



e-newsletter



## CODE-NGO E-news January 2010

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

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- **CODE-NGO 13th General Assembly**
- **Development and Reform Agenda: key reforms towards democratization and development**
- **CODE-NGO conducts a new round of PDAF Watch**

### **Social Development Celebration 2009: rebuilding resilient communities, reconstructing democratic institutions**

CODE-NGO ended 2009 with a meaningful Social Development Celebration last December 10 to 16, 2009. The theme of the celebration is timely - we find parallels between the need to reconstruct communities affected by the recent typhoons and to rebuild our democratic institutions because of the havoc brought by politics of self-interest.

The events opened with the CODE-NGO 13th General Assembly on December 10, where Mr. Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan of WWF Philippines discussed the threats of climate change and the need for our organizations and institutions to adapt mechanisms to reduce disaster risks. It was followed on December 11 by public forums on "Getting Involved in the 2010 Elections" - where COMELEC Public Relations Chief Ma. Victoria Dulcero brought a PCOS machine to demonstrate the automated election process, the Development and Reform Agenda crafted by CODE-NGO and other CSOs was presented and election groups Task Force 2010 and Change Politics Movement provided updates - and the "Civil Society Forum with the 2010 Presidential Candidates" - where candidates Bro. Eddie Villanueva, Nicky Perlas and representatives of Noynoy Aquino (his sister Viel, cousin Rapa Lopa, and campaign manager Butch Abad) clarified their positions on burning issues on agrarian reform, housing, environment, health, population, education, peace and debt audit presented to them by representatives of basic sector groups and NGOs.

From December 14 to 16, the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) and the Association of Foundations (AF) also organized the NGO Trade Fair in Trinoma Mall, Quezon City, which featured the unique products and services of NGOs and people's organizations. The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA), together with PEF, organized learning sessions and shared good practices on reducing disaster risks and responding to disaster relief last December 15 to 16, based on their experiences in working with their partner urban poor communities which were hardest hit by recent typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

### **CODE-NGO 13th General Assembly**

CODE-NGO held its 13th General Assembly last December 10, 2009, which gathered 105 leaders from its 12 member networks around the country. Vice Chairperson Patricia Calilong presented to the assembly the Chairperson's Report on the accomplishments of the network for the year in behalf of Chairperson Anna Marie Karaos who was in Laos during the event. Treasurer Felicitas Rixhon reported on the financial status of the organization. The assembly agreed on the following important resolutions - intensifying its study and inter-network support towards strengthening and sustaining its member networks; engaging actively in the 2010 elections; promoting and exchanging information on climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster-risk reduction (DRR); expressing strong opposition to the hurried process of accrediting basic sector groups and electing sectoral representatives to the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) ([see CODE-NGO's statement against NAPC's hurried process](#)); and condemning the politically-motivated massacre of 57 citizens and journalists in Maguindanao and the declaration of martial law in the province; among others. The assembly also elected the following new Board members - Marietta Paragas of CORDNET and Chaco Molina of PhilDHRRA - and re-elected the following Board members for another term: Fr. Granwell Pitapit of CBD, Ian Dugal of MINCODE and Agustin Docena of EVNet. CODE-NGO also named the Association of Foundations (AF) as its "Best Performing Member Network for FY2008-09" based on its active involvement in the network's programs for the year and its compliance with resolutions approved by CODE-NGO.

### **The Development and Reform Agenda: key reforms towards democratization and development**

After a 6-month process of consultations, the Development and Reform Agenda, which aims to recommend key reforms for the next Administration that will decisively move the country towards democratization and development, has been finalized and approved by 50 civil society networks and organizations from the different parts of the archipelago, including CODE-NGO and all its 12 member networks. The development and reform agenda is rooted in four basic pillars - 1) Ensuring Empowerment and Democratization, 2) Reducing Poverty and Inequality, 3) Building Peace, and 4) Promoting a Sustainable Economy. Special attention is also given to the issues and concerns of the basic sectors. A complete version of the Development and Reform Agenda can be [downloaded here](#).

We invite organizations to support this agenda. Those who agree to do so are encouraged to inform the CODE-NGO Secretariat by e-mailing [caucus@code-ngo.org](mailto:caucus@code-ngo.org) so that they can be included in the list of signatory organizations.

### **CODE-NGO to conduct a new round of PDAF Watch**

CODE-NGO implements another phase of the PDAF Watch in the first quarter of 2010. The PDAF Watch monitors the utilization of the legislators' Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), more often referred to as "pork barrel funds." Over-priced computer and software packages for public schools and missing or defective roads were some of the projects that were discovered by the PDAF Watch volunteers in the first phase of this project. ([Click here to see PDAF Watch Report 2005-2007](#)).

Individuals or organizations who wish to take part in this project by volunteering to monitor their legislators' PDAF projects in their areas are requested to inform the CODE-NGO Secretariat or Sandino Soliman at [ssoliman@code-ngo.org](mailto:ssoliman@code-ngo.org). The training workshops for volunteers have been tentatively set on the following dates:

Davao or Cagayan de Oro (for Mindanao participants; still to be finalized) - January 26 - 27, 2010  
Iloilo (for Visayas participants) - January 28 - 29, 2009  
NCR (for Luzon participants) - February 9-10, 2010

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:caucus@code-ngo.org). To know more about the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), visit us at [www.code-ngo.org](http://www.code-ngo.org).

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