>September</p> <p>August 10</p>	<p>CARAGA and Davao Oriental</p> <p>Ilocos Norte Nueva Vizcaya, Bulacan Palawan Laguna Camarines Sur Iloilo Negros Oriental Northern Samar Saranggani Cotabato</p>
<p>Gerry Roxas Foundation – Center for Local Governance</p>	<p>Participatory Strategic Organizational Assessment Workshop</p> <p>Participatory Visioning Strategic</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>18 LGUs in Panay & Guimaras</p> <p>18 LGUs & 2 NGOs in Panay &</p>

	Planning Workshop		Guimaras
	Private Sector Forum	Ongoing	5 LGUs in Panay & Guimaras
VWAB, Inc.	Participatory Barangay Development Planning	Yearound 2001	Bondoc Peninsula Barangays



Statements of Support to the Project

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM THE ACADEME

The Passage of the Local Government Code in 1991 provided the singular significant direction to extension programs of the academe; while each institution continued their activities responding to their original mandates, efforts of many academic institutions converged on technical assistance to local governments. Thus, stronger ties were built between the LGUs, Leagues of local government, and the academe.

We therefore value ten years of very fruitful cooperation between the LGUs and academe, forged through the Local Government Code. In support of Project 10.10.10., academic institutions which have been working closely with LGUs and the DILG have lined up the following activities:

1. **Capability-Building** -- assistance to the Canadian Local Government Support Program (LGSP) in the training of new Governors and Mayors in Region VI and the whole Mindanao -- August 13-31, 2001.
 - Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
 - Ateneo School of Government
 - Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
 - University of the Philippines -- Center for Local Governance of the National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-CLRG/NCPAG)

2. **Policy and Advocacy** -- September 2001
 - Forum on National Government Assistance to Decentralization -- Ateneo
 - Training Design on Gender and Local Governance -- UP/UNDP
 - Sharing Workshop held on July 5-6, 2001
 - Validation Workshop on September 5, 2001
 - Pilot Testing of Modules by end of September
 - Impact of Overseas Development Assistance on Local Government -- assistance to Management and Organizational Development for Empowerment, Inc. (MODE)

3. **Continuing Technical Assistance** -- Assistance to Lady Mayors Association of the Philippines (LMAP) in its publication to be launched in October -- UP
4. **Paper presentation** by Dina Abad of the Ateneo on policy gaps in the state of decentralization in the Philippines -- October 10 Local Government Congress
5. **Exhibits during the Congress** -- Our efforts will not end on October 10, 2001. We pledge to continue assistance to LGUs in the next decade, and to bring into the field other academic institutions with similar aims



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY

Our contributions to Project 10.10.10.

1. The conduct of the **National Convention** with the theme, **BARANGAYANIHAN LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN: Implementing Strategies and Improved Delivery of Services** on October 15-17 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu, where 5,000 Liga ng mga Barangay Chapter Presidents and officers are slated to participate.

In this regard, **Barangay Development Programs Database** will be established in line with the capability-building component of Project 10.10.10.

Within six months this **Barangay Development Programs Database** will be the foundation of the inter-barangay communication and information exchange system.

2. Launching of **Barangay Development Program Coordinating, Monitoring and Documentation/Reporting System** to ensure the continuous flow of inputs to the program database.
3. Wiping of the malnutrition at the barangay. In the last week of October, as a show of support to Project 10.10.10., the Liga ng mga Barangay will undertake a **Synchronized Feeding Activity** to signal the beginning of serious intent to wipe out malnutrition at the barangay level and to prove that the barangay is a viable instrument for development.
4. On October 28, 2001, the Liga ng mga Barangay, National Office will conduct a **Synchronized Barangay Assemblies** in 41,393 barangays nationwide. During the assembly, discussions will be on Barangay Plans of Action and Supporting Financial Plan for 2002.



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM THE BUSINESS SECTOR

The Business Sector generally supports the intentions and initiatives of Project 10.10.10. We subscribe to the belief that local and national development can be addressed by an active and sustained public-private sector partnership. Toward this end, we commit:

1. To help develop the LGU capital market in the Philippines via advocacy with (1) the private sector financial community to consider LGUs as a new breed of borrowers, and (2) the LGUs to accept bonds as an alternative mode of financing for their revenue-generating projects;
2. To help institute an LGU credit rating system that is of international standards and make LGUs accept this as a tool for governance aside from being a catalyst for municipal bond market development. The credit rating system is being implemented in anticipation of the emergence of a secondary market for municipal bonds; and
3. To make available various alternative financing modes for LGU projects such as direct loans, letters of credit, bonds, joint ventures and BOTs to help LGUs undertake much needed infrastructure projects in the countryside.

Rest assured that the business sector, more particularly the financial community, will uphold its statement of commitment as we all aspire for the success of the decentralization efforts of government.



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM THE LEAGUE OF CITIES

We have been appraised that Project 10.10.10. is a collective effort to look back at the ten years of experiences and lessons on decentralization (PAGBALIK-TANAW), celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Local Government Code of 1991 (PAGPUGAY), and move forward towards setting the strategic direction on local autonomy for the next ten years (PAGSULONG).

Indeed, it is time to engage the participation of all concerned sectors in the microscopic assessment of the gains and gaps of Code implementation, especially on devolution, decentralization, deconcentration of power, administrative and fiscal autonomy, and the strengthened powers and attributes of local government units under a decentralized setting. Now is the time to look back and to harvest the lessons and experiences from the best practices and innovative strategies at the local level. Ant there is no better way of doing this than by going back to our constituents and feel their pulse on how we, the local government units and their officials, have created a significant impact in changing their lives-or whether we are creating an impact at all, in the first place.

By putting together all these innovations and at the same time learning from them, we will then be provided with the right atmosphere, proper perspectives and guided vision to pay tribute to the Code and celebrate its first decade of implementation.

And finally, from Day 1 after October 10, we will begin the new decade of the Code implementation with renewed vigor to move forward, work from a convergent point, and achieve a common goal.

It is on this note that the League of Cities of the Philippines shares its commitment to Project 10.10.10.

We express such commitment by taking this opportunity to announce that the present LCP administration has trained its sights on two pivotal points

around which our plans of action will revolve. These are **poverty alleviation** and **good urban governance**.

On August 15, the LCP Board will embark on vision-to-action workshop to chart the strategic direction of the League for the next three years and beyond. Two of the proposed activities that be submitted for the Board confirmation are the **Upscaling Poverty-Focused City Development Strategies** and **Regional Roundtables on Transparency and Accountability**.

The regional transparency and accountability roundtables are our concrete manifestation of support to the Project 10.10.10. By October 10, we hope to have addressed transparency and accountability issues with city strategies and definite action plans to “Fight the Big C”. Thereafter, the roundtables will be expanded to cover similar initiatives in the areas:

Sustainability in all dimensions of urban development;

Decentralization of authority and resources;

Equity of access to decision-making processes and the basic necessities of urban life;

Efficiency in the delivery of public services and in promoting local economic development;

Transparency and Accountability of decision-makers and all stakeholders; and

Civic engagement and Citizenship, whereby people as wealth of cities actively contribute towards the common good

to complete the seven norms of Good Urban Governance. The outputs from these roundtables will be packaged in one master document that will provide the League with an anchor when it spearheads the launching in the Philippines of the International Campaign on Good Urban Governance sometime in November. The ultimate end is to see the **Inclusive City** – as the working example and concrete manifestation of good urban governance, and its constituents as the human face to show that local government works.



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

WE ACKNOWLEDGE the vast potential the Local Government Code has offered in terms of pursuing genuine democratization, a more meaningful LGU-CSO partnership in the quest for people empowerment and its goal of achieving sustainable development at the local level;

WE RECOGNIZE the significant opportunities that the Code has afforded CSOs to engage the LGUs in a dynamic and vibrant partnership in pursuing local development;

With these in mind, we, as representatives of civil society organizations do hereby commit ourselves to consistently pursue the following agenda;

WE COMMIT to purposively increase the awareness of our members and partners regarding the opportunities presented by the Code, equally in scope and in depth , in order to intensify the reception of CSOs to engage in local governance activities;

WE COMMIT to follow the track of continued capacity-building and community organizing as our contribution towards sustainable community development and to effectively engage their LGUs towards a shared vision and action-oriented, participatory local development plan that is sustainable and provides and equity-led growth approach;

WE COMMIT to converge our efforts through active networking and linking among ourselves, with the Leagues and with relevant government entities, with the goal of converging our initiatives and crafting actions that are both complementary and enhancing;

WE COMMIT to continually mobilize our constituents and partners to productivity and persistently explore ways to engage the LGUs and the local officials in a creative manner, not only limited to maximizing the various venues for people's participation such as the LDCs and LSBs, but through other Code-inspired bodies as well, in order to mark out defined areas of engagement, specially on local thematic issues and concerns.

Finally, WE COMMIT to be vigilant and critical partners of the state, always conscious that we need to safeguard our people's gains and continue the momentum that has been achieved, in building bridges of shared partnership towards the fulfillment of our vision of a just, equitable and prosperous nation.



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Ten years ago, local government units were launched on the road to autonomy by the vision of one man and the collective wisdom of an enlightened legislature.

Today, we stand on the shoulder of that man, the Godfather of Local Autonomy, Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr.

The promulgation of the Local Government Code of 1991 steered greater empowerment of local government units over the period.

We have witnessed remarkable initiatives in the reform and strengthening of our local government units. We have achieved important breakthroughs and significant strides in fulfilling and pursuing that ambitious but compelling aspiration of substantive and unqualified decentralization.

And we responded with unqualified passion and zeal, based on the conviction that empowered local government units will evolve empowered and self-reliant communities.

We at the League of Municipalities of the Philippines believe that LGUs must address and match the anomalies and challenges of poverty, of deprivation, and of the lack of access and opportunities in our communities.

But we acknowledge and recognize today that much is still to be done to fill the policy gaps that separate us from our goals.

By virtue of the Local Government Code, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines or the LMP was organized as a corporate body to promote local autonomy.

Today, LMP serves as a venue for municipalities to unite and find common grounds to articulate the interests and concerns of our LGUs.

We are gratified that the LMP has evolved into a dynamic, proactive organization that serves as the vanguard of the movement of the local autonomy in the Philippines.

The LMP have engaged in efforts ranging from undertaking policy advocacies on important legislations to developing institutions at the local levels.

The LMP have also articulated our position on proposed amendments to the Local Government Code, on controversial bills, and other issuances affecting our LGUs.

Our initiatives however are focused on introducing amendments to Local Government Code to allow LGUs more powers and authority on affairs and matters affecting their jurisdiction, make it more realistic and conducive to local government management.

The LMP is lobbying to Congress for the comprehensive review of the formula in the sharing of the Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA among LGUs to ensure more equitable distribution in favor of less prosperous municipalities.

It is also important to us that the coastline coverage of coastal municipalities be factored in computation of the internal revenue allotment so that these LGUs can be better equipped in addressing the problems of our ocean and marine resources.

The LMP is also proposing to Congress to completely change the Codal formula used to determine the IRA shares of LGUs. This means a change from 34% – 36% of the IRA shares of municipalities. This will translate to effective delivery of basic services and more developmental projects to attract investments and generate employment in the countryside.

On top of this, the LMP is taking a strong position to restore the operational control of local police forces to local chief executives.

The League is also advocating that a more systematic mechanism be instituted to ensure that national government agencies will consult LGUs on programs and projects that will be implemented at the local levels.

Resource mobilization to improve capacities of our LGUs to finance their projects remain LMPs major priority. We must collect together towards obtaining a larger share of the internal revenue allotments.

We must now actively seek for these amendments for the they will determine our capacities as we confront the challenges in this critical period weakened economy, political bickering, and an alarming drop in peace and order conditions.

I acknowledge the achievements made in the past, but there is still a lot of work to do in order to transform local autonomy as the major tool, in fact the only vehicle, to improve the lives of our people, promote peace and order and unleash the forces of growth and modernization in our 1,496 municipalities nationwide.



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM THE LEAGUE OF PROVINCES

The implementation of the *Local Government Code of 1991* has taught us that the campaign for local autonomy is continuing struggle. It is never finished because the struggle includes vigilant protection of hard won gains.

This year, we are glad that local autonomy as an enduring strategy for national development has been confirmed by presidential declarations that support this policy.

Hopefully, starting next year, our share in the national internal revenue will be automatically appropriated without need of congressional deliberations. This unprecedented treatment of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) should secure the proper implementation of the constitutional mandate that local governments shall have a just share in the national taxes, which will be automatically released to them.

This breakthrough alone provides a momentous backdrop to the 10th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Code, and, certainly, caps a decade-long struggle to truly implement the letter and the spirit of the law --- at least on the release of IRA.

But as we have seen, this milestone did not come easily. We have advocated, campaigned, haggled and negotiated hard to correct the entire government policy on IRA. And as we welcome this development, we are bracing ourselves for other issues that need to be resolved with dispatch to address local and national concerns.

This *Project 10.10.10* is one venue to thresh out unfinished business to enable us to improve local government services, strengthen central-local government relations, and encourage people's participation in governance.

We are optimistic that with a President that listens, and a DILG Secretary that understands us, this forum will jumpstart a renewed partnership with the national government for social transformation and economic reforms.

The *League of Provinces* - and the Secretary can attest to this - has always been in the forefront in seeking ways and means to uplift the quality of life

of our people. For the past years, we have consistently provided optimism for a meaningful anniversary celebration of the signing of the Code with stories of excellence and innovation in local governance. And these success stories only confirm our experience that only by promoting meaningful local autonomy can we achieve a balance and genuine countryside development; and build a strong base for sustained growth nationwide.

Project 10.10.10 should push for this truism, pursue policies that promote an enduring partnership between the central and local governments, and propagate the tenets of a more dynamic and responsive local governance.

We only need to remember that as a means, local autonomy allows LGUs and our people to respond effectively to rapid changes in our socio-political and economic development. And as an end in itself, local autonomy advances democratic ideas and sustains the momentum of People Power II to move our country ahead to the 21st century.

With this kind of framework, *Project 10.10.10* will have the full support of the league. And with this kind of purpose, it is bound to succeed.

MABUHAY PO KAYONG LAHAT!