



September 2017 Issue

13 Facts about Martial Law

The Caucus of Development NGOs (CODE-NGO) conducted its online forum entitled “Martial Law: Good or Bad?” last September 18, 2017 so that we will never forget about the atrocities of this dark segment in our history when Ferdinand Marcos declared it on September 21, 1972. The online session also aimed to respond to questions about the Martial Law declared in the entire Mindanao last May 23, 2017. Alternative Law Groups (ALG) National Coordinator Atty. Marlon Manuel was our resource person for the session.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/13-facts-martial-law/>

Newly elected UN Civil Society Advisory Committee (UNCSAC) members

Mariefe Del Mundo

The United Nations – Civil Society Assembly (UN-CSA) convened last July 27 – 29, 2017 in Quezon City. The UN-CSA is a consultative mechanism set up by the UN country team for CSOs to interact with UN bodies in the Philippines. The assembly reviewed its initiatives for the past 3 years, particularly on engaging in the Sustainable Development Goals processes at the global, regional and national levels. They also formulated recommendations to UN’s ongoing review of their Development Assistance Framework and country programme, as well as formulated their UNCSA cluster action plans.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/newly-elected-un-civil-society-advisory-committee-unacsac-members/>

Public Mobilization Activities for 2nd Anniversary of SDGs

To commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the adoption by 193 countries of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on September 25, the Action for Sustainable Development (www.action4sd.org), the SDG advocacy platform, invites civil society organizations to join the public mobilization events being organized by CSOs worldwide. This is to “take actions to raise awareness for the goals and speak up for civil society’s fundamental role in delivering the agenda”.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/public-mobilization-activities-2nd-anniversary-sdgs/>

New PH-OGP Non-Government Steering Committee Members

Mariefe Del Mundo

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Civil Society Conference with the theme “The Future of Civil Society and Local Stakeholder Engagement in the Philippine OGP” was conducted last August 14, 2017 in Manila. In the conference, there were sharing of experiences on localizing open government initiatives such as I-budget Natin of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and Pacific (ANSA-EAP) and Open Legislation of Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) as CSOs’ contributions to OGP.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/new-ph-ogp-non-government-steering-committee-members/>

CENVISNET Conducts CSO Networking, Advocacy, and Constructive Engagement Workshop

Mikee Pepito

Creating social awareness and influencing government policies and priorities have always been part of social development work. For the past years, civil society organizations (CSOs) have been supporting different causes and relevant issues to change “what is” into “what should be”. It is evident that advocacy work can be strenuous at times and will always be a challenge for many CSOs. Hence, it is deemed necessary for CSOs to be equipped with the skills to effectively advocate and mobilize, and to constructively engage with government and other stakeholders.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/cenvisnet-conducts-cso-networking-advocacy-constructive-engagement-workshop/>

Elmar of MISEREOR Visits PANGOPOD – a member network of CBD

Jesica Capricho

“How do CSOs (civil society organizations) in the Bicol Region engage the LGU (local government unit) and other agencies? Is there a change in the system and opportunity for the CSOs to participate in this new administration? How do CSOs adopt to and/or surpass any challenges?”. These are among the questions that Mr. Elmar Noe of MISEREOR asked the members of Provincial Alliance of NGOs and POs for Development, Inc. (PANGOPOD) during his visit to Sorsogon Province as assisted by the Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD) Strengthening-Decentralized Governance (S-DG) Project staff Mr. Ronel Obar and Ms. Jesica Capricho, with Ms. Aurora Chavez of PANGOPOD and Mr. Sandino Soliman of CODE-NGO last May 12, 2017.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/elmar-misereor-visits-pangopod-member-network-cbd/>

Using the EO on FOI to Monitor PRRD'S Key Promises

Hennesy Ozawa

Using the Executive Order on Freedom of Information (EO on FOI) to Monitor President Rodrigo R. Duterte's Key Promises is a 12-month project funded by National Endowment for Democracy (NED). Its overall objective are: to strengthen CSO's (civil society organization) capacity to engage in participatory governance, hold government accountable and help ensure that government programs achieve the desired results and to test the efficacy of the 2016 Executive Order on Freedom of Information in enabling CSOs to access information.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/using-eo-foi-monitor-prrds-key-promises/>

BLAST DRRM Kicks off Module Development for Localized Community-Based DRRM Training

John Joel de Guzman

In the recently concluded Module Writeshop for the joint project with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA) entitled “**B**lended **L**earning **A**pproach to **S**trenghen Disaster Risk Reduction and Management” or BLAST DRRM, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management champion organizations participated in a 3-day workshop that aimed to identify the needed capacity building interventions for civil society organizations (CSOs).

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/blast-drrm-kicks-off-module-development-localized-community-based-drrm-training/>

Why we need a framework on urban disaster preparedness, response and resilience

The Financial Enablers (FE) Project is an initiative under the Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Program of the DFID-UK, and the START Network, made up of the biggest international NGOs involved in humanitarian emergency response. In the Philippines, the FE Project is led by Oxfam, in partnership with Christian Aid and Tear Fund. The project “Urban Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience (UDPRR) in the Greater Manila Region”, under the FE Project, is implemented by a consortium composed of nine NGO members—five technical resource group members and four area-based partners—with ALTERPLAN as the consortium lead, and PHILSSA as the consortium secretariat. They banded together to integrate the experience and lessons of the project partners into a framework and strategy paper for Urban Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/need-framework-urban-disaster-preparedness-response-resilience/>

Enhancing the Productive and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Capacities of Rural Women

Germaine de Ruña

Last July 24, 2017, the Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA) – Luzon Secretariat held a final public conference for the closing of its UNDEF supported project entitled, “Enhancing the Productive and Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) Capacities of Rural Women in Luzon, Philippines” at Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City. PhilDHRRA Luzon gathered the assisted community members, people’s organizations, LGU (local government unit) officials, and implementing partners who supported and contributed to the project’s success. Representatives from the Philippine Commission on Women, Foundation for the Philippine Environment, and AsiaDHRRA also attended the said conference. In the event, project officers from each area presented the project’s outputs during its 2-year run. Likewise, various stakeholders shared their learnings and experiences as well as expressed their gratitude for the intervention.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/enhancing-productive-disaster-risk-reduction-management-capacities-rural-women/>

Muti-Sectoral Efforts to Respond to Child-Protection Issues on War against Drugs, Disaster and Armed Conflict

Marian Opeña

The National Council for Social Development (NCSD) conducted a Forum at its Mid-Year Assembly last July 26, 2017 at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. It aimed for members to learn from each other, discuss concerns and create synergies necessary to upgrade the network’s perspectives and collective action in protecting children and engaging them to heighten their ability to respond to challenges.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/muti-sectoral-efforts-respond-child-protection-issues-war-drugs-disaster-armed-conflict/>

WeVNet, CPU to work as partners for knowledge hub

Ted Aldwin E. Ong

The Western Visayas Network for Social Development NGOs (WeVNet) has taken active role to promote knowledge sharing between civil society and the academe for open government.

In the project: “Making All Voices Count: Universities and Knowledge Partnership for Open Government,” Central Philippine University (CPU) has reached out to civil society organizations in Iloilo in order to develop partnerships aimed to build on from the gains attained by the two sectors of society in promoting social accountability and open government.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/wevnet-cpu-work-partners-knowledge-hub/>

Knowledge Products from the Citizen’s Monitoring of LGU Performance Project

The Citizens’ Participation in Monitoring Local Government Units’ (LGUs’) Performance and Planning and Development for Poverty Reduction (CML) project supported by the European Union (EU) which ended in late 2016 has produced two knowledge products that documented lessons and good practices, *Strength in Unity* and *Addressing Concerns, Overcoming Challenges*. For 4 years, the project sought “to enable the participating civil society organizations (CSOs) to be far better than they were before not only in terms of knowing how to properly assess, plan and develop their poverty reduction and development agenda, but also how to advocate and effectively influence their local government officials so that they will listen, negotiate and act on reducing poverty in their areas”. CODE-NGO partnered with the Eastern Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (EVNET), the Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs (WEVNET) and the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE) for this project.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/knowledge-products-citizens-monitoring-lgu-performance-project/>

PBSP pays tribute to one of its founders and longest-serving officer

With such an illustrious career in business, government and social development, Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr. has indeed become many things to different people.

In the Bureau of Internal Revenue, he was regarded as an upright Commissioner who enforced strict discipline and eliminated corruption during his term. When he was the Philippine Ambassador to Germany, he strived to improve the country’s image. He was also a sought-after businessman who became director of 40 companies.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/pbsp-pays-tribute-one-founders-longest-serving-officer/>

Building Partnerships and CSO Networks: Care, Trust and Respect

Sixto Donato C. Macasaet

Building and sustaining networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) is really about building partnerships. Much like the relationship between business partners and life partners, the relationship among CSOs in a network is founded on mutual support and equality. Partners are equals who help each other. We can learn how to build and strengthen CSO networks by reflecting on our partnerships. We can readily see three key elements of strong partnerships.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/building-partnerships-cso-networks-care-trust-respect/>

Reflections on My CODE-NGO Internship

Nicolo Bongolan

Working at CODE-NGO for more than two months has broadened my horizons towards understanding both the outer structures and the inner functions of civil society organizations and how they collaborate with the Philippine governance. By further looking at the significance of these organizations within the scope of our politics, it has added knowledge on how our country mobilizes towards different issues, advocacies, and projects worked upon by both state and society. With this, it comes to show that these groups, especially the member networks of CODE-NGO, are not oriented towards their personal advocacies but for the improvement of the Filipino quality of life.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2017/09/reflections-code-ngo-internship/>

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The Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) is the country's largest coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs) working for social development, with its 6 national networks and 6 regional networks representing more than 1,600 development NGOs, people's organizations (POs) and cooperatives nationwide. It is the trusted national voice of CSOs and it exercises transformative leadership.

Our mailing address is:

146-B B. Gonzales St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines

We are interested to hear about social development initiatives of non-profit organizations from all over the Philippines. If you are willing to share your news or resources through the CODE-NGO e-News, we invite you to submit your contributions to caucus@code-ngo.org. Materials should not be more than 1MB and can be in Open Office, MS Word or PDF format. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the CODE-NGO e-News, or for any comments, e-mail us at caucus@code-ngo.org.