

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (UNESCAP)

Senior Policy Makers' Forum on Space Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development of Philippine Local Governments

MEETING REPORT¹

25 February 2015 Manila, the Philippines

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¹ This report has been prepared without formal editing.

The key objectives of the Forum are to enhance senior policy makers' awareness and understanding of the benefits of space technology and GIS applications, and to identify key challenges and the needs facing local governments in the Philippines in using space technology and GIS applications for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Organization of the Forum

Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in collaboration with the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines, and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), organized the "Senior Policy Makers' Forum on Space Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development of Philippine Local Governments," in Manila, Philippines, on 25 February 2015.

Around 50 participants including 19 Mayors from disaster-prone municipalities, 10 LMP officers and 3 officers of PCIEERD attended the Forum. Representatives from the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) of Thailand; the National Disaster Management Institute (NDMI) of Republic of Korea; the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of the Philippines; the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS); and the University of the Philippines (UP) delivered in-depth presentations in the areas of space technology and GIS applications for disaster risk reduction.

Summary of the Forum

The opening session of the Forum commenced with two opening speeches from Ms. Germelina S. Goulart, Mayor of Caoayan Ilocos Sur, and Executive Vice President for Operations of LMP; and Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara, Executive Director of PCIEERD. ESCAP delivered a presentation highlighting key objectives and expected outcomes of the Forum, introducing ESCAP's roles and key activities of IDD, and outlining how space technology and GIS applications can support sustainable development sectors and disaster risk management.

In the second session, Dr. Ariel Blanco, Associate Professor, Department of Geodetic Engineering (DGE), University of the Philippines, provided an overview of space technology and GIS applications, and explained how space technology and GIS can be used in natural resource management together with vulnerability assessment methodology of remote sensing and GIS modeling. The third session focused on regional and country experience along with good practices of using space technology and GIS applications, topics which were introduced by speakers from different agencies. Dr. Arturo S. Daad, Chief Science Research Specialist of Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), introduced the experiences and lessons of PHIVOLCS from the project with Sentinel Asia. Also, Mr. Leon M. Dacanay Jr., National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines (NEDA), delivered a

presentation on experiences and lessons learned from the Climate-Related Information System for Planning (CRISP) of the Philippines as an example of good practice. Dr. Junghum YU, National Disaster Management Institute (NDMI) of Republic of Korea, talked about Korea's experiences and use of technology in satellite imagery and spatial information for disaster prevention and monitoring of droughts and floods in his country. Lastly, Ms. Kannika Komwong, Chief of Economic Division, Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, shared Thailand's experiences in using space technology and GIS for urban planning and flood management.

In the fourth session, the participants and resource persons discussed the public sector's needs and gaps in using space technology and GIS for sustainable development at the provincial and municipal levels in the Philippines. Participants emphasized that even though they have made good progress in disaster risk reduction, tremendous needs and challenges persist in the use of space technology and GIS for disaster risk management and sustainable development in terms of capacity building, human resources and financing. In addition, pilot projects to apply modern and cost-effective technologies such as the application of Unmanned Arial Vehicles (UAV) in selected pilot municipalities as well as capacity building programmes for the operation and management of the geo-referenced information system were suggested by participating Mayors and government officials. The League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) also requested ESCAP to attend its annual meeting in April 2015, where more than 1,000 Mayors are supposed to attend. They would like ESCAP to deliver a presentation on the benefits of the use of space technology and GIS for sustainable development in order to help enhance the Mayors' understanding.

Based on common understanding and discussions, participating Mayors submitted a signed "Manifestation of Gratitude and Collective Request for Pilot Projects" requesting ESCAP to provide continued support and pilot projects in promoting space technology and GIS for disaster risk management and sustainable development at the local levels of the Philippines.







LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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<u>Manifestation of Gratitude and Collective Request for the Grant of Pilot Projects to the Municipal Governments of the Philippine</u>

We, the undersigned Municipal Mayors of the Republic of the Philippines, express our profoundest gratitude and sincere appreciation for the unqualified support extended by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on the promotion of space technology and geospatial information systems (GIS) applications for disaster risk reduction and management.

We, in particular, convey our deepest appreciation for the kind support extended by the Korean Government and the UNESCAP in organizing the "Senior Policy Makers Forum on Space Technology Applications for Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development of Philippine Local Governments" on 25 February 2015, Manila, Philippines, which inarguably enhanced our awareness on its huge potentials in the areas of disaster risk reduction, urban planning, transportation and resource management, among others.

On behalf therefore, of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), we would like to formally convey to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the UNESCAP our collective request to provide continued support to the municipal governments of the Philippines through pilot projects to demonstrate the applications and benefits of space technology and earth observation technologies at the local levels, including geospatial data management.

Signed this 25th day of February 2015 Century Park Hotel in Manila, Philippines

Leonardo M. Javier, Jr. National President Mayor of Javier, Leyte

Eldwin M. Alibutdan

Sibugay

VP for External Affairs

Mayor of Ipil, Zamboanga

Germelina S. Goulart EVP for Operations Mayor of Caoayan, Ilocos

Keverlous

Dennis Norman T. Go VP for Special Concerns Mayor of Gerona, Tarlac Joseph B. Bernos VP for Internal Affairs Mayor of La Paz, Abra

Ferdinand R. Abesamis Luzon Island Cluster Vice -President Mayor of Peñaranda, Nueva Foiia

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