

Reflections from Other DFID Project Implementing Agencies

On project achievements and innovations

“The project has been an important milestone in urban poor quest for decent housing and land tenure. It opened-up partnership with the local government and agencies in addressing this concern and likewise boosted-up confidence of federation members. The leaders have become very knowledgeable on how to facilitate the struggles of the urban poor.”

– **Ruby Desolo**, BCCD/Tabaco City

“The project has laid down the foundation for the crafting of several other projects which will further serve the purposes of addressing urban poverty and homelessness in more comprehensive and relevant ways.”

– **Rudy Dewara**, KPS/General Santos City

“The creation of the coalition of the people’s organization strengthened the capacity of the people to negotiate and articulate their positions and advocacies.”

– **Tina Jurado**, UPA/Manila City

On partnership mechanisms and strategies

“During project implementation, one of the key approaches to strengthen the partnership was the involvement of the LGU in the processes.”

– **Ruby Desolo**, BCCD/Tabaco City

“Consultative and participative approaches were used in the project implementation. People’s Organization representatives did not feel like participants but gladly felt they were part of the planning processes both local and national.”

– **Mary Ann Porquillo**, ZUPISOCDEV/Zamboanga City

“These capability building activities have ensured sustained participation

of stakeholders in all plans and activities concerning the improvement of the lives of the urban poor, strengthening partnership relations and establishing coordination mechanisms. The urban poor leaders are now equipped with knowledge and skills in negotiation, lobbying, and campaign management. A pool of educators within the community has been generated. Urban poor groups have realized that they are not the cause of the problems but a part of the solutions.”

– **Esmeralda Padagas**, LIHUK/Iligan City

“Capability and commitment to service facilitated PHILSSA-DFID Project implementation, especially in terms of establishing civil society participation in governance in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The positive perception encouraged productive representation of NGOs and POs in local special bodies and development councils.”

– **Rudy Dewara**, KPS/General Santos City

“Through the local special bodies, the people’s organizations facing threats of eviction were given the opportunity to present their concerns and positions on the issues to the LGU and shelter agencies. They were able to present alternative plans applicable in their areas instead of the usual government solution of one-time financial assistance and distant relocation. While the threats of eviction are temporarily stopped, KOSMA continuously coordinates and negotiates with the LGU and shelter agencies for possible solutions which are acceptable and favorable both to the people and the government.”

– **Tina Turado**, UPA/Manila City

Lessons/Insights

“Advocacy work is really challenging. We learned a lot from this project especially in understanding the plight of

the urban poor. It increased our awareness on urban development and of the different laws protecting this. I salute the federation leaders for their grasp of the laws and for expressing their rights. Advocacy should be coupled with economic sustainability.”

– **Ruby Desolo**, BCCD/Tabaco City

“Collaboration among people’s organizations, the government, NGOs and private sector is very important. Advocacies in order to become effective should be institutionalized into laws and ordinances.”

– **Tina Jurado**, UPA/Manila City

“In terms of program development and management, it encouraged us to materialize the initiatives that we have envisioned and instilled in us this very important lesson: achieving a desired goal does not depend on the resources you have but rather, depends on what you do with what you have.”

– **Mary Ann Porquillo**, ZUPISOCDEV/Zamboanga City

“After three years of PHILSSA-DFID implementation though, our understanding of the various housing issues and the approaches that we use have been improved by the experiences and learnings we derived from our engagements with other implementing agencies and LGUs under the PHILSSA-DFID Project.”

– **Rudy Dewara**, KPS/General Santos City

“Because of these engagements, participation of the urban poor groups in the city level planning is ensured. LIHUK continuously keeps its untiring coordination with all the stakeholders. Sometimes, there are disagreements between and among partners but LIHUK believes that anything can be settled given proper timing and venue.”

– **Esmeralda Padagas**, LIHUK/Iligan City

The 2nd Philippine Urbanization Forum

By **Amaris Grace Cabason**
PHILSSA Secretariat

September proved to be a fruitful month for PHILSSA as three major activities were held successively in true value-for-money fashion. The first activity was a capacity-building session held last 25 September 2012 for PHILSSA members. The morning session focused on NGO governance, with Marissa Camacho-Reyes sharing her experiences from a project with USAID on organizational development to strengthen 120 civil society organizations in five capacity-building areas with Ayala Foundation, Inc. as the lead. She defined governance and leadership and explained its underlying principles and assumptions, desired outcomes, and indicators.

Benedict Balderrama, PHILSSA National Coordinator, shared the tool used by Ayala Foundation for the participants to “diagnose” its organization. PHILSSA members also contributed their own opinion and input on the subject. The overall output can be used by PHILSSA to determine common needs within the region so smaller, more focused activities can be held. He ended with the reminder that organizational development should be a shared

commitment of every stakeholder in an organization.

The afternoon session was an orientation on risk-sensitive shelter planning, with Arch. Sarah Redoblado of ALTERPLAN as the moderator. It focused on the question: How does civil society participate in shelter planning, which is a function of the local government?

The first presentation about making a shelter plan in a watershed was given by Arch. Cheryl Prudente, also of ALTERPLAN. She enumerated the benefits of wetlands on settlements and the watershed. The second was given by Myrna Abella-Llanes of COPE Foundation Bicol on *Risk-sensitive Shelter Planning*, focusing on the rationale and the components of a shelter plan which were based on their shelter planning experience in hazard-prone Bicol. She cited data gathering and data analysis as important elements in making project briefs to be used in barangay shelter plans, to be incorporated eventually in the city shelter plan. She also shared the active participation of community partners through





consulting with barangay officials and holding an audience with the city mayor, thereby highlighting the importance of multistakeholder participation in the creation of a shelter plan. The next presentation elaborated on the challenges and lessons of CSO's participation in risk-sensitive shelter planning, delivered by Rosana Ballarbare and Jaime Luzon of Legazpi City Slumdwellers' Foundation, Inc.

Rosemarie Herrera, PHILSSA Chairperson, highlighted the effective, productive, and critical engagement of PHILSSA and its members especially at the local government level. This was followed by a keynote address from Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman, where she read a message from President Benigno Aquino. She commended PHILSSA for organizing the forum as it represents civil society's continuing commitment to the urban poor. A message from the British Embassy was delivered by Mr. Steph Lysaght, expressing UK's commitment to global development, governance, and free trade.

The first session of the Forum focused on Local Partnerships in Governance and Social Service Delivery. Councilor Arnulfo Ricardo Cabling of Davao City shared his experience in reviewing the existing Comprehensive Land Use Plan of Davao City, incorporating newly-identified issues in the proper use of land, the presence of informal settler communities in danger areas, and geohazards. Jesus Jayson Miranda of the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor shared his experience on the multi-stakeholder approach used to create the Quezon City Social Housing Fund, a revolving fund for projects on land tenure, access to basic services, and income generation. Jastene Joy Simon of the Foundation for Development Alternatives presented the socio-economic profile of informal settlers in Malabon City. By institutionalizing the partnership between the local government unit, FDA, and its partner federation, Alyansa ng may-Integridad na Maralitang taga-Malabon, they conducted a poverty-mapping activity with the aim of using the data to create a City Shelter Plan. An open forum followed these presentations.



Atty. Angel Ojastro, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, gave a presentation on the "Opportunities and Challenges in Providing Secure and Safe Settlements for Informal Settler Families." Jose Morales, convenor of Urban Poor Alliance, and Benedict Balderrama comprised the panel of reactors. Morales highlighted the importance of the people's plan as a source of engineering solutions for communities in danger areas, since the residents are in the best position to analyze the situation and determine what solution would best suit their community. Balderrama discussed the Php 50 B fund

allotted by the national government for informal settlers in NCR living in danger areas. The said fund is an unprecedented opportunity to improve the quality of life of marginalized communities. He said that through this, CSOs were forced to analyze how equipped they were in making their partner communities benefit from this opportunity. An open forum ended the afternoon session. Dr. Anna Marie Karaos synthesized the day's sessions and identified its key themes.

To end the Forum, PHILSSA launched its newest project in partnership with the Peace and Equity Foundation called FAST Housing (Fund to Assist Social and Technical Preparation for Social Housing Projects). PHILSSA and PEF put up a fund

wherein the interest generated may be used as seed fund by community groups for social and technical preparations, *i.e.* feasibility studies, soil tests, to pass the technical requirements of the National Housing Agency. As of launching, three organizations have successfully submitted complete requirements and will be given support. These are Bienina HOA, Ernestville HOA, and ALMANOVA, all from Quezon City. PHILSSA also launched three new publications: the DFID project report, *Gabay Kay Nanay*, and *Resilient Urban Communities: Stories from the Ketsana Rehabilitation Programme*.

On the final day, ACCESS Health International Philippines talked about Participatory Governance

for Health. They posed the question, "How can CSOs advance local health programs that address millennium-development goals?" Attention was brought to three specific goals—reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA) shared lessons in applying social accountability tools using a community scorecard to build a constructive engagement with the government, the community, and the extractive company. The last presentation was about the Local School Board, whose main duty is to allocate the Special Education Fund to meet the supplementary needs of the local public school system.



PHILSSA members were reminded about the importance of institutionalizing multi-stakeholder partnerships in structures. It includes among others the participation of people's organizations in coordination mechanisms; community development strategies at the local and national levels; governance and leadership within the respective organizations, and other concerns such as meeting MDGs in health, social accountability, and the public school system. Hopefully this added knowledge will be used to strengthen the advocacies of each organization and of PHILSSA as a network.

PHILSSA and Christian Aid Support AKKMA in Advocating Safe and Secure Settlements for All

By **Benedict O. Balderrama**
PHILSSA Secretariat

On 31 October 2012, PHILSSA completed its project with Christian Aid on Networking, Technical and Policy Advocacy Support for Safer Settlements for Communities Affected by Typhoon *Ketsana* that was implemented in the Greater Manila Region (Metro Manila and the provinces of Laguna and Rizal) with some member-NGOs and their partner PO federations, as well as some other Christian Aid partners. The project was implemented from 1 September 2010 to 31 October 2012 with funding support of GBP 41,082.00 from Christian Aid.

The project aimed to support, sustain and strengthen the advocacy efforts of organized community groups affected by

Typhoon *Ketsana*. It sought to have safer settlements, with reduced vulnerabilities and are more prepared against hazards, through the provision of needed networking, technical and policy advocacy assistance.

The project strategies and activities were the following:

- Networking and Constituency Building
 - Network formation and maintenance
 - Capacity-Building
 - Engagement with Government Agencies
- Advocacy Research and Agenda-Building
 - Research
 - Joint Technical Sessions/ Round Table Discussions
 - Agenda Building Workshop
- Lobbying and Campaigns
 - Advocacy Assessment and Strategizing
 - Lobbying and Campaign Activities

Among the project outcomes were the following:

- Networking and Constituency Building
 - Formation and strengthening of ***Aksyon para sa Kahandaan sa Kalamidad at Klima (AKKMA)*** with base networks: MAPAGPALA, ULAP, ALMAMO and UPALL-Mega Manila
 - Emergency Rescue Training for AKKMA leaders;
 - Engagement with Government Agencies (especially DILG, DSWD, NHA, SHFC, DBM, LLDA, MMDA, and LGUs).
- Advocacy Research and Agenda-Building
 - Rapid Assessment of *Ketsana*-Affected Areas
 - AKKMA Fora and Dialogues with Agencies and Officials
 - AKKMA Agenda Building:
 - a. Address eviction threats for communities in danger areas
 - b. Promote people's participation in planning of government flood control and related infrastructure projects
 - c. Strengthen implementation of DRRM Law
 - d. Lobby for relevant bills related to safe and secure settlements
 - e. Advocate for additional budget for DRRM and housing/ settlements
 - f. Promote Climate Justice
- Lobbying and Campaigns
 - Regular advocacy assessment and strategizing;
 - Congressional lobbying activities on National Land Use and Management Bill, UDHA Amendment and Laguna Lake Conservation Bill;
 - Budget monitoring and advocacy activities with DBM, NHA and SHFC;
 - Engagement with government agencies on the P 50-Billion Fund for Informal Settler Families in Danger Areas in Metro Manila;
 - Mobilizations and fora on evictions and government flood control plans;
 - Tree-planting, river clean-up, and other environmental activities.

During the project assessment and reflection of AKKMA leaders, the following were identified as among the remaining challenges in AKKMA DRRM advocacy work:

1. The need to strengthen localization efforts on DRRM/ CCA within the programs and structure of local organizations/ federations and in the engagement with barangay and municipal/ city LGUs.

2. The need to sustain AKKMA as a network and as an advocacy group.
3. The need to expand linkages and partnership with other community groups doing DRRM/ CCA work in other cities and regions for a truly national DRRM advocacy group.
4. The need to continue clarifying and deepening Urban DRRM and Urban Resilience concepts and practice.

Also identified by AKKMA leaders were key learnings from the project advocacy work:

1. Advocacy should focus on clear agenda based on concrete data and evidences.
2. Consensus-building is important in a multi-sectoral confederation and partnership. Communication, transparency and relationship-building are keys to successful consensus and partnership.
3. Advocacy involves consistent and persistent engagement across various levels of government. There is need to go to the level of decision-makers, but there is also need to engage the bureaucracy, especially the technical people and the front-line staff.
4. In the advocacy work for safe and secure settlements, there is need for
 - clear issue analysis and position
 - concrete policy and program recommendations
 - assured budget allocation
 - feasible project proposals

PHILSSA and Christian Aid continue to work together on DRRM advocacy and campaign for safe and secure settlements for all, especially those living in danger areas.

AKKMA—Isang Pagtatapos at muling Pagsisimula!

By Jaime Evangelista
Co Convenor-Fisherfolks Sector

Sa pagtatapos ng proyekto ng PHILSSA-CHRISTIAN AID mula Agosto 2010 – Oktobre 2012 ay may saya at aral na naiwan sa koalisyon na siyang pinaghuhugutan ng lakas upang mapanatiling nakatayo at kumikilos para sa pangangailangan ng maralitang tagalungsod at mangingisda. Sa Christian Aid at PHILSSA, nagawa po ninyo na lumilok ng isang pundasyon para sa amin na magiging sandalan at magsisilbing kalasag sa dako pa roon. Iyan ang AKKMA!

Alam ko na hindi dito matatapos ang lahat. Ayokong ituring na isang magandang panaginip ang mga pangyayari at nagawa, bagkus ay simula ng panibagong pagkilos sa mga adbokasi para sa taong papasok. Buo ang kumpiyansa na ituloy ang nasimulan, susulong at kakampanya muli kami para pakinabangan ng mga sektor na umaasa sa amin. Dahil ang misyon namin ay “Bawasan ang Bulnerabilidad at Palakasin ang Kapasidad.”

Sa proyektong ito ay lumabas ang aming kakayahan at talento na siyang gumising sa aming kamalayan at karapatang pantao. Napakasarap balik-balikan ang aming mga nagawa:

1. Nagbigay kaming mga lider ng oryentasyon ukol sa DRRM at CCA kasama na ang paghahanda sa mga bantang panganib sa lahat ng mga kasapi naming samahan.





2. Napatigil ang pagtatayo ng ferry boat at ferry station kasama na ang dredging sa Laguna lake dahil sa walang malimaw na plano para sa fisherfolks settlement at kabuhayan.
3. Sa pamamagitan ni Jose Morales at ng koalisyon ay naglaan ng pondo si Pang. Benigno S. Aquino III ng 10 bilyong pondo sa pabahay kada taon sa mga lugar na tinatawag na mapanganib sa panahon ng kalamidad. At isa sa lugar na pagtatayuan ng Medium Rise Building ay kina Jose Morales ng Brgy. Donya Imelda, Quezon City.
4. Nagbukas ng pintuan ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno at handa ang mga itong makipagtulungan sa kanilang mga plano at badyet na nakaugnay sa DRRM at CCA.
5. Sa PHILSSA naging malinaw ang kampanya para sa Fisherfolks Settlement na siyang magiging kauna-unahang ititindig na Fisherfolks Settlement sa Rizal sa pangunguna ng UGMMARIZ
6. Nang manalasa ang bagyong "Habagat" ay walang naiulat na namatay sa aming mga kasama sa koalisyon. Ito ay isang katotohanan na ang kampanya ng AKKMA sa DRRM at CCA ay tumagos sa mga komunidad.

Sa pagpasok ng 2013, lalo naming paghahandaan at patatag ang aming koalisyon para sa pagharap sa bawat sigwada at unos na darating. Lalong paiigtingin at aasikasuhin ang kampanya namin para sa Anim na puntong adyenda. Lalong palalakasin ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga ahensiya ng gobyerno. Natatanaw na namin ang aming pangarap na " May kasiguruhan at ligtas na paninirahan at maunlad na Kabuhayan."

Nagpapasalamat kami sa PHILSSA na walang sawang gumabay sa amin. Sa pagtuturo, pagtitiwala at pagbibigay respeto sa katulad namin. Kay Dick, Ferdie at sa buong Staff. Maraming salamat po!

Lesson from the PHILSSA-DOH Project on the Promotion of Exclusive Breastfeeding in the First Six Months from Birth

By **Benedict O. Balderrama**
PHILSSA Secretariat

PHILSSA, World Health Organization and the Department of Health worked together on the project, *Communication for Behavioural Impact for Exclusive Breast-Feeding in the Philippines* (COMBI Project) in four regions in the country.

The project implementation strategies include:

- Partnership-Building
- Capacity-Building
- Community Information, Education and Communication
- Peer Counseling

The project had its project-end assessment and sustainability planning on 29-30 October 2012 at the Skypark Hotel in Zamboanga City.

During the assessment some of the strengths and challenges identified and shared were:

Strategy	Strengths	Weaknesses	Comments/ Recommendations
Partnership-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courtesy calls and satisfying protocols • Thorough project orientation and role clarification with partners • Constant updates and communication • Establishing baseline to set challenge • Identifying and enjoining critical stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correction of project anxiety/ misconceptions • Follow-through of LGU support through policy issuances, personnel, budget, infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LGU - Barangay captains - Women's orgs - Men's orgs (such as TODA) - Professional and civic organizations (such as Rotary) - Local business club - Foundations/NGOs
Capacity-Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring training for local health team • Involvement of health personnel, IYCF in mentoring • Constant coordination with partners • Resource networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of trainings • Regular supervision and involvement of health personnel in training and mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure good timing of training (before rainy season in areas with flooding) • Ensure involvement of health personnel/ IYCF focal persons
Community Education, Information and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local innovations such partnership with DSWD 4Ps program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to shield project from local politics • Influence of media and advertisements • Sustaining the IEC activities after the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of top performing RHUs and communities • LGU and community support for IEC
Peer Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear criteria for selection of sites and peer counselors • Regular meetings for updating and sharing • Committed and capable peer counselors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for mentoring of peer counselors • Consolidation and analysis of data from TSEK forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of top performing peer counselors

Region	Cities	Implementing NGO
Region III	Malolos Marilao Meycauayan	Health Alternatives for Total Human Development Institute (HEALTHDEV)
Region V	Naga	Associates in Research, and Community Empowerment Services (ARCES)
Region IX	Zamboanga	Zamboanga Urban Poor Institute for Social Development (ZUPISOCDEV)
Region XII	General Santos	Katotohanan, Pagkakaisa at Serbisyo (KPS) Foundation

The second day of the project-end assessment gave the participants opportunity to visit lactation stations in the city and the Zamboanga Medical Center Milk Bank.

All in all, the project-end assessment and terminal reporting had shown that the project accomplished, and in many cases, exceeded the project targets.

In the PHILSSA publication, *Gabay kay Nanay Tungo sa Maayos, malusog at Ligtas na Pamumuhay*, a section was devoted to the promotion of Exclusive Breast-Feeding in the first six months from birth.

It is hoped that the awareness, interest and commitment to promote and practice Exclusive Breast-Feeding is mainstreamed among the PHILSSA member-NGOs and their partner communities.

PHILSSA and Give2Asia Support Post-Sendong Rehabilitation Initiative

By **Benedict O. Balderrama**
PHILSSA Secretariat

After typhoon Sendong devastated Central Visayas and Northern Mindanao in December 2011, PHILSSA immediately assisted affected families and communities in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan.

Among the institutions that supported Philssa’s call for assistance was Give2Asia. According to its website, “Give2Asia is a US-based social enterprise that serves as a catalyst for philanthropic investment in Asia. Give2Asia makes international philanthropy safe, effective and impactful for corporations, foundations and individual donors.” Give2Asia bases its work on four principles: (1) *Local experts know best*, (2) *Every community is different*, (3) *Build relationships with grant recipients*, and (4) *Stay in touch and track results*.

PHILSSA and Give2Asia work together in the **Post-Sendong Rehabilitation Initiative**. The project involves assisting affected school children in their educational and psycho-emotional needs and in promoting community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) measures. The project is being implemented in five barangays in two cities. Below is the activities and output as of 31 December 2012.

Barangay/City	Local NGO Partner	Activities for Children	Activities for CBDRRM
Barangay 13, Cagayan de Oro City	KKP-SIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with schools, barangay Distributed uniform, shoes, supplies to 70 schoolchildren Psycho-social debriefing for parents, children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRRM orientation and planning done in Oct 2012 Review and updating of barangay DRRM plan done in Nov-Dec 2012
Barangay 17, Cagayan de Oro City	GROUP Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with schools, barangay, residents Needs of children identified, purchased to be distributed in Jan 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRRM trainers’ training done in Nov 30-Dec 1, 2012 Barangay DRRM plan review and updating scheduled in Jan-Mar 2013
Barangay Consolacion, Cagayan de Oro City	TOUCH Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with school Distributed uniform, shoes, supplies to 116 children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRRM orientation, plan review and updating scheduled in Feb-May 2013
Barangay Tubod, Iligan City	LIHUK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with School, barangay and community groups Distributed uniform, bags, supplies to 80 children Scheduled art therapy sessions in Mar 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRRM orientation and planning done in Nov 2012 Barangay DRRM plan review and updating done in Nov-Dec 2012
Barangay Hinaplanon, Iligan City	SMMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with school, barangay Distributed school supplies to 80 children Psycho-social debriefing done in Sep 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRRM orientation and planning done in Oct 2012 Barangay DRRM plan review and updating done in Nov-Dec 2012

The Post-Sendong Rehabilitation Initiative will run until June 2013.



CODE-NGO 5th Congress

By Rhea Kristine Aguilar
PHILSSA Secretariat



The PHILSSA Secretariat and its member NGOs and partner POs actively participated in the CODE-NGO 5th National Congress with the theme “Breaking Barriers in Civil Society’s Constructive Engagement for Development” which was held on 20-22 November 2012.

The three-day event started with a Cultural Night attended by all the member networks of CODE-NGO. Each network showcased its talents in the cultural presentations. PHILSSA Secretariat together with its members KKP-SIO of Xavier University and KARDAMS performed a culture dance which won the Most Lively Presentation Award.

On the second day of the Congress, PHILSSA organized a learning session on Addressing Flood Disaster Risks of Vulnerable Communities as part of the simultaneous development fora. The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP),

Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP), and Aksiyon sa Kahandaan Laban sa Kalamidad at Klima (AKKMA) were invited to share their experiences on addressing flood disaster risks. PBSP presented its experience in utilizing information technology in community-based early warning systems in Southern Leyte. AKKMA shared its partnership building initiatives in addressing flooding in the Greater Manila while FDUP narrated its community initiatives for safe and secure settlements in Ernestville.

President Benigno S. Aquino III was the keynote speaker during the congress proper and business meeting. CODE-NGO’s accomplishments for the past five years and 2013-2017 Strategic Plan were also presented. PHILSSA was able to mobilize around 50 participants from its member NGOs and partner POs in this activity.

PHILSSA Secretariat Gives Back

By Rhea Kristine Aguilar
PHILSSA Secretariat

In celebration of Christmas, the PHILSSA Secretariat conducted a gift-giving activity in Doña Imelda, Quezon City. The Secretariat, in preparation for this activity, gathered donations of clothes, toys and books from staff, colleagues and network partners. The partner PO in the area led by Jose Morales helped the Secretariat staff in organizing the activity. A short children's program was held which included distribution of gifts and games. Around 150 children joined the activity.

