



URBAN PARTNER

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Villagers bid to win vs poverty

GUIMARAS COMMUNITY-BASED HERITAGE TOURISM BRINGS HOPE TO COASTAL HAMLET

Earning around 70 pesos a day from the dwindling yield of the sea and from the tedious process of making charcoal isn't really enough for every family of Barangay Dolores, a coastal village in the town of Nueva Valencia and is found in the southwestern-most tip of Guimaras Island in central Philippines.

Perhaps, the community just simply wants to be true to its name, which in English means "pains."

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TREÑAS PRESENTS MIDC GAINS IN GLOBAL MEET

First-things-first principle works in urban governance

FIRST THINGS FIRST.

This was the principle applied by the five local governments of Metropolitan Iloilo, an urban region in central Philippines, in their attempt to illustrate the importance of appropriate and well-functioning metropolitan arrangements to the management of rapid urban growth.

"Rather than beginning to tackle their pressing urban problems in a piecemeal and incremental fashion with unilateral and sectoral band-aid solutions, they instead took a bold step. They put aside whatever political differences they might have had and sat down to design and create, on their own terms, a simple yet effective governance body for the shared urban region," stresses Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas during the 3rd International Conference on Decentralization held in Manila in October 2003.

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GUIASI lighthouse towers over the scenic coastline of Barangay Dolores (upper inset) as villagers present a native cuisine during a workshop aimed at providing them the capacity to manage a community-based heritage tourism program (lower inset).

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PUBLIC SAFETY STARTS AT HOME

Village sentries at the village center

PLAYING host to three subdivisions and at least 4,026 villagers, Barangay M. V. Hechanova in the district of Jaro in Iloilo City, Philippines is home to people from varied social strata. It has rich subdivision dwellers, middle-class families and poor squatters. With an area of about 80 hectares, a number of commercial establishments have mushroomed in the barangay (village) to address consumer needs.

It is a relatively peaceful community but barangay captain (village chief) Perla Guinea admits that there are a few cases of domestic squabbles, petty crimes and disturbances, especially when rowdy teenagers, who go to the R. G. Hechanova Memorial High School there, figure in brawls. On few occasions, some students were also involved in thievery and robbery.

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M. V. HECHANOVA BARANGAY TANODS

Villagers bid to win vs poverty ... from Page 1

Behind the beauty of its pristine shoreline that is decorated with white sands and majestic rock formations lies the pain of poverty that is found in most of the homes in the area.

At the average, families in Dolores earn about 300 pesos a week from fishing and 200 pesos a week from charcoal making – the two industries that have been sustaining the lives of its at least 1,800 population.

“Life is becoming hard here these days. Illegal fishing has destroyed our marine resources and fishers could hardly make a hefty catch,” laments village chief Rogelio Galapin, 62.

He blames illegal fishing and the intrusion of big commercial fishing boats into the municipal waters as the reason for the decline of the household income in the village.

“Two decades ago, the daily catch was abundant. Fishers then can bring home at least 300 pesos a day,” Galapin, speaking in his native tongue *Hiligaynon*, recounts.

OPTIMISM

But despite the growing pains in the area, optimism is now reigning among the people following the entry of the Guimaras Heritage Tourism Project, which aims to transform the place into a tourist destination managed by the community.

The project calls for the establishment of a community-based heritage tourism program, one of the demonstration projects under the Guimaras Economic Initiatives.

The GEI is a capacity development assistance for the island-province implemented under the Canada-Philippine Partnership Program for Good Urban Governance (CPPPGUG).

CPPPGUG is an initiative under the International Partnership Program for Good Urban Governance between Canada and the Philippines that seeks to assist selected local governments in the Western Visayas region to achieve more efficient and equitable delivery of economic, environmental and social services through the promotion of inter-local government cooperation.

Funded by the government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the program supports the Philippines' continued thrust towards decentralization of powers to local authorities and empowerment of communities in local decision-making, as set forth in the 1991 Local Government Code.

“Barangay Dolores has a lot of potentials as far as tourism is concerned,” says Francis Gentoral, Philippine program manager of the Canadian Urban Institute, a Canadian non-government organization that implements the CPPPGUG.

“If given the capacity to manage their own resources, the community can improve their lot through tourism. Managing their resources will also require them to protect it, thus making the industry sustainable,” adds Gentoral.

CUI, which serves as a think-tank, is committed to improving policy making, governance and management in urban regions by encouraging a better understanding of contemporary urban issues among communities, business, government and other key institutions.

TOURISM POTENTIALS

Dolores boasts of Sitio Guisi, a coastal hamlet of about 80 families living along the white sand beach and guarded by a Spanish lighthouse known in naval manuals as Faro de Punta Luzaran.

It also has forested hills, a cave and a waterfall. The indigenous culture remains intact, and the people are ideally hospitable. The coast also offers a magnificent view of the sunset over Panay Gulf.

“The beach is perfect for swimming and canoeing, the hills are ideal for mountain-trekking and the caves are a good site for spelunking. It also has refreshing springs while the lighthouse gives everyone a lesson in history,” says Governor Rahman Nava of Guimaras.

HISTORIC

The lighthouse was one of the 70 lighthouses built across the Philippines in 1857 as part of the Masterplan for the Lighting of the Maritime Coasts of the Philippine Archipelago.

The master plan was born for the purpose of lighting the seas and channels of the Philippines to guide ships in and through the most important sea channels to the ports of Manila, Iloilo and Cebu. Guisi was selected to be the host of the lighthouse because it is visible from both Panay and Negros, and from the open sea in the eastern side of the country, it being at the southwestern end of Guimaras.

The area also served as a stopover point for sugar and log-loaded ships plying the Iloilo-Cauayan route during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Spanish lighthouse, which is no longer functioning but is still extant, had a beam that can reach 14 miles, or as far as the town of Guimbal in Iloilo. Its rotating prism, which reflects and beams the kerosene-fueled light, was powered by gravitational force. Sometime in the 1990s, The Philippine Coast Guard constructed a new one, this time, it is powered by solar energy.

BUILDING CAPACITIES

To build the capacity of villagers in managing a community-based tourism project, a workshop was held in December 2003 to equip them with basic knowledge in inn-keeping, organization, management of tourism facilities and events, guest assistance and handling as well as marketing.

Before the workshop, a group of provincial government personnel had a study tour in Samal Island in Davao del Norte where a community-based tourism program had been making several gains. Their learnings were echoed during the activity.

The provincial government of Guimaras, the municipal government of Nueva Valencia and CUI facilitated the workshop, which enjoyed the assistance of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

The provincial government of Guimaras allocated 350,000 pesos for the construction of a one-room heritage cottage to accommodate tourists in the area. It is equipped with a bathroom, a kitchen and lighting facilities. It was subsequently turned over the Barangay Tourism Council (BTC) for management.

The BTC offers a tour package for a group of five at the rate of 1,175 pesos per person, which includes accommodation at the heritage cottage and meals for two days, and services like boating and carroza ride, as well as a cultural presentation. Guides are also available for those who want to go mountain trekking and spelunking.

BLESSING

“This project is a blessing to the people here because it can give them additional income as service providers in the project,” says Renato Garnita, 66, president of the BTC.

Garnita, whose father used to work at the lighthouse, describes as “timely” the assistance given them under the Guimaras Heritage Tourism Project because it came at the time when most residents are bearing the pains of poverty.

He likened the project to the lighthouse that guides ships to their destinations. “Our village has a lot of potentials and all the people here need is guidance so we can overcome the challenges, and we are glad that there is this project that will give us direction,” he quips.

Garnita concedes that the people still has a lot of things to learn before they can develop the proper skills and acquire sufficient knowledge to manage the resources of the village.

He adds, “If many of us can withstand poverty here, there is no reason why we can't endure the test of learning the ropes of the trade. If we will not face that test, we can never receive the promise that community-based tourism brings us.”

Canadian experts share ideas on urban growth management

TWO Canadian experts shared their ideas on metropolitan growth management with Iloilo municipal and city mayors, the academe and the media, particularly on how to hurdle the challenges of rapid urban change.

Bohdan "Bob" Onyshuk, vice chair of the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), and Delia Laglagaron, deputy chief administrative officer of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) were the main speakers in the "Roundtable on Metropolitan Growth Management" held on October 10, 2003 in Iloilo City, Philippines.

Onyshuk, a lawyer by profession, is a partner with the Gowling Lafleur Henderson, a leading law firm in Canada. He practices in the fields of municipal and development law, and was named Queen's Counsel in 1979, a mark of outstanding legal ability in the Canadian justice system.

Author of the publication *Smart Growth in North America*, he is the main proponent of the Smart Growth concept, the latest strategy of management in highly urbanized regions in both Canada and the United States.

The Philippine-born Laglagaron, an architect, holds master's degrees in urban and regional planning, and in public administration from the John F. Kennedy

School of Government at Harvard University.

The GVRD where she is actively involved is the governing body for the Vancouver metropolitan area and the one that sets the broad strategic direction for managing the growth of the region, with particular emphasis on land use and transportation planning.

Themed "Help drive MIDC forward" and sponsored by the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC) and the CUI, the roundtable was organized to discover practical steps to overcome challenges facing the MIDC, an inter-local government cooperative body created to address the growing urbanization in Iloilo City, Leganes, Oton, Pavia and San Miguel.

Architect Manny Tingzon Jr., an advisor to the MIDC who is also the chair of the Iloilo City Zoning Review Committee, presented how the MIDC was established as well as its experiences in planning processes.

Also present during the event were Dr. Tibor Frank, CUI's Executive Director and Andrew Farncombe, CUI's director of international planning.



ONYSCHUK



LAGLAGARON

Peñalosa is new MIDC executive director

JOSE Roni Peñalosa, City Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Iloilo City, has been designated as the new executive director of the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC).

Peñalosa assumed the post left vacant with the passing away of Saturnino Gonzales Jr. in September 2003. He was also named, on a concurrent capacity, as city planning and development coordinator of Iloilo City, a seat that was once occupied by Gonzales.

The MIDC is an inter-local government cooperative arrangement among the municipalities of Leganes, Oton, Pavia, San Miguel and Iloilo City created to address growing urbanization in the region's capital of Western Visayas, Philippines.

Peñalosa's designation was by virtue of a resolution passed on October 8, 2003 by the mayors under the MIDC.

Peñalosa was a participant in the 1999 study tour on Canadian Experiences in Local Governance, Tourism



PEÑALOSA

Development, Economic Development, Solid Waste Management and Environmental Planning held in British Columbia, Canada.

He holds a master's degree in public management from the University of the Philippines as well as a diploma in urban and regional planning and a certificate in environmental resource management from the same university.

In 1998, he was cited as the Most Outstanding Pollution Control Officer among local government units in Western Visayas, a feat that he duplicated in the

national level when he was awarded Most Outstanding Pollution Control Officer in the Philippines in 1999.

Peñalosa likewise serves as the executive director of the Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council, technical working group coordinator of the Iloilo City Solid Waste Management Board and vice chairperson of the Iloilo City Task Force Clean and Green.

PANINDAHAN SA MANGGAHAN

Folks showcase produce in Guimaras market fair



FRESH tomatoes were among those sold at low prices during the Panindahan sa Manggahan.

FOR most people in the island-province of Guimaras in the Philippines, the Alibhon public market in Jordan town is a major trading center.

Traditionally, it has been the main buying center for agricultural produce, fish and local delicacies and handicrafts in the past, attracting traders and consumers from the neighboring province of Iloilo and Iloilo City.

To highlight the market's role in the town's economy, a pioneering project dubbed *Panindahan sa Manggahan* was held on May 18, 2003 at the Jordan (Alibhon) Food Terminal Market as part of the Manggahan 2003 celebration, one of the island's festivals.

Panindahan sa Manggahan generated a record sales of 700,777 pesos in one day. It has introduced new knowledge to local government personnel on how to organize and promote local activities.

The project provided economic opportunities for farmers and fishermen, local craftsmen and artists to showcase their produce and subsequently earn income from the event. It also created awareness on

the agricultural and fishery, and tourism potentials of the province.

During that day, Guimaras' finest produce of organic rice and vegetables, orchids, fruits and root crops, fresh fish, poultry products, fruit preserves, jellies and pickles, alongside its natives' premium craftsmanship in mats, hats and *buri* bags were made available to the public at very low prices.

Capped with a *Guimaras for 20* promotion, families and groups experienced farm marketing and visited interesting sites in the island for one day at 20 pesos only, with an itinerary prepared by the event organizers.

There was also a raffle draw where lucky market-goers took home prizes -- from one sack of rice to appliances. A videoke challenge was also staged that gave the market a festive mood.

The trade fair was one of the demonstration projects introduced by the province of Guimaras and the Canadian Urban Institute under the Guimaras Economic Initiative (GEI) project, a component of the Canada-Philippines Partnership Program for Good Urban Governance.

IN MALAY, AKLAN

Leaders' Forum boosts community participation

LOCAL officials in Malay, Aklan initiated a Leaders' Forum in January 2003 which paved the way for the monthly conduct of joint-sessions among the three villages in Boracay Island in central Philippines.

It was organized to provide a venue where the municipal government of Malay and officials of Barangays Balabag, Manoc-manoc and Yapak can discuss issues affecting the island and find solutions for them.

The forum was a result of a series of structural innovations introduced in Malay under the organizational strengthening component of the Malay Local Social Service Delivery Enhancement Initiative, in cooperation with the Canadian Urban Institute.

Although the Leader's Forum was conducted only once, officials of the three barangays agreed to conduct monthly joint-sessions for the same purpose.

The monthly joint-sessions allowed the barangays to address common problems in an integrated manner and one that transcends barangay boundaries.

On the other hand, the local government of Malay also launched an advocacy radio program known as *kaMALAYan*, which is aired over Yes FM Boracay twice a month.

The program tackles various issues affecting the island and what the local government is doing about them.

It is aired every second and fourth Friday of every month.



ANDREW Farncombe, director of programming of CUI's International Programme Office, turns over a computer unit for the health information system of Malay, Aklan to Mayor Ciceron Cawaling and municipal health officer Adrian Salaver, M.D., as municipal employees look on.

CPPPGUG Project Update

THE following are the major accomplishments of the Canada-Philippines Partnership Program for Good Urban Governance (CPPPGUG) for the period January 1-December 31, 2003:

METROPOLITAN ILOILO INITIATIVE

1. Finalized the Metropolitan Iloilo regional growth strategy framework plan
2. Continued implementation of concrete pilot projects serving as action learning for Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council to work and on the benefits of inter-local government cooperation
3. Delivered workshops, technical sessions and coaching, on planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and organizational improvement which have strengthened capacities of targeted local government staff and elected officials, non-government organizations and private sector representatives on key aspects defined in the capacity development plans
4. Implemented and monitored new and improved organizational policies and processes on organization, communication, financial operations, monitoring and evaluation system, addressing specific organizational process improvements related to project planning and coordination systems for MIDC
5. Opened a website for MIDC; with Internet website address at <http://www.midc.mypage.org/>

GUIMARAS ECONOMIC INITIATIVE

1. Provided support to two demonstration projects that are promoting inter-local government cooperation in the implementation of priority economic projects: Guimaras Trade and Information Center and Cultural Heritage Tourism. In the cultural heritage tourism project, it has completed a community-based tourism action planning and tourism project management with Barangay Dolores, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras
2. Conducted the following capacity development activities: a) Graduating 21 new tour guides from the province of Guimaras through the conduct of the Tour Guiding Seminar, April 27 to May 07, 2003; b) Coaching during the preparation of Panindahan sa Manggahan (Market Fair Day) 2003, which resulted in a record PHP 700,777.00 of sales that day with 11 participants from the market vendors, as well as introduced new knowledge to local government personnel on how to organize and promote local activity; c) Conducting a Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop for 13 participants from Project Steering Committee, staff from the Provincial Planning and Development and non-government organizations; d) Conducting the Organizational Performance Review and Improvement Strategy for Enhancing Local Economic Development Organizations Workshop for 19 participants from Project Steering Committee, Provincial Department personnel and NGOs; and e) Conducting Business Process Mapping Workshop with Tour Guides Guild of Guimaras with eight (8) officers and members participating.
3. Organized a local study tour in Cebu City, Bohol and Mindanao last November 10-15, 2003 to learn from experiences of local governments on economic promotion and tourism development
4. Assisted in preparation of the Guimaras Investment Video (September 19-30, 2003) which was used for investment promotion of the province;
5. Supported the province in the preparations for the WOW Philippines, a national tourism event in Manila; the assistance



PARTICIPANTS in the Study Tour on Local Government Experiences in Local Economic Promotion, Environmental Management and Health Service Delivery held on November 10-15, 2003 in Cebu, Bohol and Davao del Norte pose for a souvenir photo with Vice Mayor Michael Rama (center) of Cebu City.

- were in the form of coaching and demonstration sessions on investment and tourism promotion
6. Facilitated the annual tourism planning of the Guimaras Provincial Tourism Office in order to review the past tourism activities, rationalized the activities and events and developed a strategic tourism action plans for 2004.

MALAY LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICE DELIVERY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

1. Established working relationships with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the sharing of expertise in local capacity development activities.
2. Provided on-going support to the implementation to the Boracay Island Health Services Delivery Project and the Materials Recovery Facility Project
3. Delivered capacity development activities such as: a) Delivering an Organizational Improvement Workshop with 11 participants from different departments which resulted in the production of draft departmental improvement plans; b) Delivering a Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop for 14 participants; c) Conducting a Solid Waste Management Characterization Workshop attended by two (2) Municipal Sanitary Inspectors, which able to increase knowledge of participants on how to conduct waste characterization
4. Introduced organizational improvements such as a) regular weekly staff meetings, a venue for progress reporting and planning for the weekly activities; b) implementation of regular communication campaign on the municipal government activities using the Boracay radio station; and c) installation of a health information data base for the Municipal Health Office
5. Organized a local study tour in Cebu City, Bohol and Mindanao last November 10-15, 2003 to learn from experiences of local governments on health services delivery, economic promotion, tourism development and environmental management
6. Completed the sharing of knowledge by key stakeholders from the Malay-Buruanga Inter-local Health Zone with the Department of Health, thereby mobilizing support, partnerships and resources

First-things-first principle works in urban governance ... from Page 1

Treñas was referring to the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC), an inter-local government cooperative arrangement among the municipalities of Leganes, Oton, Pavia, San Miguel and Iloilo City to address growing urbanization in the region's capital of Western Visayas region in central Philippines, which he chairs.

Established in February 2001, the MIDC is beginning to see results, according to Treñas.

These results include the MIDC acting as a forum for political consensus building, integrated planning and partnership-oriented action. It is fully established, with approval and budgetary contributions from all local governments in the urban region.

The MIDC also has a core secretariat and supporting management infrastructure that is carrying out a metropolitan development agenda. A draft metropolitan plan is nearing completion, and early actions to implement its identified priorities are under way.

"And with new funds beginning to flow to MIDC-coordinated programs and initiatives, from both national and international sources, first steps are being taken to begin shaping Iloilo as a more liveable metropolis," says Treñas.

The mayor admits that while there is certainly no single approach to metropolitan governance and management that will fit the circumstances of all city regions across the Philippines, the Metro Iloilo experience has demonstrated some salient features that may provide lessons to other city regions in the country.

"These features may be illustrative of how other places can begin putting in place, or take steps to improve, their own metropolitan arrangements. Good governance at the metropolitan level is an imperative first step toward the pursuit of improved quality of urban life in large cities," he adds.

Treñas outlines some of the key features in the evolution of MIDC as follows:

A DEVOLUTION REVOLUTION

MIDC is innovative because local leaders did not wait for implementation instructions from the national government. Instead, they acted on their own initiative (albeit within the national legal framework) and within their own financial means to design a metropolitan arrangement that was appropriate to local political circumstances and imperatives.

Despite the presence of policy statement on metropolitan arrangements in the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan, the national government did not lift a finger to carry out the implementation of MIDC. The result has been local pride and ownership in the arrangement that is providing momentum and political solidarity into the future.

VOLUNTARY, CONSENSUS-BASED

Learning from the successes of Metro Naga (Philippines) and from the experiences of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and the Capital (Victoria) Regional District (Canada), MIDC opted for the 'carrot' instead of the 'stick'.

Instead of pushing for the creation of yet another distinct layer of government (such as in the Metro Manila model, which for Iloilo would have been too costly, too inflexible and too disruptive of democratic local decision-making), it pursued the voluntary, consensus-based model. While this model certainly has its draw backs (i.e., it lacks the regulatory teeth that are sometimes necessary to bring about difficult change), it also has many strengths.

Its geographic coverage of territory can be easily expanded to match the inevitable outward push of the urban region into the

countryside. It is flexible in function, able to adapt quickly to changing circumstances and urban needs. It does not require a large and expensive bureaucracy (in fact, MIDC will probably work best if it remains without operational responsibilities at all, instead leaving these with the LGUs).

It is a forum where regional issues can be discussed, acting as a catalyst for the creation of inter-LGU agreements and for the enactment of planning documents with sufficient legal status to coerce municipalities into adhering to broad strategic objectives of the metropolitan land use plan.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The process for the design and creation of MIDC, took five years. It was not rushed, nor was it painfully dragged through the political mud. During this half a decade, the active participation of key stakeholders – from the national government agencies, individual member LGUs, business sector, academe, NGOs, the media and interested persons from the general public – was sought through a strategic planning process.

This allowed for the arrangement to grow slowly from an initial vision through to a working administrative arrangement and a portfolio of priority initiatives, leaving time and space along the way for it to meet both local and national level imperatives.

URBAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Cooperative metropolitan arrangements in other places have often been bogged down because of strong central city stewardship that gets interpreted by outlying municipalities as a grab on power and resources to solve what are mostly difficult inner city problems.

A factor of success in the development of MIDC was building the capacity of urban leaders (not just mayors, but also other key opinion leaders in the community) to begin understanding how metropolitan regions work, the complexity of the underlying forces at play, the unequal burden of problems and costs shouldered by the inner city municipality, and the inter-connectedness of both the problems and the potential solutions across jurisdictions, agencies, sectors and political orientation.

This was achieved through a sustained program of capacity development toward improved leadership, much of which was achieved through exposure to good (and bad) practices from other places through study tours within the Philippines and to Canada. Leaders began also to appreciate the value of learning from others success and failures.

The end result was a paradigm shift among the five urban mayors (not to mention other leaders) who began to think within the context of "urban" and not just "municipal", and who could then trade in municipal decision-making freedoms for the collective decision-making of MIDC.

In conclusion, although in its infancy in the Philippines metropolitan planning and development is fast becoming a new feature of local governance for the country. Rapid urbanization and the associated crisis of urban management have compelled local government units to begin working together.

It has forced them to expand their political, administrative, planning and service delivery linkages with neighboring municipalities to tackle the development challenges that cross over jurisdictional boundaries within the city region. As Philippine local government units begin to experiment with metropolitan arrangements within the current limits of the constitution and the national policy framework, the next several years will yield lessons learned that may call for changes to the legal framework that strengthen the ability of local authorities to reorganize themselves into stronger metropolitan institutional arrangements.

Village sentries at the village center ... from page 1

"The school is an extension campus of the Jaro National High School and most of those enrolled here are not really from the barangay but problem students who were rejected by other schools and had nowhere to enroll. They often cause trouble, especially when gangs fight with one another," she laments.

But by and large, the peace and order situation in Barangay M. V. Hechanova remains at a desirable level. "Our tanods have been very diligent and efficient in their sentinel works because they know that the barangay council has been very supportive of them," Guinea beams.

BARANGAY SUPPORT

The barangay's appropriation ordinance affirms Guinea's statement. The barangay council of M. V. Hechanova has allocated 123,000 pesos for the monthly allowance of its 18 tanods, and 16,000 pesos for their uniforms last year. The funds are part of the barangay's 1.197 million-peso budget for 2003. The tanod commander receives a monthly stipend of 900 pesos, his deputy gets 800 pesos a month, while the 16 tanod members receive 570 pesos each per month.

Equipments were also provided to them like a patrol car, radio transceivers, nightsticks, handcuffs, pepper sprays, flashlights and first-aid kits. The tanod outpost in the area has a detention center where they can temporarily detain transgressors before they are turned over to the police.

SENTINEL WORKS

In March 2003, the tanods made a record when they helped arrest a suspected drug pusher during a buy-bust operation. In July 2003, they also arrested two teenagers who burglarized the school.

Their diligence and efficiency in their functions is not new though. Displaying such qualities as early as 2000, the relatively well-off homeowners at Gran Plains Subdivision stopped hiring the services of private security agencies to secure the area. It is now the tanods that have been posted to man the gates of the subdivision, according to Guinea.

Two tanods are assigned at the subdivision during the 7 am to 7 pm shift, and on the 10 pm to 4 am shift. During the 7 pm to 10 pm, and 4 am to 7 am shifts, one tanod is assigned there while those stationed at the Tanod Outpost nearby serve as back-up. The Tanod Outpost, on the other hand, is manned by a group of six tanods from 7 pm to 7 am. Says Guinea, "The visibility of the tanods in the area made our barangay relatively peaceful."

Aside from conducting nightly patrol, the tanods are also involved in the barangay's cleanliness and tree-planting programs, and in providing safety assistance to pedestrians and security services during community affairs like parochial fiesta and school activities.

AWARD

The efforts of the tanod in Barangay M. V. Hechanova did not pass unnoticed. The Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC) awarded it as the most outstanding barangay tanod in Metropolitan Iloilo in the MIDC Committee on Public Safety and Security Search for Model Barangay Tanod. The award, given on December 16, 2003, carried with it a 10,000-peso cash prize, and a certificate of recognition.

The MIDC is an inter-local government cooperative arrangement among the municipalities of Leganes, Oton, Pavia, San Miguel and Iloilo City aimed to address growing urbanization in the region's capital of Western Visayas. Its services includes programs which have metro-wide impact and transcend local political boundaries or entail huge expenditures.

Other winners in the search include the barangay tanods of barangays Aganan in Pavia (first runner-up), Tagbac Sur in Oton (second runner-up), Consolacion in San Miguel (third runner-up)

CUI advisor attends sustainability training

NEREO Lujan, communications advisor of the Canadian Urban Institute-Philippines, attended the five-day Sustainability Training Workshop for Southeast Asian Media and Communications Professionals.

Organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and sponsored by Tetra Pak, the workshop exposed mid-career communication professionals from Southeast Asia to concepts of sustainability from natural and social science perspectives.

The workshop, held December 1-5, 2003 at the Asian Institute of Technology Hotel in Thailand, also addressed the key issues, concerns and constraints in using communication media to address issues of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Specialized inputs on sustainability was provided by the Thailand Environment and Community Development Association (Magic Eyes) using learning tools developed by AtKisson, Inc., a consultancy company.

The workshop content was a combination of expert presentations, field-based discovery learning, participatory sustainability training exercises, film screenings and reflective debates on the role of the media.

It also shared with participants insights and experiences in using various forms of media to communicate messages on sustainability, and encouraged participants to produce short media items on environmental sustainability.

and Napnud in Leganes (fourth runner-up). Each of the runners-up received 5,000 pesos in cash and certificates of recognition.

OTHER COMMENDATIONS

"They (M. V. Hechanova barangay tanods) are always visible in the activities within the barangay that needs their presence," writes Engr. Ramon Hechanova, president of the Parish Pastoral Council, in a commendation issued to the barangay tanods.

In September 2003, the Gran Plains Homeowners Association, Inc. also passed a resolution of commendation for the barangay tanods.

Aside from Gran Plains Subdivision, Barangay M. V. Hechanova also hosts the San Isidro Village, the Jalbuena Subdivision and a portion of the Phase 3 area of Alta Tierra Village. The tanods, mostly in their 50s, also patrol these areas regularly, especially during the evening. Individually, the tanods in Barangay M. V. Hechanova have received a number of citations and recognitions, some of them given as early as 1994.

During the visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in August 2003 at the Panay Power Plant in nearby Loboc, they also helped in the security preparations and in maintaining vehicle traffic, a work that has earned the commendation of Senior Superintendent Policarpio Segubre, Iloilo City police director.

EMPOWERMENT

To further empower the tanods, they have been sent to attend seminars and workshops on various topics, among them trainings on basic security measures for barangay tanods, on search and rescue operations, on illegal drugs, and on bomb and explosives safety. These seminars include those given by the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the barangay council.

Guinea says the diligence and efficiency of the barangay tanods of M. V. Hechanova could be attributed to the support provided by the barangay council, and to their personal development as a result of their attendance in trainings, seminars and lectures on various social issues.



ILOILO City Mayor Jerry Treñas, chair of the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council, talks about the newest metropolitan arrangement for promoting integrated approaches towards planning and development during the 3rd International Conference on Decentralization last October 7-9, 2003 in Manila, Philippines. To his left is Rafael Betancourt, CUI program manager for the Caribbean, and John Orange, senior manager of the Brisbane City Council in Australia (See story on Page 1).

About CPPPGUG

THE *Canada-Philippines Partnership Project for Good Urban Governance* is a four-phase, CIDA-funded initiative under the

International Partnership Program for Good Urban Governance that supports the Philippines' continued thrust towards decentralization of power to local authorities and empowerment of communities in local decision-making, as set forth in the 1991 Local Government Code.

The geographic focus of the project is the Western Visayas Region, one of the priority areas for intervention under CIDA's Country Development Framework. The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) works with several local and regional government units in the region, as well as with national level agencies with a local development mandate. The project is strengthening the capacity of local authorities to promote sustainable development, good governance and community involvement in decision-making.

The project aims to assist the selected local government institutions in Western Visayas to achieve more efficient and equitable delivery of economic, environmental and social services through the promotion of inter-local governmental cooperation and good urban governance.

Major initiatives currently underway include:

- Metropolitan Iloilo Initiative (MII), which is assisting five local governments in this medium-sized urban region to pursue intermunicipal cooperation, regional planning, growth management and improvements to regional service delivery through the establishment of a metropolitan governance body known as the Metro Iloilo Development Council.
- Guimaras Economic Initiative (GEI), which is aimed at developing the capacities of the provincial and municipal governments to bring about economic development and poverty reduction, as well as to sustain earlier environmental protection undertakings.
- Malay Local Social Service Delivery Enhancement Initiative (LSSDEI), which is assisting this municipality to improve the coordination and sustain the quality of the delivery of social services for the disadvantaged groups through broad-based inter-agency coordination and partnerships.

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- The project consists of three activity components:
- Participatory strategy development with involvement of civil society and the private sector to assist in the development, coordination and implementation of strategic program plans. This is accomplished through establishing multi-stakeholder project steering committees and implementing demonstration projects.
 - Capacity development and strengthening of the management and financial capabilities of local and regional institutions in order for them to effectively plan, implement and evaluate collaborative strategies addressing common urban development issues. This is accomplished through conducting baseline assessments, formulating capacity development plans, facilitating participatory planning processes and strengthening capabilities in the areas of project and financial management.
 - Communication and dissemination among local and regional partners and other stakeholders of project processes, lessons learned and best practices resulting from the project.



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