



## PRESS RELEASE

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### A-PAD Philippines conducts Luzon-wide conference

Naga City, 19 February 2016 - Multi-stakeholder representatives coming from different parts of Luzon gathered in Naga City Friday to share knowledge, and draw lessons from experiences in disaster risk reduction.

The conference, which was organized by the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Philippines (A-PAD Phils.), a national platform organized to promote and enhance cooperation among the private sector, government, and civil society, gave recommendations on how various sectors can improve and harmonize disaster risk reduction efforts in the country.

Mr. Carlos Padolina, Deputy Executive Director of the Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC), one of the prime movers of A-PAD Philippines, highlighted the importance of the gathering in his welcome address. "A multi-stakeholder approach is what we need amidst various threats brought by both natural and man-made hazards," he said.

The Luzon-wide conference, with the theme, *"Enhancing Community Disaster Resilience through Public and Private Sector Cooperation,"* was attended by various business groups, civil society organizations, local government units, media groups and educational institutions coming from the Ilocos Region, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, and Bicol.

"At present, both private and public sectors support communities to achieve disaster resilience. The challenge is how to enhance and harmonize existing knowledge, skills, linkages, resources, strategies and structures," Padolina said.

The conference produced a set of resolutions for each sector which the stakeholders agreed to uphold and work on as part of their regular or special programs on disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

The Luzon-wide conference is part of the national launching of A-PAD Philippines on March 3 in Manila. International delegates from different countries will also grace the event.

A-PAD was first formed in Tokyo, Japan in 2011 during the Asia Pacific Relief Summit where leaders of multi-sector actors from different countries agreed to create a framework for action in times of disaster. A-PAD currently has members from six countries – Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.

In the Philippines, CDRC is spearheading the formation of A-PAD Philippines aimed at promoting mutual collaboration and cooperation in disaster risk reduction and emergency response.