



Caucus of Development NGO Networks E-news March 2009

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Change Politics Workshops: “Tungo sa Pulitika ng Pagbabago”

Most civil society organizations, in the past, hesitated to get involved in politics because it was seen to be dominated by the greedy, self serving and corrupt. However, today, there is a growing realization that there is a need to take back politics from these corrupt politicians, and make politics the sacred covenant that it is meant to be - between the leaders and the constituencies (citizens). Civil society leaders see the need to change politics so that the principles and practice of politics will bring positive change to governance and society as a whole. To this end, CODE-NGO and the Philippine Community Organizers Society (PHILCOS), in partnership with the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (InciteGov), are organizing a series of Consultation Workshops for Change Politics: “Baguhin ang Pulitika Tungo sa Pulitika ng Pagbabago!” in Luzon (Quezon City), Visayas (Cebu City) and Mindanao (Davao City) in March and April 2009. E-mail caucus@codengo.org should you wish to know more about this workshop series.

Of Scams and Lumpsums: The Need for Transparency in the DA Budget Process

The increasing budget allocation for the Department of Agriculture (DA) is good news for the agriculture sector. However, there is great concern over the proper and effective use of these resources, given the scams and fund irregularities associated with the department in recent years. The overly centralized budget structure, proliferation of lump-sum budget items and difficulty in accessing budget information raise transparency issues with the DA Budget. CODE-NGO’s policy brief “Of Scams and Lumpsums: The Need for Greater Participation, Transparency and Accountability in the Department of Agriculture Budget Process” offers several recommendations towards making the DA Budget more responsive to the needs of the agriculture sector, especially to those of small farmers and fishers.

Download a copy of the policy brief [here](#).

Watch Out! CHA-CHA is Alive and Kicking

The Coalition for a Citizens’ Constitution (C4CC) issued a warning, calling for vigilance among its members and partners regarding the continuous possibility of opening up amendments to the Constitution before the 2010 elections. “People will have to be vigilant. It could come very fast.

We may all wake up one day and find the Constitution has been drastically changed, triggering a series of events leading to the perpetration in power of GMA and her cohorts,” says Dodo Macasaet, CODE-NGO Executive Director and C4CC Co-Convener.

[Read more](#)

NATCCO gets ISO Certification

CODE-NGO congratulates its member network National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) for receiving its ISO Certification for Integrated Management Systems. This is another trailblazing achievement for NATCCO, being the first ISO-certified federation in the Philippine cooperative sector. Quoting NATCCO President and CEO Cresente Paez, “this is a realization of NATCCO’s dream set in 2004 to be a world-class coop network”. The certification reflects NATCCO’s efforts to become a benchmark for the co-op sector for improving environmental performance and putting high importance to human resource by caring about its people’s health and safety.

[Read more](#)

AF and MINCODE named as CODE-NGO’s Best Performing Networks for FY2007-08

CODE-NGO awarded the Association of Foundations (AF) and the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE) as its Best Performing Member Networks for FY2007-2008 during the 12th CODE-NGO National Assembly last December 12, 2008. It was the first time that CODE-NGO cited its outstanding members in an effort to set standards of performance and recognize their contributions to CODE-NGO’s mission and programs. The citations were based on how the member networks actively participated in CODE-NGO’s Membership and Advocacy programs and projects, as well as their diligence in observing financial reporting standards.

[Read more](#)

Charity Commission features the Philippine NPO Sector Assessment Report

In a recent issue of its International Programme Newsletter, the Charity Commission for England and Wales prominently featured the CODE-NGO’s study on the “Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Sector Assessment: Philippine Report” completed in 2008. With the guidance of a Local Advisory Committee composed of representatives from Philippine government regulatory agencies and non-profit organizations, the study pilot-tested and assessed the NPO Assessment Tool developed by the Charity Commission, gathered data on the Philippine’s nonprofit sector, reviewed the existing framework for nonprofit sector regulation in the country and identified the key risks to the sector.

Download the complete report from the Charity Commission’s website [here](#).

Social Development Week 2008

CODE-NGO ended 2008 on a high note by celebrating Social Development Week (SDW) last December 8 to 12, 2008. Among the highlights of the SDW2008 festivities was the Development Trade Fair at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City organized by the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) and the Association of Foundations (AF), which provided opportunities for entrepreneurial NGOs and people’s organizations (POs) to showcase their products and services in the country’s financial and commercial center.

CODE-NGO also organized a forum series with the help of various civil society organizations under the banner theme “Change for Good Governance, Good Governance for Change.” Among the forums featured were: “Quo Vadis, NGO Accountability?” conceptualized with the NGO Accountability Group, “Preparations for Engagement in the 2010 Elections”, “Innovative Framework and Tools for Claiming Democratic Space in State-Civil Society Relations” organized by WEVNet; “Reinventing Student Formation Work” co-organized with PHILSSA and student formation offices of Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University and Miriam College; “Discerning Relevant Applications of the International Covenant on Social, Cultural and Economic Rights” organized by ESCR-Asia, AsiaDHRRA and UP Asian Center, and “Dignity and Justice for All-60/60 Commitment for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” organized by UN Civil Society Assembly, PAHRA, CCHR and Waging Peace Philippines. PHINMA President & CEO Mr. Ramon del Rosario also shared his thoughts on “The Global Financial Crisis and Social Development” to the 12th CODE-NGO National Assembly.

[Click here](#) to download the proceedings of some of the SDW2008 development forums.

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@codengo.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@codengo.org. To know more about the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), kindly visit us at www.code-ngo.net.