

PROMISE PHILIPPINES
MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORT
For the Period March 1 – 28, 2006

Preparations for the Project Orientation Workshop

The CDP Team coordinated with the Technical Working Group (TWG) in the finalization of the Program for the Project Launching. Facilitators for the Workshop were selected from the ranks of the TWG. Invitation to the local officials and representatives from the private sector and the local media were done by the TWG. Secretariat work was divided between the CDP Team and some personnel from the Dagupan City Government. The TWG was tasked to look for a documentor who will produce the Proceedings of the Project Orientation Workshop (Project Launch) according to the specifications given in the contract drafted by CDP. CDP coordinated with USAID, Office of Civil Defense-NDCC and the League of Cities for the travel and program details. A Project Brief was prepared by CDP to serve as reference of the workshop participants and this was made part of the participant's kit.

March 7 Project Orientation Workshop

The Program was divided into two main parts. The formal Project Launching and the Orientation Workshop. For the formal Project Launching, the City Mayor Hon. Benjamin S. Lim, gave the Welcome Remarks. Messages of Support for the Project were given by Mr. Edgar Nigel Lontoc, the Regional Director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD); Atty. Gil Fernando Cruz, Executive Director of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP); and, Ms. Laura Coughlin, Mission Disaster Relief Officer, USAID. To cap the formal launching, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dagupan City and CDP was signed with the representatives from USAID, LCP and OCD as witnesses. The event was well covered by the local print and broadcast media.

The Orientation Workshop started with the presentation by the Mr. Robert Erfe-Mejia, Chief of the Public Order & Safety Office and Civil Defense Deputized Coordinator of the Dagupan City Disaster Coordinating Council on the City Situation and Current Efforts in Disaster Management. This was followed by the presentation of Ms. Lorna Victoria about the PROMISE Project. The presentations were followed by an Open Forum which was facilitated by the City Administrator, Mr. Rafael Baraan.

The body was later divided into workshop groups and each group was asked to identify the factors which they think would facilitate or hinder the smooth implementation of the Project and the roles of each stakeholder. After the workshop results presentation, each one was tasked to identify eight communities which they perceived as the most vulnerable to flooding.

The Proceedings of the Project Launching and Orientation Workshop is already available and will be sent by surface mail. Some pictures of the Project Launch and Orientation Workshop are attached.

Also, during the launching, CDP mounted a photo exhibit showing the work it is doing. CDP also brought some of its published books for sale as part of the promotion of the community based disaster risk management framework and also for institutional promotion.

Selection of Target Communities

The CDP Team scheduled to visit the eight communities identified by the TWG as priority communities for the Project. Only four out of the eight communities were visited by the team due to lack of time before the Project Launching and Orientation Workshop. The next four were visited by the Project Manager alone. The City's Tourism Office facilitated the ocular visit and dialogues with the leaders of the Barangays (villages).

Six (6) of the barangays chosen by the TWG were also identified by the Participants to the Project Launch and Orientation Workshop as the most vulnerable to flooding. This was discussed with the TWG and they agreed to adopt the other two barangays identified in the ranking done in the March 7 Workshop.

A local consultant shared with CDP the worst case level of flood water for each community based on the flood modeling developed by the JICA consultants with whom he worked with in the past. They had identified communities which will go under 3, 2, and 1 meter of flood water under very heavy rainfall. This listing was also looked into before finalizing the target communities for the Project's focused interventions.

The following are the eight selected communities: Tebeng, Bacayao Norte, Bacayao Sur, Manguin, Salisay, Lasip Chico, Lasip Grande, and Pogo Grande.

Preparations for the DRM and PRA Training

The CDP Team drew up a Training Design and this was discussed with the TWG. The target participants to the Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Participatory Risk Assessment Training are members of the TWG and two Barangay officials from each of the eight selected communities. Training Needs Analysis (TNA) forms were distributed to the target participants but unfortunately these were not returned prior to the training. The Training Design is herein attached for reference.

The dates for the training were moved several times because of the very busy schedule of the TWG members. It was good that inspite of the changes, the two target resource persons were available to join the training team composed of the Project Manager, Ms. Mayfourth Luneta and Ms. Marita Santos, CDP Senior Training Officer. Mr. Ernie Elcamel from the City of Naga will be sharing on the Naga Flood Risk Mitigation Program and on Participatory GIS. The Environment Officer of the League of Cities will be presenting on the link between Environment and Disaster.

Actual Conduct of the Training

The five day DRM and PRA Training which includes field practicum started March 27 and will end by March 31. There are 24 participants from the City Level and 16 from the communities. One problem is the full participation of the TWG members who miss some sessions because they have important things to attend to being key people in the City Administration (and the venue of the training is just nearby to their offices).

As the training is still ongoing, full documentation will be sent together with next month's report.