



RDC adopts 2013-2016 Calabarzon directions

Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) adopted the Regional Development Plan 2011 to 2016 Midterm Update during the 4th Quarter RDC Full Council Meeting last November 21, 2013. After two years of implementing the RDP, the update aims to improve cohesion of all efforts by all sectors and chart development directions from 2013 to 2016 towards rapid and sustained inclusive growth in the region.

RDC Resolution No. IV-A-27-2013 approved the development goals and outcomes of Calabarzon until 2016. This was defined by 'PNoy's Social Contract with the Filipino People's and with the region's vision and development agenda of becoming a global economic and livable region.

The updated RDP is composed of 10 chapters discussing regional development goals, spatial strategy, and sectoral concerns. New additions to the midterm update included the following: interventions and strategies on the region's financial system; good governance and the rule of law and peace and security; and intensified strategies on economy, infrastructure, social development environment and natural resources.



Ms. Christine Joyce R. Betia of NEDA presenting the Calabarzon RDP (leftmost). Seated from L-R: OIC-ARD Fidel Udarbe of NEDA, SCMDA Co-Chairperson Mr. Eduardo Nicolas III, SCED Chairperson Mayor Arlene Arcillas of City of Sta. Rosa, OIC-RD Agnes Espinas of NEDA, SCSD Chairperson Mayor Girlie Ejercito of Pagsanjan and SCID Chairperson Mayor Strike Revilla of Bacoor City

The region targets an economic growth rate from 5.5 to 7.6 percent for the next three years. The IT business processing management, manufacturing, construction and logistics sectors will be among the fastest growth drivers in Calabarzon. The development prospects and opportunities identified in the region include the impact of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 to the major pipelined infrastructure projects and an increased government spending due to the anticipated 2016 national election as well as the consumption impetus brought about by the overseas Filipino-dependent families and the growing population and migration influx. Moreover, more aggressive measures will be taken to achieve regional unemployment rate within 8.6 to 9.4 percent and

underemployment rate below 17.5 percent until 2016. Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators, where the region [or country] has been performing poorly, will be strengthened along with the improvements of social safety nets to address poverty in the region amidst economic growth. Getting quality employment and reducing poverty is also included in the spatial dimensions of the RDP. The Midterm Update reinforced the center-corridor-wedges planning approach that will stimulate west-east and north-south development.

The performance and progress of the Plan's goals and outcomes, will be monitored and evaluated through the Results Matrix (RM).

CSTARS hosts 12th CES conference

The Calabarzon Southern Tagalog Association of Regional Executives (CSTARS) recently played host to the 12th Career Executive Service (CES) Conference held last November 27 – 29, 2013 at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. CSTARS is the organization of regional government executives in Region IV-A Calabarzon headed by Chapter President, DILG IV-A Regional Director Josefina E. Castilla-Go.

Themed "Fit @ 40! Renewing our Past, Leading the Future", the conference was attended by almost 1,000 Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) and Careers Executive Service Eligibles (CESEs) inductees from 14 Regional Chapters and six (6) Central Office Chapter. The annual event, which coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the CES, aims to keep alive the

ideals and purposes of CES; enhance the competencies of CESOs as public managers and leaders; promote and strengthen camaraderie between and among CESOs; provide a forum for discussion of issues and solutions concerning national interests; and implement projects that will contribute to the attainment of government goals.

Other activities, highlights and attractions during the conference aside from the induction of the CESEs include the following: Plenary Sessions; Testimonial Dinner/Gabi ng Parangal; CES Coffee Table Book Launching; Photo exhibit and

Wellness sessions; Simultaneous Competency Development Sessions; NUCESO General Assembly; and the Dinner and Fellowship Night.

(DILG IV-A Calabarzon)



CES Board Executive Director Atty. Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones (3rd from right) and NUCESO National President Mariano R. Alquiza (2nd from right) lead the ribbon-cutting for the opening of the exhibit during the 12th Annual CES Conference held on November 27 – 29, 2013 at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.



3rd GAD Convention strengthens local gender and development

The 3rd Calabarzon Gender and Development (GAD) Convention, with the theme “Localizing the Magna Carta of Women and Strengthening GAD Implementation in the Region,” was held on November 12-14, 2013 at Club Balai Isabel, Talisay, Batangas. The annual convention provided the 200 participants with up to date and relevant guide that promotes and advocates gender equality in the region. Participants who attended the convention were from the regional line agencies, state universities and colleges, and local government units within the region.

Talks on the differences of the concepts ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ and the implications of social constructs prepared the participants for the discussions during the convention. Other emerging issues and concerns that were discussed included how ICTs shape people; the importance of GAD statistics in data audit and mapping; impacts of disaster to GAD focused on gender-based violence; and strategies on enabling a peaceful environment. Other issues tackled include institutional mechanisms and initiatives such as the Guidelines on Localizing the Magna Carta of Women, the preparation of GAD plan, budget and accomplishment report, and the harmonized guidelines in the use of GAD fund.

One of the issues that surfaced during the forum is on securing regular position for the GAD focal point system and incentive mechanism. Meanwhile, there was also a sharing of the best practices and initiatives in the region such as Infanta, Quezon’s formulation of gender responsive revenue code, DLSU-Manila’s project management in GAD and the DENR’s Gender Responsive Environment and Natural Resources Enterprises kit. The event concluded with the launching of the Search for Outstanding GAD Implementers in Calabarzon. The search endeavored to further mainstream GAD initiatives to diverse sectors of development in the region.



Calabarzon RDC conducts 4th Quarter Full Council Meeting

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC IV-A) conducted its 4th Quarter 2013 Full Council Meeting last November 21, 2013 at the TESDA Women's Center, Taguig City. The meeting, with the theme "Rapid and Sustained Inclusive Growth", was presided by the RDC IV-A Acting Chairperson and NEDA IV-A OIC-Regional Director Agnes M. Espinas.

During the meeting, the Calabarzon Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2011-2016 Midterm Update was approved by the members of the Council. The Plan is composed of ten chapters, namely: (1) In Pursuit of Inclusive Growth; (2) Macroeconomic Policy; (3) Competitive Industry and Services Sector; (4) Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Sector; (5) Accelerating Infrastructure Development; (6) Towards a Resilient and Inclusive Financial System; (7) Good Governance and the Rule of Law; (8) Social Development; (9) Peace and Security; and (10) Conservation, Protection, and Rehabilitation of the Environment and Natural Resources. The Calabarzon RDP underwent a series of workshops and consultations with various stakeholders to ensure the integration of the different concerns across the region.

The RDC also confirmed the new set of officers and members of the Sectoral Committees (SecComs) for the term 2013-2016. This is the first time that the different Calabarzon RDC-SecComs will be chaired by local chief executives (LCEs). The Council expects that with the LCEs and the private sector representatives (PSRs) spearheading the activities and

meetings of the SecComs there will be a strengthening of the collaborative efforts between and among regional line agencies, local government units and private sector organizations.

The newly confirmed SecCom Chairpersons are the following: Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas of Sta. Rosa City; Mayor Girlie J. Ejercito of the League of Mayors and Pagsanjan, Laguna; Mayor Strike B. Revilla of Bacoor City; and Mayor Casimiro A. Ynares III of Antipolo City represented by PSR Eduardo R. Nicolas III of Employees Confederation of the Philippines-South Luzon. They have rendered their respective SecCom report which includes the different issues and concerns within the region. The Council approved the Calabarzon Regional Guidelines on the Utilization of the Energy Regulation Fund 1-94, the Food Safety Inter-agency Program and the creation of a Regional Task Force on the Amalgamation of SUCs in Calabarzon. The Technical Working Group on Coconut Scale Insect Infestation was also requested to convene to discuss the concern affecting the coconut industry.

The Calabarzon RDC-Sectoral Committee Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons:

Sectoral Committee on Economic Development (SCED)

Chairperson: Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas
City of Sta. Rosa
Co-Chairperson: Ms. Teresita M. Leabres
PCCI-South Luzon

Sectoral Committee on Infrastructure Development (SCID)

Chairperson: Mayor Strike B. Revilla
Bacoor City
Co-Chairperson: Engr. Ladislao L. Andal
PICE-Batangas

Sectoral Committee on Macroeconomy and Development Administration (SCMDA)

Chairperson: Mayor Casimiro A. Ynares III
Antipolo City
Co-Chairperson: Mr. Eduardo R. Nicolas III
ECOP-South Luzon

Sectoral Committee on Social Development (SCSD)

Chairperson: Mayor Girlie J. Ejercito
League of Mayors and Pagsanjan, Laguna
Co-Chairperson: Ms. Josephine C. Parilla
PATAMABA-WISE



L-R: SCMDA Co-Chairperson Mr. Eduardo Nicolas III, SCED Chairperson Mayor Arlene Arcillas of City of Sta. Rosa, SCSD Chairperson Mayor Girlie Ejercito of Pagsanjan, Laguna, and SCID Chairperson Mayor Strike Revilla of Bacoor City.

2013 Joint Regional Nutrition Awards held

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) conducted the 2013 Joint Nutrition Awarding Ceremony for the Calabarzon and Mimaropa regions on December 6, 2013. The event dubbed as "Ang Parangal" was held at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City. This annual awarding ceremony aims to recognize outstanding local government units (LGUs) that have successfully implemented their local nutrition programs. Prior to the awarding ceremony, nominees were evaluated by the Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team (RNET) composed of various regional line agencies. Apart from bestowing recogni-

tion to deserving LGUs, the ceremony also serve as an avenue for thanking the partners and friends who supports programs that ensures good nutrition of the people. Among those present during the awarding ceremony were the Local Chief Executives, with their Nutrition officers, as well as the Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) along with their Barangay Official partners. The RNETs of both regions were also represented during the ceremony. The following are the notable awards received by the cities and provinces in Calabarzon:

- Outstanding City in the Region – City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Regional Outstanding BNS – Ms. Cecilia G. Santos of Tagaytay City, Cavite

- Regional Outstanding Barangay – Brgy. Tagapo, City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Best Performing Municipality in the Region – Atimonan, Quezon
- Best Performing Province in the Region – Batangas, Province

Special awards were also given. These include the award for the first hospitals to establish a Functional Lactation Station, and for the cities and municipalities in the region with the lowest malnutrition prevalence. Similarly, recognition was also given to various organizations that continue to support the cause of nutrition, as well as to the RNET for their never ending commitment to the undertakings of the NNC.

1st Calabarzon Small Enterprise Conference held



Participants to the 1st Calabarzon Regional MSME Council conference. Seated are Mr. Rene Tongson, Officer-In-Charge of PCLEDO and the Alternate to the Regional MSME Council Chair, Regional Director of DTI-IV-A, Ms. Marilou Toledo, USEC, Zenaida C. Maligaya of DTI – RODG, Mr. Noly D. Guevarra Provincial Director DTI, Cavite Provincial Office.

Gov. Juanito Victor C. Remulla, Jr., Chairman of the Regional MSME Council, extended his full support by hosting the event. To give emphasis on the rationale and objectives of the conference, Regional Director of DTI IV-A, Ms. Marilou Toledo highlighted the issues and concerns in the operation of the councils, as well as the need for sharing of best practices and establishing networks/linkages with other business development providers. She also discussed the areas for MSME competitiveness.

Meanwhile, USEC Zenaida C. Maligaya of DTI-Regional Operations and Development Group (RODG) gave the keynote address and which responded to the participants' inquiries on SME-

To further promote and strengthen the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region, the 1st Calabarzon Regional MSME Development (MSMED) Council Conference was held last December 6, 2013 at the Cavite Provincial Capitol Building Ceremonial Hall. It was spearheaded by DTI IV-A and the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO).

With the theme 'Priming Calabarzon MSMEs for the ASEAN Economic Community 2015', the conference was attended by 120 participants from private and public sector members of the regional and provincial MSME councils.

related programs and concerns. Another important part of the program is the sharing of experiences on Provincial Council SMED operations and presentations of past initiatives facilitated by the DTI Provincial Directors and Provincial MSME Council Presidents. As one of the expected outputs of the conference, Mr. Rene Tongson, Officer-In-Charge of Provincial Cooperative Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO) and the Alternate to the Regional MSME Council Chair, led to pass the resolution to draft the Calabarzon Regional MSME Development Plan for 2014 -2016 which was moved and seconded by representatives from the province of Batangas and Quezon.

To page 12 please

Caviteños attend ICT training in South Korea

The Provincial Government of Cavite and the Jeollabuk-do Office of Education, Republic of Korea has been partnering in educational development for the past eight years.

Jeollabuk-do Office of Education have provided extensive ICT Training for Cavite Public School Teachers and donated numerous and various IT equipment.

Last October 10-23, 2013, the ninth batch of the trainees composed of 16 public elementary and high school teachers and four (4) staff members from the Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office (PICTO) flew to Korea in order to learn more about the ICT education being implemented in the country.

The participants were trained in using the software's Prezi, Lecture Maker, and as well as various other ICT Programs. These programs were used in the education system in Korea and can also be adopted in the Philippines. Trainees were also taught skills on Webpage Design, Basic Trouble Shooting, and Multimedia and Smart Education.

Aside from IT lectures, cultural exchanges also occurred through mini-workshops on food preparation of Bibimbap, handcrafting Korean Traditional Fan and observing Korean Traditional Wed-



Team leaders of the Cavite delegation with the Officials of Jeollabuk-do Office of Education, Republic of Korea headed by Mr. Kim Seung-hwan, Governor.

ding. The trainees also visited many cultural places such as the Korean National Heritages and the Hanok and Korean Folklore Villages of the old Jeoseon Dynasty in the now Jeonju City. The trainees also toured the Samsung Electronics and other ICT Companies in South Korea.

Mr. Kim Seung-hwan, Governor of Education, Jeollabuk-do, Korea met some representatives of the Province of Cavite headed by the team leaders, Mr. Silverio Carullo, Information Systems Analyst, PICTO and Ms. Elvira Ambagan, Principal II, Santiago National High School. During the meeting, the officials of Jeollabuk-do Office of Education renewed the friendship between South Korea and the Philippines.

Indeed, Jeollabuk-do Office of Education, Republic of Korea and the Provincial Government of Cavite, Republic of the Philippines set a partnership that transcends the history of the two countries and both are looking forward to a stronger relationship in the future.

(Rafael Dino T. Capacio)

PGL launches Oplan Hatid sa Pamilya

Since November 16, a number of personnel from the Public Affairs Office (PAO) and the Laguna Traffic Management Office (LTMO) were assigned to Villamor Airbase in Pasay City for a special mission.

The Provincial Government of Laguna (PGL) through the abovementioned offices launched the Oplan Hatid sa Pamilya “Libreng Sakay Para sa mga Taga Laguna” – a special program of PGL for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda. The survivors from

Visayas who have relatives in Laguna were assisted by PGL and are given free transportation upon their arrival at the airbase. Laguna is the first provincial government to offer such service.

In coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development Station at the Villamor Airbase and the Civil Affairs Office of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PGL was able to transport five families (20 persons) to City of Sta. Rosa; four families (14 persons) to San Pedro; two families (16 persons) to Biñan City; five families (30 persons) to Cabuyao City; one family (four persons) to Calamba City; one family (6 persons) to Calauan; two families (12 persons) to San Pablo City; two families (10 persons) to Sta. Cruz; and one family (2 persons) to Paete.

As of November 18, a total number of 23 families or 114 persons (68 adults and 46 children) have been reunited with their relatives in Laguna. Four (4) Emergency Response Vehicles are still on standby to transport incoming victims to their families to any part of Laguna.

The said service would not be possible without the initiative of the Laguna Governor George “E.R.” Ejercito Estregan and Pagsanjan Mayor and League of Municipalities-Laguna Chapter President Girlie “Maita” Ejercito.

(Shairadelle R. Bermudez/Edward C. Aquino)



Victims of typhoon Yolanda who have been assisted during the Oplan Hatid sa Pamilya

3 Laguna hospitals receive DOH Achievers Award 2012

Last November 4, Provincial Administrator Atty. Leonardo M. Ragaza, Jr., on behalf of Laguna Governor George “E.R.” Ejercito, announced that three Laguna Provincial Hospitals (LPHs) received the Achievers Award 2012.

The hospitals are LPH-Luisiana (formerly called Luisiana District Hospital), LPH-Nagcarlan (Nagcarlan District Hospital), and LPH-San Pablo City (San Pablo City District Hospital). They were awarded during the Newborn Screening Awarding Ceremony held at the Heritage Hotel Manila on October 29. The awarding ceremony was led by the Department of Health (DOH) and University of the Philippines Manila-National Institute of Health (UPM-NIH).

The Achievers Award was given to the hospitals for their exemplary performance in newborn screening which in turn will help improve the health of Filipino children through early detection within 24 hours from delivery of deficiencies that may lead to mental retardation and even death if left untreated. The award is granted to a hospital if 90-100 percent of babies born in it have undergone screening during the first 24 hours.

Though newborn screening is beneficial to ensure that a baby has no deficiency, it cannot be easily implemented especially in public hospitals. According to LPH-Luisiana Head Dra. Maria Eloisa Iñano, “it is really a challenge for a public hospital to have all babies screened after the delivery since screening is subject for payment unlike those in private hospitals.” In spite of this, three (3) out of nine (9) provincial hospitals in Laguna attained the award.

(Clarisse B. Reyes/Gerardo R. de Leon, MPA)



Governor E.R. Ejercito Estregan (center) poses with the awardees.

Calabarzon, a livable and globally competitive industrial region

Midterm Development Goals and Outcomes, 2013-2016

Maintain high, sustained and inclusive economic growth

GRDP growth rate targets within 5.5 to 7.6 percent from 2013 to 2016.

Improve provision of equal access to development opportunities

Maintain unemployment rate within 8.6 to 9.4 percent and underemployment rate below 17.5 percent until the end of the plan

Advance delivery of social safety nets

Intensify efforts to achieve MDG targets focused among lagging provinces and indicators with low probability of achievement



Opportunities

- Agribusiness, manufacturing and logistics
- IT-BPO and creative industries
- Diverse tourism, recreation, leisure facilities and infrastructure
- Completed major road infrastructures
- High convergence of population, high family income and presence of social service amenities
- Investment and consumption from OFW remittances

Challenges

Unstable economic growth due to economy to adverse external shocks

Inadequate capacity of the economy to handle the impacts of the ASEAN economic integration

Inadequate social services and high underemployment rates

Unmet and low probability of achieving MDG targets, particularly in education, health and environment

Inadequate infrastructures to facilitate economic growth

Development pressure to environmental degradation and increasing resiliency of communities

Upgrading and sustaining capacity of government services and promote good governance



Major Strategies and

The major strategic policies toward 2017-2022, are focused on enhancing the region's competitiveness, bridging labor supply and demand, narrowing socioeconomic disparity, and implementing the Calabarzon Development Agenda.

- Continuously enhance regional competitiveness as a business hub
- Build up adoption of knowledge and technology through exchange to spur innovation and growth efforts
- Enhance skills and human resource development by tying up human resource development and concerns
- Reduce socio-economic disparity

These strategies will be implemented through intensifying effort to harmonize regional development, maintaining ecological integrity, sustainability, and escalating multi-stakeholder partnership strategy.

Development Plan, 2011-2016

Regional Spatial Strategy

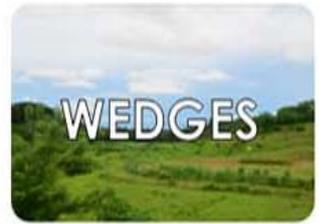
Clusters/Centers-Corridors-Wedges (CCW) Approach



Nucleus of economic activities with high population densities connected by built infrastructures and multimodal transportation system



Transportation arteries linking centers to centers serving as transit stations, interchange, established neighborhood or general corridor areas



Tracts of land between corridors, less dense population and limited housing and supporting facilities and services. Includes green corridor, protection and production areas.

Specific CCW Strategies:

Enhance roles as administrative and economic hubs for industrial activities, commerce, finance and services

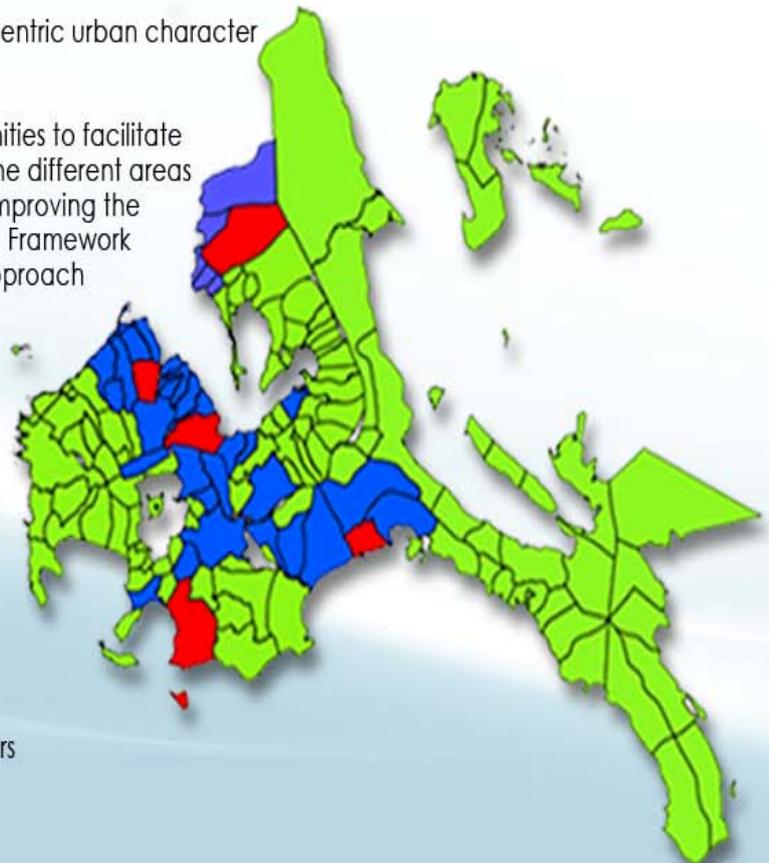
Develop functions of clusters along the existing major transport routes in the region

Group to form smaller, functional clusters to facilitate planning and implementation of programs and projects focused on agri-modernization and settlements development

Directs and stimulates development and growth from west to east and strengthens north-south development and access corridors

Reflects the polycentric urban character of the region

Provides opportunities to facilitate development in the different areas of the region by improving the Regional Physical Framework Plan 2004-2030 approach



■ Clusters/Centers
■ Corridors
■ Wedges

the vulnerability of the
ks

omic sectors to address
ic integration by 2015

h unemployment and

aving MDG targets by 2015
nd nutrition sectors

ate development across the region

ent and natural resources and
s to disaster and climate change

y of the public sector to deliver
nance and transparency

Approaches

inclusive growth, in the next three
ne regional economic
upply and demand gaps and
in the region as espoused in the

al competitiveness as a global

ge-based industries and information
and research and development

source capabilities in the region thru
velopment to industry, R&D priorities

arity

nd under the overarching concern of
onal development objectives while
staining local governance capacities
partnership through volunteerism

Batangas holds 1st PDRRM summit

The first Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (PDRRM) Summit was held last November 28 at the Provincial Auditorium, Capitol Compound, Batangas City. Batangas Governor Vilma Santos Recto, with the support of the Provincial Assistance for Community Development Office headed by Mr. Pedrito Martin M. Dijan, Jr., PDRRM Officer initiated the said summit.

Participants include the City/Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Officers, City/Municipal Budget Officers, City/Municipal Engineers, City/Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators, and members of the PDRRM Council. This initiative aimed to orient the participants regarding the importance of the following: investing for DRRM programs and projects; formulating DRRM Plans in their respective city/municipality; institutionalization of local DRRM office (LDRRMO) and proper utilization of local DRRM funds (LDRRMF) and allotment of budget for DRR-related programs.

Various national and regional line agencies and representatives of other sector such as education, security, and the media were invited to discuss and share their expertise on topics related to DRR/CCA.

Officer-in-Charge of NCR PAGASA Regional Services Division Dr. Esperanza Cayanan discussed Weather Hazards and PAGASA Warning System. In relation to this, the Department of Education-Batangas discussed about the Implementation of Suspension of Classes. On the other hand, Ms. Mabelline T. Cahulo-

gan, Senior Science Research Specialist/Geologist from Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) talked about volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. One of the highlights of her presentation was the historical destructive eruptions of Taal Volcano.

Municipalities were also encouraged to institutionalize their own LDRRMO through Dir. Vicente Tomazar, Chairman of Regional DRRMC and Executive Officer of the Office of Civil Defense IV-A. He emphasized the establishment of the said office in every province, city, and municipality as a requirement of Republic Act No. 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010). PDRRM Officer Mr. Dijan, on the other hand, recognized the importance of the said office as he also asked the municipalities to have their own. This is to better facilitate the DRR-related programs and projects and for easier coordination in the province especially on knowledge transfer and implementation of activities.

On the other hand, Provincial Director Noel Bartolabac, Department of Interior and Local Government – Batangas, discussed about “Pampamilyang Gabay sa Panahon ng Kalamidad (TaMaKa – Tahanang Maagap sa Kalamidad)”, a simple guide for families during times of calamities. PD Bartolabac mentioned that every family, being the basic unit of the community, must have such guide. In addition to his topic, he also talked about the Roles and Responsibilities of Local Chief Executives in the DRRM.

To page 11 please

BatStateU celebrates founding anniversary with Card. Rosales

To start the celebration of the University's 110th Founding Anniversary last September 16-21 and October 11, the BatStateU family led by Pres. Magnaye together with the senior officials held a floral offering to the bust of the late great Don Pablo Zamora Borbon at Main I Campus. His Eminence, Cardinal Gaudencio Borbon Rosales, his brother Gilbert, sister Teresita with husband Teddy Pastor, Eileen Borbon and Atty. Alyssa Borbon-Dimacuha graced the occasion.

In her speech, Dr. Magnaye profusely thanked the cardinal for the help he extended to her way back in 2006.

“Your Eminence, it has been seven (7) years since you gave me your invaluable support in my bid for the Presidency of the University. It has left an indelible mark in my mind and my heart. I could still recall as if it was only yesterday: when you told me I wasn't meant to go abroad to join my children and to work in the

United States, to work as a professor in one of the prestigious universities in Los Angeles; that it was my calling to lead Batangas State University. And now, my dear Cardinal, I am standing before you as the University President for seven (7) years and in memory of our Don Pablo Borbon, sharing with you the crucial struggle on the fight for principles. Once again, I thank you dear

Cardinal, thank you very much for being in the battle with me, thank you for the trust you bestowed on me. Through you, I gained the courage to really stand up for what is morally honorable in the name of God and just for the people of the province of Batangas.”

She then spoke about the Cardinal's family and the legacy of Gov. Pablo Borbon and reported to the members of the Borbon clan the accomplishments of the University under her administration.



To page 11 please

Rizal tops in human development program



For the fourth time, Rizal province received the “Gawad sa Makataong Pag-unlad” (Award for Human Development) during the 6th Gawads a Makataong Pag-unlad. During the same event, the 2012-2013 Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR) was also launched. The PHDR is given every three years by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in coordination with the Human Development Network (HDN) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

Rizal province has been the recipient of the prestigious award for the past four staging of the human development award since 1997. For each year there are specific themes, namely: Gender (1997), Education (2000), Employment (2002), Peace and Human Security (2005), and Institutions and Politics (2008/2009).

The HDR has advocated the use of concepts and indicators of human development as a center point in development policy-making and practice.

This year’s award is based on the 2008-2009 human development data for institutions and politics. The awardees include the provinces of Rizal, Benguet, Batanes, Cavite and Bulacan. HDN President Dr. Emmanuel de Dios, NSCB Secretary-General Dr. Jose Ramon Albert, and UNDP Country Director Toshihiro Tanaka presented the award for the Province of Rizal to Gov. Rebecca Ynares.

In the latest Philippine Human Development Report, Rizal province was included in the top three provinces with a 10.1 mean years of schooling for adults; registered a 6.31 real per capita purchasing power (considered as one of the highest); and landed in the top three provinces with the highest human development index (HDI) levels at 0.734.

Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares said that her administration will continue to develop the province’s human resources because its people are the greatest assets of her province. Her good governance is anchored on educated and globally competitive human resources.

(Rizal Province)

Quezon conducts disaster relief drive for Yolanda survivors

The onslaught of Super Typhon Yolanda, said to be the strongest typhoon on record, has devastated thousands of Filipinos in the Visayas region last November 8, 2013. In response to this, Quezon Governor David C. Suarez created a province-wide disaster relief drive dubbed "Oplan Make a Difference". The goal of the program is to collect and distribute donations and relief goods in the areas (Leyte and Samar) heavily affected by the said calamity.

Gov. Suarez implored his fellow Quezonians –including private organizations, business establishments, schools, hospitals, local government units and other entities – to donate relief goods to "Oplan Make a Difference" organized by the Provincial Government of Quezon. With the media mileage and the ready-assistance of the provincial government employees and other volunteers, Quezonians were encouraged to join the bundle drive and pitch in priority goods, basic necessities, medicines and other supplies at the Quezon Provincial Central Warehouse.

The province also deployed a team composed of doctors, nurses, and social workers – as well as skilled workers such as carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and heavy equipment operators to provide services to the relief victims and help rebuild communities.

(Quezon PIO)



Vietnam praises Quezon's organic agricultural programs

The organic agriculture program of Quezon Province impressed Vietnamese experts, as well as the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) officials at the International Conference on Advancing and Institutionalizing Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) held last September 25-26, 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Provincial Agriculturist Roberto Gajo, was invited by VECO Vietnam as a resource speaker in the said conference where he discussed the province's organic agriculture program under Serbisyonng Suarez for Agriculture, particularly Quezon Participatory Guarantee System (QPGS).

QPGS is a system composed of farmers and other multi-sectoral members who will serve as guarantors that the farm produce will comply with the standards for organic farming employing new technology and will pass the province's organic standard.

Quezon is the first LGU in the Philippines to implement PGS on a provincial scale, and according to Prov. Agriculturist Gajo, the success of the program is attributed to the formation of the Quezon Provincial Organic Agriculture Technical Committee (QPOATC) through Gov. David Suarez's Executive Order no.

32 s. 2010 – a directive which serves as the province's response to RA 10068, more commonly known as the Philippine Organic Agriculture Act.

Prov. Agriculturist Gajo also discussed the support services provided by their office. These services include the following: Quezon Organic Producers' Association (OK sa Quezon); Production and Market Support for farmers and merchants; and School-on-the-Air-Program on Organic Agriculture and other similar training-seminars. He also emphasized the importance of the local government's backing and encouragement, and added that a clear communication channel with private and public sectors is similarly pertinent, such as those between the UPLB Agricultural Systems Cluster, MASIPAG Organization, OK sa Quezon, and QPGS Committee.

IFOAM President Andre Leu from Chile said that Quezon is fortunate to have a leader like Gov. Suarez who has a heart for farmers and recognizes the importance of agricultural workers. *(OPA-Info. & Training Unit, Quezon PIO)*

RDC approves Calabarzon ER 1-94 regional guidelines

The Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) during the Fourth Quarter Full Council Meeting last November 21, 2013, approved the Proposed Calabarzon Energy Regulation (ER) 1-94 Regional Guidelines.

Prior to its approval, the guidelines were reviewed and endorsed to the RDC by the Sectoral Committees on Infrastructure

Development and Macroeconomy and Development Administration.

The Section 66 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 states the obligations of generation companies and energy resource developers to the host communities of providing energy generating facilities and/or energy resource developers, which include privately-owned corporations or entities

resource and/or the energy-generating facility. The host LGUs and regions are entitled to benefits from the energy resource developer and/or power producer broken down into the following: Barangay (25%), Municipality (35%), Province (30%) and Region (10%).

In the region, projects to be funded by the ER regional share are Development and Livelihood Projects and Reforestation Watershed Management and Environment Enhancement Projects. This also includes DRR/CCA projects. The implementing agencies/entities are the regional line agencies, RDC, state universities and colleges, and the non-host poor municipalities.

The RDC, through NEDA IV-A as the RDC Secretariat, shall serve as the executing agency of the Regional ER 1-94 Share. Implementation shall be undertaken by the concerned implementing agency/entity through a Memorandum of Agreement with the RDC, while an inter-agency group shall assist the implementing agency in developing project proposal(s).



Mr. Valter L. Morada of NEDA Calabarzon presenting the proposed Calabarzon ER 1-94 before the members of the Sectoral Committee on Macroeconomy and Development Administration held at the DILG IV-A Conference Room on November 6, 2013.

utilizing the national wealth of the locality. To operationalize this, DOE issued ER 1-94 for energy developers/producers to provide direct benefits to the province, city or municipality, especially to the community and the people affected. ER 1-94 also states the provision of equitable and preferential benefit to the region that hosts the energy

BatStateU... from page 8

Engr. Gilbert B. Rosales, a chemical engineer and a businessman and , said “We hope the next President will be like Dr. Magnaye. A leader can provide the path to good governance and the moral leadership and the administrative talent, but the work would have to be done by all of you as a team.” He also thanked the BatStateU family for the continuous honor and respect given to his grandfather. His Eminence Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales also gave a very inspiring message to the crowd of leaders. Here is an excerpt of his message:

When a leader loses his vision, the people will scatter.”- Proverbs 29:18

“God institutes that something has to pass through difficult moments, almost discouraging moments, almost hopeless moments..Thank God that when they were having this difficulty I returned from Mindanao. When I came back here, I kept hearing about what was already bedeviling this institute. They brought to me documents, by the kilos, I read through

them, and said if only one half of this is true, then this is serious. When I heard the group of Nora and Tirso here who were concerned, I said I would take a stake also in this. The school was after all named in honor of our grandfather. And so I made recommendations here and there, contacted this and that, and I said I’m going for good leadership. Make someone a good person, and only then can he be a good someone, only then can he be a good politician, engineer or doctor. Virtues and values are important, if you make a good person --- honest, true, loyal to his God, loyal to his conscience and with values, you can make a good engineer, you can make a good politician... We must develop the heart. In the heart is where the values are. I’m happy that the people who stand in leadership in this University are people with values. Stick to those values and the moment you transfer these to your students, then you are in the right path.”

The seven-day celebration saw the holding of the following events: Cultural Competitions, Search for Mr. and Ms. BatStateU 2013, Intramurals, Students’ Fair, Students’ Night, College of Law Day, Graduate School Day and the Awards and Recognition Night. (BatStateU)

Batangas... from page 8

PSInsp. Joel L. Alvarez, Officer-In-Charge, Provincial Operations and Plans Branch of Batangas Police Provincial Office also discussed the readiness of PNP in man-made and natural events. He talked about their Disaster Preparedness Plan known as “Sagip”. Other topics that were covered in the summit include on the following: Landslide Affected Areas in the province by Provincial Engineer Nerio L. Ronquillo, Jr., How to mainstream DRR CCA into CLUP by Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Benjamin I. Bausas; and Allocation and Utilization of LDRRM Fund by Provincial Budget Officer Victoria B. Culiati.

There was also a presentation about Media Participation in Balanced Reporting of Events made by Mr. Arnel Ozaeta, President of Batangas Newswriters’ Association and Reporter from ABS-CBN. Meanwhile, an audio-visual presentation was also made by PACD to show to the contents of an LDRRM template. (Batangas Province)

Ondoy never again!

The rehabilitation of the Upper Marikina River Basin

Ondoy, never again! This is the battle cry after Typhoon Ondoy wrought havoc in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal and Laguna in September, 2009. Typhoon Ondoy left at least 73 persons dead, displaced nearly 70,000 families, and brought about immense damage to structures and properties. The Ondoy devastation was caused by an unusually high level of precipitation. The heavy rains it dumped were aggravated by the situation of the forests in the adjacent mountain range which could have prevented the rush of the waters to the lowlands. The deforestation, nay destruction, of the Sierra Madre range was blamed as one of the major reasons for the Ondoy disaster.

Sierra Madre, the longest mountain range in the country, serves as Luzon's protection from typhoons coming from the east or the Pacific Ocean. But its effectiveness has been greatly diminished. Its sorry state is brought about by uncontrolled logging, slash-and-burn farming, and mining and quarrying. The continued destruction of the then biodiversity-rich forest will result in more devastating floods if nothing will be done for its protection and rehabilitation.

The Marikina River Basin or Marikina Watershed is part of the Sierra Madre range. With an area of 67,409 hectares, it is in the northeastern part of the Rizal province. Due to its proximity to the urban Metro Manila area, it has seen better days. Its namesake city, Marikina City, was the most devastated by Ondoy. In clamor for the Sierra Madre's or the Ma-

rikina watershed's protection and rehabilitation made President Benigno S. Aquino III, upon the recommendation of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ramon J. P. Paje, issued the Presidential Proclamation No. 296 last November 24, 2011. The said proclamation declared the Marikina Watershed Reservation, situated in the City of Antipolo and in the Municipalities of Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Tanay, all in the province of Rizal, as Protected Area pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992, known as the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape or the UMRBPL.

The UMRBPL covers an area of 26,125.64 hectares in Barangays Calawis, San Jose and San Juan in Antipolo City, Barangay Pinugay in the Municipality of Baras, Barangays Mascap, Puray and San Rafael in Rodriguez, Barangay PintongBocau in San Mateo, and Barangay Cuyambay in Tanay, all in the Province of Rizal.

PAMB Chairman, DENR CALABARZON Regional Executive Director (RED) Reynulfo Juan pushed for the preparation of a comprehensive management plan for the UMRBPL. This plan has been presented to the Secretary, and has been approved for implementation. The same was prepared to serve as an indicative planning document and roadmap that would identify the roles of stakeholders, as well as the tasks to be undertaken to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and sustainably manage the protected area.

President PNoy wanted to bring back the forest to its best state. He recognized the importance of healthy forests in the prevention of floods. While banning logging in natural forests by issuing Executive Order No. 23, he also issued Executive Order No. 26, launching the National Greening Program (NGP). The NGP aimed to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares of degraded public forestlands to hasten forest rehabilitation, and involve the local community in the rehabilitation while dissuading them from undertaking activities which could degrade the forest or social fencing.

The NGP implementation in CALABARZON region reports a total of 5,903 hectares rehabilitated with 3,581,500 seedlings planted in 2011, and 10,140.51 hectares with 5,906,275 seedlings in 2012. Geotagging of the planted areas is currently being undertaken.

Geotagging will also be done in the 22,326-hectare area targeted for rehabilitation, with 11,163,000 seedlings this year. Survey, mapping and planning, preparation for planting, securing of seedlings, and mobilization of volunteer planters have been assured for the planting activities which started at the onset of rain in May, 2013.

NGP target for the whole Province of Rizal is 8,300 hectares. Specifically for the UMRBPL, a total of 1,200 hectares will be planted with 600,000 seedlings.

1st Calabarzon... from page 4

The conference is backed by Republic Act 6977 or the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises. RA 6977, enacted in 1991, laid down the legal basis for a comprehensive approach to promote, develop and assist small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines.

To further the develop the potential of micro enterprises to foster economic growth and employment generation and provide a self-sufficient industrial foundation for the country, Republic Act 9501 or the Magna Carta for MSMEs was then passed on 23 May 2008. The law amended RA 6977 and expanded its coverage to include the promotion, development and assistance of micro enterprises in the Philippines.

Under the Act's Guiding Principles on Decentralization --- "The State shall accelerate the decentralization process by establishing regional and provincial offices in order to enhance and attain greater efficiency in the provision of services to the countryside. DTI, then, organized Regional/Provincial Small and Medium Enterprise Development (R/PMSMED) Councils.

(Liza C. Gabatan)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor:	Dir. Agnes M. Espinas
Managing Editor:	ARD Fidel T. Udarbe
Consultant:	Aletheia G. Canubas
Sector Editors:	Agnes A. Daantos, Valter L. Morada, Marcelo Cesar R. Palacio, Christine Joyce R. Betia
NEDA Contributors:	Luningning D. Llames, Alvin Caesar V. Olanday, Nelson J. Aman, Jr., Kathleen DC. Melendrez, Christine Joyce R. Betia
Layout Artist:	Kathleen DC. Melendrez Alvin Caesar V. Olanday

Published by
Regional Development Council IV-A (Calabarzon)
NEDA4A, 4/F Marcelita Bldg., Brgy. Real, National Highway,
Calamba City, Laguna, Philippines

Contact Details
Tel. No. (049) 545 77 56 / (049) 545 00 91
E-mail address: rdc.calabarzon@yahoo.com
Website: <http://calabarzon.neda.gov.ph>

