



e-newsletter



CODE-NGO E-news April 2010

In this issue of the **CODE-NGO e-news**, we bring you:

- **Profiles of national candidates for the Philippine Election 2010**
- **Volunteerism for Change Politics**
- **Reflections on the sustainability of NGO networks**
- **Civil society's assessment of the MTPDP presented to NEDA**
- **UNCSAC and UNCT define priorities for 2010**
- **General assemblies of CODE-NGO member networks**

Profiles of national candidates for the Philippine Elections 2010

A national candidates profiles for the May 10, 2010 elections has been published and distributed by CODE-NGO to its member networks and partner organizations. The profiles include information on all presidential and vice-presidential candidates, and 39 senatorial candidates. The publication of this national candidates profiles was made possible through the support of the National Endowment for Democracy. The profiles are prepared with the intention of helping Filipino voters in critically assessing and evaluating the national candidates. [Download copies of the profiles here.](#)

CODE-NGO also organized a process for the crafting of the Development and Reform Agenda for 2010-2013, which now has 79 signatory NGOs, POs and other civil society organizations across the country. The Development and Reform Agenda identifies vital actions that the next Administration should take in its first three years in office in order to decisively move the country towards democratization and development. To promote the agenda, CODE-NGO disseminated copies of the document in various meetings, assemblies and voters' education forums of its members and partner organizations. [Download a copy of the Development and Reform Agenda here.](#)

Volunteerism for Change Politics

Volunteerism has always played a big role in our nation's elections since 1986. While volunteerism in elections has mostly taken a non-partisan form through various election watch groups such as the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), volunteerism in the partisan form has become very visible in the 2010 elections.

Active citizenship and volunteerism are among the core principles being advocated by the Change Politics Movement which began organizing in early 2009. However, a surge of volunteers and volunteer organizations emerged after Senator Noynoy Aquino reluctantly declared his intent to run for President as a response to popular clamor. This volunteerism is rooted in a deep yearning for real change in our politics and governance, after years of mal-governance by the current administration.

Volunteer groups have now become a core pillar of the Aquino-Roxas campaign, with its non-conventional campaign arm led by former Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Dinky Soliman coordinating with all the volunteer groups that have emerged, including the Change Politics Movement (CPM). CPM is composed of individual members, many of whom are NGO and PO leaders who see the need to support the campaign of pro-reform candidates. CPM has taken the lead for the Aquino-Roxas Non-Conventional Campaign (NCC) in various parts of Mindanao and is also active in parts of Visayas and Luzon.

There will be an even greater need for these volunteers come Election Day, as the nation undergoes its first automated national elections. Many problems can arise and vigilance from volunteer groups and civil society will be needed to help ensure clean and honest elections on May 10, 2010.

Reflections on the sustainability of NGO networks

CODE-NGO conducted last March 9-10, 2010 a reflection workshop for its Board members and the executive directors/coordinators of its member networks to discuss strategies in addressing concerns about the sustainability of NGO networks. Many NGO networks and organizations, including some CODE-NGO members, are currently facing serious sustainability issues, mainly characterized by inadequate resources (financial, material and human) to sustain their programs and activities and by the increasing difficulty to access grants from funding partners.

Among the key insights from the reflection session was that a network's sustainability does not only refer to availability of financial resources. A network is sustainable - and resources will be available - if the more important elements are in place, i.e. a system of internal governance and accountability, a critical core membership, clear mission and basis of unity and adequate and competent human resource.

[Read More](#)

Civil society's assessment of the MTPDP presented to NEDA

Conveners, partners, and one of the advisers, Dr. Mary Racelis, of the "Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) Assessment Project" met with the officials of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to present a summary of civil society organizations' assessment of the government's accomplishments towards the MTPDP and corresponding recommendations. NEDA Deputy Director General Margarita Songco, Director Erlinda Capones, NEDA's social development and other staff received the MTPDP Assessment team at the NEDA office last January 18, 2010.

The assessments of the government's performance against its own development plans were made on the following 17 themes in the MTPDP: Anti-Corruption, Agrarian Reform, Fisheries, Housing, Trade, Tourism, Election Modernization, Environment-Mining, Constitutional Reform, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development, Agriculture, Information and Communications Technology, Macro-economy, Labor, Education, Health and Peace.

The MTPDP assessment team clarified inquiries from the NEDA officials and staff about how the data were gathered and interpreted for the studies and how the recommendations were arrived at as resulting from the assessments. The assessment team will further furnish NEDA with the full versions of the assessment for each theme and will make the same available to the public soon. NEDA expressed openness to facilitate continuing dialogues with relevant government agencies, particularly with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with regards to the civil society's assessment of the MTPDP.

[Read more](#)

UNCSAC and UNCT define priorities for 2010

United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) Jacqui Badcock, UN Development Program (UNDP) Country Director Renaud Meyer and other members of the UN Country Team (UNCT) met with the members of the UN Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) last February 16, 2010 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

In her first meeting with the CSAC, Ms. Badcock, who had been appointed UNRC in September 2009, said that she looks forward to working in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Philippines. She said it is only in the Philippines that she has seen an organized and active CSAC and a Civil Society Advisory Assembly (CSA) composed of 68 CSOs and CSO networks.

In this meeting, the UNCT and the CSAC agreed on four priority joint activities for 2010, namely:

1. UN-Government-Civil Society Conference on the new Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) with the new Administration,
2. UN-Government-Civil Society Conference on Financing the new MTPDP,
3. Assessment and UN-Government-Civil Society Conference on the Practice of Participatory Governance (Local/National) in the Philippines, and
4. UN-Civil Society Discussion Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

[Read more](#)

General assemblies of CODE-NGO member networks

Several CODE-NGO member networks conducted the annual assemblies of their respective members recently:

- Coalition for Bicol Development (CBD), March 4 to 6, Naga City
- Cordillera Network of Development NGOs (CORDNET), March 19, Baguio City
- Western Visayas Network of Social Development NGOs (WEVNet), March 23, Iloilo City
- National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO), April 9-11, Davao City
- Association of Foundations (AF), April 16, Makati City, and

- Central Visayas Network (CenVISNET), April 16-17, Dumaguete City.

The themes of the networks' assemblies revolve around actively engaging in the upcoming national elections, optimizing growth and responding more effectively to the social development needs of communities in a changing environment. CODE-NGO supports the regular conduct of its members' general assemblies as a good governance practice, and as a venue for the networks to strengthen the solidarity among their members and consolidate their position on the pressing issues of the times.

Share your news for next issue

We are interested to hear about social development initiatives of non-profit organizations from all over the Philippines. If you are interested 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 **CODE-NGO e-News**, or for any comments, e-mail us at caucus@code-ngo.org. To know more about the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), visit us at www.code-ngo.org.

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Members](#) [Programs](#) [Knowledge Center](#) [Picture Gallery](#) [Upcoming Events](#) [Contact Us](#)
[Archives](#)

Copyright 2009 Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO). All Rights Reserved.
Developed by BEST Ventures, Inc.