

## **REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 2007 NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT**

September 2007 was the time when we prepared for the National Training Course on Landslide Risk Management, which would be one of the project's major events for the month of October. Dr. Mark Zarco, Chairman, Organizing committee together with his team arranged the venue for the training course, invited the resource speakers and asked for sponsorship from different companies. It is a national training course because participants from different parts of the whole Philippine archipelago, especially the locals and officials of areas that have experienced landslides, were invited to attend. Also, people from different sectors, who can provide the tools and equipment, were asked to be speakers so as to provide the attendees more insight on what technology they could use in their respective localities to help mitigate landslides.

Dr. Sandra Catane and her team also performed a fieldwork that was carried out from September 16-20, 2007 to determine the geology and stratigraphy of the problematic slope inside the Baguio Garden Villas; this area was also explored by the participants during the training course. Exposures on the slope and outside of the study area were examined in detail. Geologic structures were measured and soil samples were collected. The boundary of the actively moving mass was delineated and seepages were located. This assessment is essential in determining the mechanism of movement of the landslide which is used in the slope stability analysis and identifying the suitable mitigation measure.

For the first week of October, the final preparations for the National Training Course on Landslide Risk Management were being made. The confirmation of the attendance of both the speakers and the numerous participants are being finalized and also the reservations for the venue, Ridgewood Residence in Baguio City, are being completed.

During the National Training Course for Landslide Risk Management, we had the honor of having Dr. Oddvar Kjekstad and Dr. Rajinder Bhasin of the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) and Mr. N.M.S.I. Arambepola of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) as our guest speakers. We had a total of fifty-four participants from different public and private companies from all over the country and also from Asia.

The first day of the training course (October 17, 2007) included talks from NGI, ADPC, Saint Louis University (SLU), Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Mapua Institute of Technology, Office of Civil Defense, Kasetsart University of Bangkok, and University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). These talks acted as an introduction of the project and welcoming activity for the participants.

It was then followed by a dinner at Barrio Fiesta Restaurant, sponsored by Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Diliman, which gave the participants more time to meet fellow participants in the training.

For the second day (October 18, 2007), all of the participants had the chance to visit the site in Baguio Pines Garden Subdivision and assess the project area. After the site visit, the training course was continued with an open forum to give the participant time to ask questions and share their insights. Talks were also given by the sponsor Bauer Foundation Phils., Inc., Philippine Gabions, Inc. and TenCate Geosynthetics Asia.

The last day of the training course (October 19, 2007), talks were still given by speakers from different public and private sectors and was concluded with the awarding of certificates for the speakers, sponsors and participants.