

BICOL LGRRRC: LEAPING FORWARD TO SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Year 2013 has been a promising period for DILG Bicol LGRRRC. After having been evaluated as the best among the 17 LGRRRCs in the country in 2012, the Bicol LGRRRC team exerted more efforts towards achieving its vision. The team focused on sustainability through capacity building and pioneering innovations geared towards promoting excellence in local governance. These were all made possible through forging partnerships, proper collaboration and constant linkage and networking with various government agencies, academe, local resource institutions and private sectors.

In achieving its main goal of empowering communities, Bicol LGRRRC implemented both the regular LGRC programs under the supervision of the Local Government Academy and the special projects conceptualized by the team. Pioneering innovations in partnership with the Multi Stakeholders Advisory Committee (MSAC) members and in network with other agencies have been conducted to a greater extent all throughout the year.

ON PIONEERING PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

The Establishment of Websites for Bicol LGUs

The most notable among the special projects of the Bicol LGRRRC is the Establishment of Websites for Bicol LGUs. This pioneering innovation, which was conceptualized in June 2013, aimed at promoting transparency and boosting local tourism through the creation of websites by the LGUs themselves with a very minimal cost. The project is in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communications Technology Office (DOST-ICTO) in Quezon City through its iPhilGov project and in partnership with the MSAC members, Bicol University Information Management Office (BU-IMO) and AMA Computer College (AMACC).

The project was categorized in five (5) phases, namely: 1) Assessment, 2) Planning Orientation, 3) Content Build Up, 4) Website Development, and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation. The Assessment of the capacity of the local governments on IT readiness was conducted to all the 120 LGUs during the whole month of July. Based on the assessment, it was found out that only 20 or 16% of

the 120 LGUs have functional websites maintained mostly and hosted by private entities. As a result of the assessment, a Two-Day Planning Orientation for all the LGUs was conducted last July 29-30 to introduce the website project complying with AO 39 and the guidelines on government website preparation. The outputs of the activity were the website designs, rules and processes to adopt in the management of the websites and action plans of the 94 LGUs that participated in.

What makes up a website is very important that content preparation was given focus through a Five-Day Training on Online Content Writing, Videography and Photography for Upload last September 16-20 participated in by 58 LGUs. LGU content producers and web administrators were able to enhance their skills on writing articles for online upload, taking quality photos and producing videos.

After more than a month of content preparation and production, the actual Training on Website Development was conducted last November 4-8 and December 2-6. With this, 26 LGU websites were created, now undergoing some finishing touches and ready to go live by January 2014. With this development, additional activities on website project will be undertaken in 2014.

Online Reporting of DILG Field Offices Using Google Drive

In support of this project, DILG LGRRRC conducted Hands-On Training on online Reporting and Monitoring using Google Drive last December 13. This was attended by the DILG program focal persons, the provincial program managers and the cluster heads.

Special Capacity Building for Local Officials

In partnership with Leaders Consultancy, Association of Local Budget Officers of Region V (ALBOREV) and ANM-DRRM, DILG LGRRRC conducted a Training on Social Transformation for Environmental Protection (STEP) Towards Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Implementation and Compliance of Barangays last March 18 to July 24. A total of 4,142 C/M/BDRRM members from 1,267 cities and municipalities participated in the 5 month long activity. A total of 2,496 ESWM Action Plans and BDRRM Plans were drafted and ready for adoption and approval by the concerned Sanggunian.

As part of the program for Newly Elected Officials (NEO), the DILG LGRRC in partnership with MSAC member, Leaders Consultancy, conducted Training on Enhancing Capacities of Sanggunian Members on Parliamentary and Internal Rules of Procedures and Administrative Investigation last August 14-16, 28-30, September 2-4 and 9-11. A total of 435 P/C/M Sanggunian member and secretaries attended the said activity.

Enrolment to the AVID Program of the Australian Government

To enhance the IT systems in the local governments more particularly on financial database and management, the DILG LGRRC took the lead in enrolling in the Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) of the AUSAID. The regional management particularly requested for an Australian volunteer, an IT expert, who will develop a system and train LGUs' technical personnel in its operations. During the 1st semester, DILG submitted various documents to DevConcepts, NGO managing the deployment of Australian volunteers in the Philippines. The request was granted and by 2014, the program on E-tracts in the LGUs will commence.

ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union and the Local Government Academy played a major role in the full development of Bicol LGRRC through its project Strengthening LGRCs in the Philippines. The last phase of this project focused both on capacity building and infrastructure support which greatly helped Bicol LGRRC achieved more links and attained sustainability. With the assistance of the European Union and Local Government Academy, DILG Bicol LGRRC implemented several projects geared towards capacitating both the DILG and the LGU personnel. The Center has expanded its operations in the province to bring the LGRC core services closer to the local governments. Likewise, partnership with the MSAC members has been continuously maintained through the implementation of various activities.

Based on the Work Plan, Bicol LGRRC allocated an amount of Nine Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 928,250.00) for the purchase of equipment and the conduct of capacity development activities. Of

this amount, Seventy Five Thousand (Php 75,000.00) released in February 2013 and Seven Hundred Ninety Five Thousand (Php 795,000.00) released in April 2013, a total of Eight Hundred Seventy Thousand (Php 870,000.00), came from LGA. Of this amount, a total of Seven Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Nine Pesos and Fifty Cents (Php 738,409.50) were expended for the various activities and equipment under the project.

Starting last February 2013 until August 2013, these were the activities conducted as financed by the Project with counterpart funding from the regional office:

Program/Activity	Date and Venue	Output
Writershop on the Formulation of the DILG-LGRRRC Manual of Operations attended by LGRRRC members, LGRC provincial focal persons and MSAC members	February 18-20, 2013 Jennifer's Kababayan Hotel, Legazpi City	Draft DILG-LGRRRC Manual of Operations
Onsite Coaching on ILMS by the LGNRC librarian to the LGRRRC librarian and website administrator	April 16-17, 2013 LGRRRC Library, DILG Regional Office, Legazpi City	Reclassification and reaccesioning of KPs
Establishment of Sub-Regional LGRC in Catanduanes cum LGRRRC Team Development Activity attended by DILG officers and prospective MSAC members	April 30, 2013 Rakdell Inn, Virac, Catanduanes Puraran Beach, Baras, Catanduanes	Sub-regional LGRC established and MSAC Catanduanes organized
LGRRRC Evaluation and MSAC Coordination Meeting attended by LGRRRC team and MSAC members	July 26, 2013 DILG LGRRRC Training Hall, Legazpi City	Bicol LGRRRC evaluated MSAC regular meeting conducted
Purchase of Equipment for regional LGRC and sub-regional LGRC in Catanduanes	July – August, 2013	New equipment for the LGRRRC and the sub-regional LGRC

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