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PRESS RELEASE

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## FORUM ON DEVELOPING A DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TOWARDS A NEW PLATFORM SET IN CEBU

A dialogue towards a framework for collaboration on disaster response and recovery

The Rotary Club 3860, in partnership with The Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC) and its regional center Cebu-Bohol Relief and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (CRRC), launched a workshop forum with the theme "Enhancing Human Resource Capital on Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management." It was held on October 2-3, 2015 at the Golden Prince Tower, Archbishop Reyes St., Cebu City.


The forum was part of the overall initiative in creating a national platform where various collaborations are forged for the purpose of delivering effective and efficient disaster assistance through disaster preparedness, risk reduction, relief and recovery. The event also made way for the forging of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD) Philippines and Rotary Club 3860. This entails coherent partnership with different sectors, sustaining commitment and support in disaster risk reduction and management efforts, and optimization of resources to build disaster-resilient communities.

The Executive Committee and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) of Rotary 3860, headed by Rotary Director Olive Luces, former Director Angel Gaviola, and Engr. Neil Balaba, discussed the current situation and challenges in disaster management in the Philippines, and the prospects of mainstreaming DRR in the programs of rotary clubs.

PDG Jesus S. Nicdao, the president of the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry and one of the most distinguished Rotarians, was one of the main presenters in the forum. He discussed the roles of Rotarians in Disaster Response and Rehabilitation. PDG Nicdao has been an active Rotarian for 29 years and was a five-time recipient of the Most Outstanding Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Western Pampanga award. He also led various humanitarian projects for typhoon victims.

The Regional Project Coordinator of A-PAD Philippines Mr. Edgar Gahisan shared his expertise in Mental Health and Psycho-social Intervention as he emphasized its importance in disaster emergency response.

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Assistant District Governor Mr. Troy D. Bumagat, who is also the Executive Director of Rotary 3860 DRRMO, said that the two-day workshop seminar aims to: 1) develop a shared understanding of concept, approach, and methods of disaster risk reduction and management; 2) explore, promote, and develop possibilities of public-private-partnership in disaster risk reduction; 3) learn best practices in private sector engagements in DRR; and, 4) explore the role of the private sector in advancing DRR and forge mutual agreement to better serve the society and improve the quality of life in the community.

A-PAD supported the event. A-PAD is a trans-national disaster aid alliance that works to facilitate cooperation and understanding between governments, private companies and NGOs in the Asia Pacific region. It is currently organizing its local counterpart in the Philippines.

### **About A-PAD PHILIPPINES**

**A-PAD Philippines** is a pioneering effort by the civil society to formally engage the business sector in disaster management through memorandum of understanding. At the national level, CDRC is working closely with the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF). To learn more, visit [apadm.org](http://apadm.org), or call us at (632) 929-9822; (632) 929-9820.

### **About CDRC**

**Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC)** is a non-government organization that pioneered and continues to promote community-based disaster management in the Philippines. CDRC operates nationwide through a network of regional centers affiliated with the Citizens' Disaster Response Network (CDRN) and through people's organizations.

### **About CRRC**

**Cebu-Bohol Relief and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (CRRC)** is a private non-stock, non-profit, community-based and development-oriented agency. Its primary concern is the capacitating of vulnerable communities in addressing their vulnerabilities and to extend relief and rehabilitation services to the marginalized sectors victimized and/or displaced by natural calamities and man-made disasters. CRRC covers the provinces of Cebu and Bohol. It relates with an organized group of displaced families and people's organizations in disaster-prone and afflicted areas.