

## **LMP's Initiative to Pursue National Policy on SUD: Taken Up in Bohol Province Donors Forum**

The Philippine Development Forum (PDF) Working Group on Decentralization and Local Government in partnership with the Philippines-Australia Local Governance Development Program invited the **League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to present the Sustainable Upland Development Model and its proposal to undertake in 2007-2010 the nationwide replication of the SUD Model and the national policy support on SUD.** This invitation was in line with the **Forum on Enhancing Coordination and Management of ODA by Local Government Units.** The Forum was held at the Bohol Tropics Resort in Tagbilaran City last 23 November 2006.

The presentations were delivered by Hon. Givel Mamaril, Municipal Mayor of Malalag, Davao del Sur who is the LMP's spokesperson on Sustainable Upland Development and by Mr. Elmer Mercado, Policy Advisor to the Upland Development Programme in Southern Mindanao (UDP).

The LMP-UDP presentations took place after the Bohol experience sharing which was followed by the Dialogue on Coordination and Management of ODA at the Local Level. The Bohol presentations included the following:

“Sharing of Bohol’s ODA Experience”	by Gov. Erico Aumentado;
“Managing ODA at the Municipal Level”	by Mayor Josephine Jumamoy;
“Private & Public Sector Engagement in Bohol”	by Ms. Linda Paredes

The Dialogue on Coordination and Management of ODA at the Local level was with Mr. Austere A. Panadero, Asst. Secretary of DILG and Lead Convener of the Working Group on Decentralization and Local Government.

Taking note that the PDF thru its working groups is the “primary mechanism of the Government for facilitating substantive policy dialogue among stakeholders on the country’s development agenda”, the LMP-UDP presentors – Mamaril and Mercado emphasized the realities in the uplands, the SUD Model, and the LMP’s proposal to undertake a 3-year nationwide replication of the developed SUD model as well as the strategy to pursue the national policy on sustainable upland development. Moreover, the two presenters highlighted the fact that while ODA has been focused on the more popular areas because of their eco-tourism attractions, it is about time that the donor community take seriously the implications of investing and helping the uplands along their countries’ mission to help eradicate extreme poverty and address environmental security.

During the Dialogue on Coordination and Management of ODA, LMP’s Executive Director Ms. Li-Ann de Leon inquired on how the Working Group on Decentralization and Local Government may address the lack of information among local governments on ODA and suggested that thru its Mayors Development Center, the LMP can contribute a lot to ODA information dissemination to the LMP membership nationwide.

In attendance to this Forum were representatives from the donor community (JICA/JBIC/AUSAID/ADB/GTZ/EU/The German and Australian Embassies); national agencies (DILG/NEDA/DBM/MEDCO-ARMM) and the four local government leagues, namely: League of Provinces/League of Cities/League of Municipalities and the Liga ng mga Barangay). Bohol province donors and ngo networks were also in attendance to this forum.