Documentation

Contents

Dates and Venue of Main Events: August 15 to November 13, 2015

Activities:
(See Annex 1 for SDC2015 Over-all Program)

Build up Events/Forums on CSO Reform Agenda – August 15 to October 7 2015

Prior to the SDC2015 in Cebu, the member networks of CODE-NGO organized information sessions and consultations to prepare for the SDC2015 conversations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our ongoing assessment of the government's performance viz its Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and an assessment of how far the country has gone since a broad cross-section of CSOs presented its Development and Reform Agenda (DRA) 2010-13 and 2013-16 to the current administration. The review of these documents served as an anchor for formulating the 'CSO Reform Agenda 2016-19', a set of recommendations for a few critical actions that the next administration should take to sustain the reforms toward inclusive development.

The build-up sessions were co-organized with CODE-NGO member networks in the following 7 Regions: NCR, CAR, R5, R6, R7, R8 and CARAGA in Mindanao.

The consultations basically focused on validating and getting the comments, suggestions and clarifications of the participants from various CSOs on the draft CSO Reform Agenda. The themes covered were the following:

I.   Ensuring Empowerment, Democratization and Good Governance
    A. Transparent and Merit-based Appointment and Civil Service Reform
    B. Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Government Accountability
    C. People's Participation
    D. Constitutional Reform and Federalism
II.   Reducing Poverty and Inequality
    A. Asset Reform
        1. Agrarian Reform
        2. Fisheries
        3. Housing
        4. Ancestral Domain
    B. Social Safety Nets for the Poorest of the Poor
    C. Social Services
        1. Health
        2. Education
        3. Population Policy
        4. Effective Coordination of Anti-Poverty Programs
III.   Building Peace
IV.   Promoting a Sustainable Economy
    A. Environment

B. Strengthen the Local Economy
C. Sustainable Agriculture and Agri-Processing
D. Regulation of Public Utilities
E. Fiscal and Tax Reform

Annexes 2a to 2b were the documentations of these consultations.

From the results of these consultations, CODE-NGO consolidated and updated its initial draft of the 'CSO Reform Agenda for 2016-19', sent this to Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and invited them to a dialogue last November 12 at the SDC2015 in Cebu City for their feedback and to know more about their campaign platform.

CODE-NGO and many other civil society organizations (CSOs) crafted a Development and Reform Agenda based on four pillars:(a) Ensuring Empowerment and Democratization, (b) Reducing Poverty and Inequality, (c) Building Peace and (d) Promoting Sustainable Economic Development and Environmental Protection. This agenda identified "a few vital actions that the next Administration should implement... in order to decisively move the country towards democratization and development".

The process of crafting the DRA involves: 1) Review of the status of actions on the previous DRA, 2) CSO Review of the Philippine Dev Plan for 2011-2016, 3) 7 regional CSO consultations in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, plus consultations / discussions with various CSOs, and considered the Sustainable Development Goals.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DRA
I) Ensuring Empowerment, Democratization and Good Governance Transparency, Anti-Corruption and Government Accountability
Practice enhanced transparency by requiring all the national government agencies, GOCCs and LGUs to issue and enforce policies on public disclosure and citizens' access to information.

People's Participation
Improve and institutionalize the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) Process, Budget Partnership Agreements (BPAs) and Citizens' Participatory Audit.

II) Reducing Poverty and Inequality
Agrarian Reform
Fast-track the transfer / distribution of lands covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) but not yet transferred to the agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Housing
Promote local, regional and national coherence in land use, shelter and development planning. Create and decisively implement a comprehensive shelter plan, with emphasis on on-site development and in-city relocation for the urban poor.

Ancestral Domain

Fast-track the delineation and titling of ancestral lands/domain under the Indigenous People Rights Acts (IPRA). Nullify the provision of Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2012 - 1 that undermines the speedy processing and issuance of the Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADTs).

Social Services - Health
Ensure and monitor the full implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) system to uphold the rights of all to quality health care services, particularly in terms of cost-containment of services and ensuring implementation of the no balance billing to eliminate out-of-pocket expenditures of the poor during hospital confinement.

III) Building Peace
Peace Process
Support the immediate passage and ratification of the Bangasamoro Basic Law that is faithful to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro and its effective implementation, while recognizing the rights of the non-Moro IPs.

IV) Promoting Sustainable Economic Development and Environmental Protection Environment
Strengthen the implementation of the Climate Change Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act and ensure the implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries
Mainstream organic agriculture in the DA and push as the national policy the implementation of sustainable agriculture, organic agriculture and natural farming systems for the DA's commodity program in attaining food security.

SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS
• CODE-NGO
• Member Networks of CODE-NGO: AF, EVNET, MINCODE, NATCCO, NCSD, PHILSSA, PBSP, PHILDHRRA, and WEVNET
• NFR, PAKISAMA, Pilpina, Change Politics Movement

The full draft of the CSO Reform Agenda for 2016-19 is in Annex 2.

Day 1, November 11

a) **Learning Visit/s on 'Participatory Governance in Practice'** *(Pre-Registration Required)*

CENVISNET member provincial networks - Bohol Alliance of NGOs (BANGON) and Kaabag sa Sugbo (in Cebu) organized learning visits to feature participatory governance initiatives as actually practiced in their respective partner communities. Multi-sectoral collaborations (CSO-

business-government) on transparency and good local governance, environmental management, social service programs, triple bottom lines or social enterprises, etc. are some of the key interests of CODE-NGO members for these visits.

Twenty-three (23) participants joined the Kaabag sa Sugbo's learning visit in Medellin, Northern Cebu. The learning site featured community organizing of agrarian reform farmer-beneficiaries, sustainable livelihood and climate resiliency through organic agriculture and partnership with national government agencies. The program consisted of an orientation of Pagtambayayong Foundation's intervention in these Yolanda-hit communities, interaction with farmers/project partners and exposure to their demo farms.

Annex 3a is the documentation and some photos from the learning visit.

Eighteen (18) participants joined BANGON's learning visit in Abatan, Bohol. The Learning Visit in Bohol showcased governance and how it was being transmitted from the LGU down to the community. The participants went to the Abatan River Main Village Center where they had consultations with the Executive Assistant of the Governor on External Affairs on effective governance mechanisms of Bohol which engaged the participants. After which, they proceeded to Santo Rosario in Antequera where dances were performed before and after the community interaction. Lastly, in Maribojoc, the participants were introduced to varieties and the propagation of mangroves by the San Vicente Mangroves Association (SAVIMA).

Annex 3b is the documentation and some photos from the Bohol learning visit.

b) **Cultural Night:** *Cebu Fiesta - CENVISNET Welcomes CODE-NGO to Barrio SDC*

In the evening when SDC2015 delegates and learning visits participants arrived at the conference venue in Vista Mar Resort in Lapu Lapu City, host network CENVISNET organized a dinner and cultural presentations of the best performing artists all over Cebu. Among the performers during that night were the Sinulog Dancers from Carcar City, Rondalla Group from Talisay City and Jonalyn Pepito, The Voice Kids Finalist from Sogod.

Sinulog Dancers of Carcar   Rondalla Group of Talisay   Jonalyn Pepito

Day 2, November 12, Plenary Sessions on 'Citizens Call: Sustainable and Inclusive Development'

Morning Session: Post 2015 SDGs, PDP Engagement and CSO Reform Agenda

Former COMELEC Chairperson Atty. Christian Monsod gave his keynote speech on "National Situationer: Key Challenges for CSOs Today" – political, economic and social situationer which helped frame the discussions all throughout the SDC events. In his speech, Atty. Monsod called on 'civil society groups to lobby for sincere candidates with depth who can promote human development and end corruption'. He said 'the country needs a lot of heroes who can build a new social order, and such heroes may be found in civic organizations who stand for their causes for the development of the country'. He added that, even if a candidate is incorruptible, a candidate should know what it takes to carry out the mandate of social justice "that will upset the status quo." He reiterated that 'In a country of mass poverty and gross inequalities, we need leaders who are both sincere and correct in what they do'.

Atty. Christian Monsod, Keynote Speaker

Annex 4 is the complete speech of Atty. Christian Monsod. You may also view it from http://code-ngo.org/home/archive/43-front/482-national-situationer-the-key-challenges-facing-csos-today.html.

- Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in the Philippines Mr. Ola Almgren presented the highlights of Philippine's performance on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the highlights of its successor document the Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to provide a global perspective on key development issues confronting Philippine society. Mr.

Algren shared that in a survey of 1100 respondents, the development issues most Filipinos care about are education, followed by health care, better job opportunities, followed by honest and responsive government and then affordable and nutritious food. He commended the work the Philippines has done in the lead-up to launch the SDGs, during the Sustainable Development Summit where the Philippines was part of the discussion that influenced the UN agenda in terms of migrants rights, on climate change, and on equality. The Agenda 2030 is a guide to action that must be led at the national level, the SDGs must be integrated into the midterm planning and be part of the longer perspectives of the Philippines. The SDG is an immense agenda, urgent and important, at the same time an inspiration to commit for the realization of these development goals. It is important to care and to be interested about the goals set in the agenda 2030 and commit to take them forward.

Mr. Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator

CODE-NGO Chairperson Patricia Sarenas shared the network's response to challenges posted by the keynote person by highlighting the CSO Reform Agenda 2016-19 and the network's plan to disseminate information on the SDGs and commit to campaign for the translation of these goals in concrete programs and projects in our organizations and by the government at local and national levels.

Ms. Patricia Sarenas, CODE-NGO Chairperson

CODE-NGO's Dodo Macasaet and Paul Paraguya also shared about the CSOs' key lessons on their engagement with government through its various projects and advocacy initiatives, such as in the Citizens' Monitoring of LGU Performance Project supported by the European Union in the Philippines, on CODE-NGO's engagement in the government's Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) Program, its advocacy for a more inclusive and participatory DRRM system through its project with Christian Aid and its Decentralized Governance Project as supported by Misereor of Germany. Among these lessons were:

CMLPDPR: CODE-NGO POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE
- Increase accountability through the basic sector lens.
- Monitor performance in one full term: onset, mid and end.
- Policies with clear equity provision works is relevant (composition, signatory, relative).
- Constructive Engagement is an Art to Master (ideas, analysis, articulation, compromise, diplomacy).
- A network that can engage at all levels is effective (geographic, local, central, multisectoral).

Initiatives for Sustainable, Equitable and Inclusive Development
- Getting government to issue policies (MCs, JMCs, AOs, etc) which support good governance and sustainable development is IMPORTANT, but is NOT ENOUGH (many policies are not implemented or "low quality" implementation).
- CSO participation in formal governance bodies and processes (e.g. LPRATs, LDCs) is IMPORTANT, but building and strengthening good relationships between the CSOs and government officials/staff is EQUALLY IMPORTANT.
- Advocacy: BALANCING ACT between maintaining good relationships and being firm and assertive.
- Communication, coordination, knowledge sharing and mutual support among CSOs in an area and among CSOs and other sectors (LGU, NGAs, INGOs, business, churches, etc) is VITAL (for good governance, development, DRRM-CCA, etc).
- Disasters undermine development initiatives, and occur in increasing number and intensity; thus DRRM-CCA must be MAINSTREAMED in government and CSO programs and projects.

- People's participation in governance entails costs, BUT the benefits to society OUTWEIGH the costs. The costs of participation (an "investment") should not be borne by the CSOs alone.
- To institutionalize good governance– policies are IMPORTANT, but "demand" from the citizens and CSOs is ESSENTIAL.

Mr. Dodo Macasaet and Mr. Paul Paraguya of CODE-NGO

Afternoon Session: Dialogue with 2016 Presidential Candidates

CODE-NGO invited the top 4 Presidential and top 5 Vice Presidential Candidates for this dialogue. However, only former DILG Secretary Mar Roxas confirmed his attendance.

Venue host was the University of San Jose Recoletos (USJR) in their campus in downtown Cebu City. Our 200+ SDC2015 delegates were therefore joined by around 700 students (of voting age and registered as voters) and faculty from the university, who engaged Mr. Roxas on key development concerns of CSOs and students.

Presidential Candidate Mar Roxas

SDC 2015 Delegates in the Dialogue with Mar Roxas

CODE-NGO Advocacy Commission Chairperson Bert Aquino of PHILDHRRA presented the highlights of the CSO Reform Agenda 2016-19 for comments of Mr. Roxas. SDC2015 event partner MEGA Cebu, led by its Chairperson Dondi Joseph, also presented their Roadmap for a Sustainable Cebu 2025 for the candidate's comments. Student leaders of USJR also asked Mr. Roxas some questions as follows:

Q&A with Presidential Candidate Mar Roxas:
With CSOs:

Q: Which SDG will you prioritize? Cite specific program to achieve the targets.
A: All are essential. No particular focus as each one is important and all 17 goals define what constitutes a developed family/community. We cannot focus on one without giving attention to the others. Translate these goals on a per LGU basis. Each mayor and governor has a scorecard that clearly shows progress from beginning to end of his/ her term. SGLG is what we have now.

Performance is measured in the following areas: Fiscal governance, DRR, social protection, business-friendliness, environmental sustainability/protection, law and order. If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it. *Daang Matuwid* programs that will be continued: CCT to ensure education and health of children, and Universal health insurance through PhilHealth.

Q: What main policies and programs would you implement to address our country's persistent poverty problem?
A: (1) Affirmative action – both "from the top and from the bottom". *Bibingka Approach* or a mix of social protection measures for the poor (through CCT and health insurance). (2) Reinvigorating the agricultural sector to rev up the economy – infusion of capital (farm implements, post-harvest facilities, credit) increase economies of scale thru through joint venture, leasing and cooperativism - consolidation by small farmers to achieve scale allowing farmers to invest in equipment and farm inputs).

Q: What are your top three policies and programs for rural reform and agriculture-fishery development? How do you plan to implement these?
A: CARPER - on distribution of half million hectares of farmland, for completion and ensure continuity (by way of law) land distribution/agrarian reform.
On delineation of municipal waters - will study issue and will provide a clearer response on status of implementation or issues confronting implementation.
On issuance of CADT - issues with mechanisms and systems for granting AD claims, to prevent conflict in the community. Need to revisit and study.

Q: 1. What is causing the delay for BBL?
A: Went thru the processes but some people running for national office are obstacles.
Q: 2. Plans on how to continue the momentum for peace in the Bangsamoro?
A: Continued push and advocacy - resolve to keep talking and negotiate based on reason; confidence-building. Building up credibility and sincerity to implement what is desired through provision of services (roads, health and education, infrastructure development).

With Students:

Q: Why should we vote for you?
A: What we are fighting for is a fair and even chance for every Filipino, even if they don't have connections, *padrino*, etc. Hard work, dedication, integrity should be the things that would get you ahead. This is the center of *Daang Matuwid*.

Q: Do you think that there is growing apathy among the youth?
A: I don't find that there is apathy. Our youth are just as interested. Who they vote for will either benefit or not benefit them in the next decades of their life. "It is in your hands."

Local media (television, radio and print) were also present to cover the event.

c) **A Solidarity Night, November 12, 2015, Dinner and Cultural Presentation**

To foster solidarity and light moments after a series of serious discussions/fora, CENVISNET organized a dinner and 'Solidarity Night' for SDC2015 delegates and guests. A performance arts contest was also organized among the 12 Member Networks and CODE-NGO Secretariat. The participating networks presented either a skit, dance or musical performance. The following were the winning groups: EVNET, CORDNET and CODE-NGO Secretariat.

EVNET's dance number   CORDNET presented a skit

CODE-NGO Secretariat performed a dance number

Day 3 – November 13 – CODE-NGO 19th General Assembly

Morning Program: Gallery Walk : 8:00 – 9:00am

The format of the Gallery Walk was like an "ideas marketplace", where delegates were free to roam around the first 30 minutes of the program to the booths of six (6) participating organizations giving brief talks about their good practice or innovative development projects. For the next 30 minutes, participants sit in for a discussion at the booth of their choice.

The following organizations presented their good practice or innovative projects:
1. **Philippine Business for Social Progress on "Building Partnerships for Collective Action"**

- PBSP's Inclusive Business Imperative Program includes: Building capacities of companies to adopt IB models in their business; Establishing/Enhancing the enabling environment and support systems for the development of more IB across industries' (i.e. agriculture, housing, health and education) operations; Building the capacity of NGOs/POs and social enterprises as key players in the IB ecosystem; Developing and promoting tools for target setting and social impact assessment with companies and investors; Establishing and promoting knowledge sharing of IB best practice.
- CSOs are vital players in Inclusive Business Projects like the Bukidnon Cassava Experience – promoted Cassava Chips and granules production and marketing enterprise through the Balugo Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative.
- CSOs must help in the mind-shift and social preparation: Consolidate economic base towards business scale; Provide business development services: business planning, operation systems installation, resource syndication; market negotiation and contract clinching; and business clinching. CSOs must ensure a conducive environment for enterprise to thrive thru policy advocacy and social marketing.

2. **Iloilo CODE on "Innovative Solar Energy Small Infrastructure Projects for Small Islands"**
- The Project is born out of the need of their clients to have energy after typhoon Yolanda. The project was funded by Peace and Equity Foundation. Solar energy is used to pump water, energize health centers among others.
- The learning process and the importance of the project is unity in participation. The programs and projects involved peoples' participation. In the undertaking of the project, there are processes which include: mapping, identification of CSOs, POs and coordination with LGUs. There must be a strong presence of POs and CSOs in the local development council. The project costs are very reasonable compared to similar LGU projects of the same size/scale.
- There is an upland urban area in Bicol who signified interest to have a similar project. Replicability of the project is feasible for both upland and rural areas.

3. **CODE-NGO ACED Project on "Lessons from Yolanda: Inclusive DRRM"**
- Local communities have indigenous knowledge/practices on DRRM that should also be taken into consideration when planning disaster preparedness, adaptation and mitigation, response and recovery and rehabilitation.
- In Sibuyan, there is a tree that turns white when there is an impending disaster (typhoon). This is an indicator to the IP communities. "Nature has its way to express or warn the communities of what will happen. Therefore we have to listen to nature". Local communities, people's organization and vulnerable sectors are the ones who are most affected by disasters. We need to include them in the DRRM Process.
- The House Bill 6183 is a product of the consultations led by the Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), Aksyon sa Kahandaan sa Kalamidad at Klima (AKKMA), and the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)

supported by Christian Aid through Scaling Up Resilience in Governance (SURGE), a consortium composed of Christian Aid, Handicap International, Oxfam and Plan International, which aims to build and increase the resilience of high-risk communities by promoting inclusive community-based disaster risk reduction practices and taking the learning to other communities in the Philippines.

4. **PHILSSA on "Angat Calamianes Rehabilitation and Resilience Project"**
   - Community organizations are key to community-based, participatory, inclusive and sustainable development. Capacity-building for community leaders is important.
   - Engagement with government and advocacy groups, both local and national are key to deliver needed projects and services to communities and vulnerable sectors. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are important to have coordinated, effective, efficient and responsive community interventions.
   - There is a need to ensure effective integration of strategies and interventions and to further develop small island resilience framework and practice.

5. **PHILDHRRA on "Agusan Marsh Climate Change Adaptation Project**
   - The Project aims to address the challenge of Climate Change by increasing the capacity of stakeholders in 61 barangays of Agusan Marsh in Agusan del Sur to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change.
   - AMCCAP establishes climate-change demonstration farms.
   - Rivers and creeks were used to irrigate agricultural lands by pumping water at a very minimal cost. The process uses green energy so no harmful gases are released to the environment. They installed spiral water wheel in Saguinto River in Lapaz Municipality in Agusan del Sur. The water is then used both for agriculture and domestic uses.

Some photos from the Gallery Walk

Morning Program: Simultaneous Fora / Learning Sessions : 9:00 – 12:30

Simultaneous Fora/Learning Sessions on timely national issues consistent with the theme **"Citizens' Call: Sustainable, Equitable and Inclusive Development"** were also organized by CODE-NGO member networks and partner organizations, as follows (The documentation of these sessions are in Annex 5):

1. **#iVoteGood, by Dilaab Foundation** – which discussed missing links in social transformation and mechanisms of forming practical conscience of voters. Among the speakers were Gladys Ceniza, Dilaab Foundation Trustee and Ms. Mayren Cogtas, Project Coordinator of Circles of Discernment for Empowerment (CiDE). Moderator was Teresa A. Tejero, Dilaab Foundation's Executive Director.

   - **Highlights**: i-Vote Good Campaign – DREAM: to change the Philippines elections one sitio at a time by going to the peripheries; Campaign at the battleground by doing house-to-house; Most voters are from the youth and D and E classes so focus is given to them; On the look-out for candidates who are tapping chapel networks for vote-buying.
   - **Recommendations:** (1) Be Visible: be felt in their homes to give them importance (2) Keep at it: voters ages 18-35 who volunteer or hear about the campaign refuse to sell their votes (3) LASER Test: Lifestyle, Action, Supporters, Election Conduct, Reputation (4) Involve the youth in the campaign.

2. **Show and Tell: Unlocking the Perks of Being in Development Work, by the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF)** – which defined "development work", and why there is a growing number of individuals such as the millennials who are choosing a job that makes them happy, and giving them meaning. Speaker and Moderator was Mr. Ric Torres, Programs and Partnership Manager of PEF.

   - **Highlights:** Only a few people are interested in development work. Bad image of CSOs due to PDAF scam.
   - **Recommendations:** (1) Encourage young people to join the development work industry. (2) Make it interesting for young people, the public to join CSO activities. (3) Re-brand NGO to CSO. (4) Develop good communication materials including infographics. (5) Don't make too technical communication materials. (6) Ask yourself: "Are we still

connected to the world?". (7) Utilize student organizations. (8) It is important to create linkages.

3. **Unleashing the Power of Social Accountability, by Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA) and ANSA-EAP –** which discussed about the power of Social Accountability to influence government institutions and programs, in terms of monitoring the use of government resources, while enhancing the capacity of the community in constructive engagement. Speakers were Adel Briones of ANSA-EAP and Atty. Albert Agra of the Ateneo School of Government (ASOG). Moderator was PHILSSA Chairperson Rosemarie Herrera.

   - **Highlights:** For social accountability (SA) to be effective, there must be constructive engagement and citizen monitoring. The 4 pillars of SA include: open and responsive government; organized and capable citizens group; information; context and cultural appropriateness. The main objective of SA is to look at the general welfare and improve quality of life. Without SA, the purpose of PPPs cannot be achieved and "future-proofed". The government has no actual definition of PPP.
   - **Recommendations:** (1) Push for FOI Bill (2) Must have an NGO-Watch (3) Social Accountability Ordinance in LGUs (4) CSOs must be part of and learn the works of the PPPs.

4. **CSOs are Vital Players in Inclusive Business Projects by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) –** which discussed about Inclusive business models and the importance of the right mix of value chain players to identify communities that can be linked to companies. Speakers were representatives from the PBSP LED Executive Committee, San Miguel Foods Corporation, Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AADC), MINCODE, Unilever and its Partner-Community.

   - **Highlights:** Roles of CSOs: (1) Enterprise organizing including mind-set shift and social preparation (2) Consolidating economic base towards business scale (3) Providing business development services (4) Business planning (5) Operation system installations (6) Resource syndication (7) Market negotiation and contract clinching (8) Business clinching.

   - **Recommendations:** (1) LGUs should extend technical support only but resources should go directly to the beneficiaries. (2) POs should closely work with LGUs. (3) The value of CSOs: we share hope through the success stories of POs and CSOs.

5. **The Forces at Work: CSO Sustainability Index and Enabling Environment for CSOs in the Philippines by CODE-NGO –** which discussed about the 2014 baseline for measuring progress of CSOs in 7 CSOSI dimensions and an orientation to the assessment of legal, regulatory and policy environment for CSOs in the Philippines. Speakers were Roselle Rasay, Deputy ED of CODE-NGO, Gerry Porta, Senior Democracy and Governance Program Manager of USAID and Dodo Macasaet, Executive Director of CODE-NGO. Moderator was Tanya Zaldarriaga, Membership Program Officer of CODE-NGO.

- **Highlights:** (1) Bad press we got from PDAF (2) Lack of coverage; communication needs to be strengthened (success stories, promote public image) (3) Information must be shared among networks (4) Concerns on regulatory requirements for primary and secondary registration as government is stricter post PDAF scam (5) Success stories not highlighted by media as they thrive on 'bad' news (6) Lack of information awareness for LGUs on CSO activities and programs.
- **Recommendations:** (1) Tap local media, make them aware of the success stories (2) Strengthen IEC (3) Comply with government regulation for secondary requirements.

6. **Mega Cebu and Our Cebu: Creating the Future We Want, by MEGA Cebu and Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) – Eduardo Aboitiz Development Studies Center –** which discussed about Cebu Province's multi-sectoral sustainable urban development roadmap to 2050, the domains facilitating CSO engagement in future-oriented planning and 6Cs of smart growth and how LGUs can localize sustainable development initiatives to create tangible change at the grassroots level. Speakers were Ms. Evelyn Nacario-Castro, Director of Metro Cebu Development and Coordinating Board-Research Program Organization Development (MCDCB-RPOD) Program Management Office and Mr. Roland Tabuñag, Head of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of Liloan, Cebu.

   - **Highlights:** (1) Find leaders who want to change; leaders who want to leave a legacy. (2) Develop plans that are connected to avoid sprawl, limiting development in every 40-miles. (3) In governance, it is important to have the participation of social sector (purok system) and grant awards for best practices among the purok system. (4) Issues cannot be solved by the government alone or the private group alone but through collaboration of civil society and government. (5) MEGA CEBU started in 2011 with an advocacy to have a plan for Cebu.
   - **Recommendations:** (1) Develop strategies to be the basis for the roadmap. (2) Civil society and private sector must be strengthened because in partnering with government, civil society and private sector are the only thing that is constant.

Some photos from the Learning Sessions

Afternoon Session:

Before the Business Meeting, CODE-NGO/EVNET Board Member, Mario Ian Mosquisa, presented the synthesis of the just concluded Simultaneous Learning Sessions. This was followed by CODE-NGO Deputy ED Roselle Rasay's presentation of the Highlights of the CSO Sustainability Index 2014 – Philippines Report. Lastly, KDM Officer Celia de Jesus shared with the body the topline results of CODE-NGO's CSO Perception Survey 2015 on Government and Civil Society (See Annex 6 for the complete report).

The business meeting of the CODE-NGO General Assembly was then held.