



April 2018 Issue

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

CODE-NGO STATEMENT AGAINST CHARTER CHANGE

We, the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), the largest coalition of social development civil society organizations in the country, declare our opposition to the initiatives of the current administration to change the Constitution.

We reiterate our consistent stand that any amendment or change in the fundamental law of the land should be undertaken through an objective, deliberate, and participatory process with the citizens; particularly to protect the interests of the basic sectors and marginalized groups. Thus, we are against the hasty mode by which Congress is pushing Charter Change by convening incumbent legislators into a Constituent Assembly (Con-Ass). This process will only extend the term of incumbent legislators and lacks transparency and participation by the people.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/02/code-ngo-statement-charter-change/>

No to the 3rd postponement of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections!

We call on Congress to stop all movements for the postponement of the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections and to allow for the electoral exercise to push through this May 2018. This is the third time that Congress has moved to postpone the Barangay and SK Elections which clearly hinders the right of every Filipino citizen to suffrage and to participate in the local governance process. Our current barangay officials have been in position for five years already—it is high time that we, the Filipino people, are given the chance to elect new individuals who will govern us for the next three years.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/dev/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/NO-to-postponement-of-Brgy.-Elections.pdf>

Advocacy on YES to CORDILLERA AUTONOMY takes off

Tita Butz

On March 5, 2018 at Ating Tahanan, South Drive, Baguio City, a forum on Cordillera Autonomy was conducted in partnership with NEDA-CAR (National Economic and Development Authority-Cordillera Autonomous Region) and CORDNET (Cordillera Network of Development NGOs and POs) in the implementation of the Social Preparation of the CAR in becoming an Autonomous Region.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/advocacy-on-yes-to-cordiilera-autonomy-takes-off/>

Regional Dialogues on Open Government Partnership conducted

Six regional dialogues on OGP (Open Government Partnership) were conducted that aimed to disseminate information on the OGP platform and other participatory governance initiatives of the current administration to gather support among local stakeholders in implementing and monitoring the commitments in the 4th NAP (National Action Plan) and to provide an avenue for dialogue among LGUs (local government units) and local CSOs in developing sub-national OGP commitments/plans. In this series of 6 regional dialogues, CODE-NGO also presented the results of the 2016 CSO Sustainability Index to increase the understanding of the other sectors - national and local government, business, academe and media - on the important role of CSOs in Open Government and their contributions to social development.

Read more:

[https://mailchi.mp/5377f9982edf/philippine-ogp-updates-for-q3-q4-188685?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/5377f9982edf/philippine-ogp-updates-for-q3-q4-188685?e=[UNIQID])

KNOWING, LEARNING, DOING – Sharing practices to improve local governance and CSO networks

Sandino Soliman

We have heard several times that civil society organizations (CSOs) have not yet documented their good practices on how they do their work, especially in the field of CSO participation in local governance. For one reason or another, good practices are not known or have not been shared, but we have the sense that they are out there – stories waiting to be told to a wider group.

The Strengthening Decentralized Governance (S-DG) project, an initiative led by CODE-NGO and its member networks, the Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD), the Central Visayas Network of NGOs (CENVISNET), and the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE), seeks to share good practices in its own way. The culture and practice of sharing were enhanced and even deepened during the **Peer-Learning Exchange and Knowledge Development and Management Workshop**. Held last **October 6 to 7, 2017 in Naga City**, the activity brought together the three member networks and sought to develop the skills needed to share good practices effectively while learning about the good practices from the Bicol Region, Central Visayas Region and Southern Mindanao Region – the places where they come from.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/knowing-learning-doing-sharing-practices-to-improve-local-governance-and-cso-networks/>

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT (DRRM)

WEVNET co-organizes Basic Incident Command System Training

Rosendo Parrenas

The quest for the institutionalization of the Incident Command System (ICS) in the country as provided for by EO No. 2; RA 10121 Section 9, letter (g) and IRR Rule 7 as well as the NDRRMC MC No. 4, the Office of Civil Defense Region VI (OCD VI) in partnership with the Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs, Inc. (WEVNET) and its DRR Provincial Hub has conducted a Basic Incident Command System (BICS) Training for the heads and/or senior officers of NGO/CSO Sector in Iloilo City last April 4-6, 2018 at the Mansion Hotel, Gen. Luna St., Iloilo City.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/wevnet-co-organizes-basic-incident-command-system-training/>

Donor practices in local humanitarian action: what works and what does not work?

Roselle Rasay

CODE-NGO, together with Save Somali Women and Children and Support to Life-Turkey, were invited as panelists at a meeting between members of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Initiative and a diverse range of NGOs to discuss donor practices in localization and the Grand Bargain. The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and the Australian mission in Geneva hosted this meeting last 22 March 2018 in Geneva.

The Grand Bargain refers to a package of reforms to humanitarian funding that was launched at the 2015 World Humanitarian Summit. Donors and aid agencies made 51 commitments to make emergency response aid more efficient and effective.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/donor-practices-in-local-humanitarian-action-what-works-and-what-does-not-work/>

Shared Aid Fund for Emergency Response (SAFER) joins the DEPP Celebratory Learning and Closing Event

Melinda Gabuya

MANILA, Philippines—The **Shared Aid Fund for Emergency Response (SAFER)** was invited to attend and participate at the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Program (DEPP) Celebratory Learning and Closing event at Citadines Hotel, Ortigas last March 21-23, 2018. Entitled *Connect. Collaborate. Innovate.*, the event marked the completion of DEPP projects in the Philippines and provided a platform for stakeholders working with or as part of the disasters and emergencies preparedness sector in the country to discuss the contribution of the DEPP in the back-to-back efforts to transform the Philippines and global humanitarian system.

Established by a consortium of national NGO networks namely Caucus of Development NGOs, Inc. (CODE-NGO), Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC), and CBCP NASSA/Caritas Philippines, SAFER Foundation raises money through launching public appeals during an emergency. It is the first joint fundraising mechanism in the Philippines that brings together the capacity and expertise of the three networks. Aside from public fundraising, SAFER gathers support from institutional funders and advocacy partners to build a pooled fund that is readily available in times of crises.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/shared-aid-fund-for-emergency-response-safer-joins-the-depp-celebratory-learning-and-closing-event/>

Shifting the Power: Continuing the Journey to a More Balanced Humanitarian System

Roselle Rasay

Less than 2% of all global humanitarian funding goes directly to local aid organizations, despite their crucial role in crisis response. Start Network's Shifting the Power project aimed to strike a more acceptable balance between international and local responses to disasters in 5 countries; shifting this balance of power towards locally-led humanitarian response.

The project's Learning Exchange Workshop held in Geneva last March 13, 2018 included a discussion on sustaining the initiatives to a more balanced humanitarian system even beyond the project's implementation period. Action Aid in Kenya, National Humanitarian Network (NHN) in Pakistan and CODE-NGO in the Philippines shared cases of good practices on how this can possibly be done.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/shifting-the-power-continuing-the-journey-to-a-more-balanced-humanitarian-system/>

CSOs Prepares for Innovative Learning as BLAST DRRM Moves Closer to Pilot Date

John Joel de Guzman

In the first Project Steering Committee for 2018, BLAST DRRM invited DRRM hub beneficiaries to prepare them for the soon to pilot BLAST DRRM Training Program. BLAST DRRM – short for Blended Learning Approach to Strengthen DRRM is an innovative program that aims to use both face-to-face (F2F) and online learning to build the capacities of local CSOs in DRRM.

The program will utilize the current roster of CODE-NGO's training program which has been accredited with Four Stars by the Local Government Training and Resource Institute-Philippine Network (LoGoTRI-PhilNet) and the Local Government Academy (LGA). The program consists of training programs that aims to strengthen community participation and organizational capacities to better respond and prepare for disasters.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/csos-prepares-for-innovative-learning-as-blast-drrm-moves-closer-to-pilot-date/>

ASSET REFORM

Environment Protection and Poverty Reduction through Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Germaine De Ruña

Climate change is probably the biggest threat to the sustainable productivity of our farmers. This is felt all throughout the country and has been aggravated by unfair market practices and the proliferation of GMOs (genetically modified organisms). This is specifically experienced in the province of Tarlac.

Tarlac has a total land area of 305,345 hectares where 54.37% of these lands are used for agricultural activity. Agricultural crops and fisheries are allocated with 141,252 hectares of land. Specifically, the municipality of Capas has a total land area of 571 hectares where 27 hectares are allocated for legumes, 20 hectares for fruits and vegetables, and 524 hectares for root crops (UP Planning and Development Research Foundation, Inc., 2010). Tarlac has an adequate and accessible space for sustainable food production, forest, and mineral resources. However, it is naturally prone to hazards like flash flood, soil erosion, and drought. These poses a challenge to the sustainable agricultural productivity of the Province.

Read more:

<http://code-ngo.org/2018/04/environment-protection-and-poverty-reduction-through-sustainable-and-climate-resilient-agriculture/>

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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.