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News Release

Bicol MSMEs boost disaster resilience through Business Continuity Planning

Naga City, Philippines – The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management – Philippines (A-PAD Philippines) conducted a Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Training-Seminar for MSMEs at the Villa Caceres Hotel on November 28-30 during the Bicol Business Month.

The training, which aims to increase the resilience of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), was organized by the Citizens' Disaster Response Center, the secretariat of A-PAD Philippines.

“A-PAD Philippines will conduct this training to enhance awareness, and instill the importance of BCP and DRRM among selected MSMEs and other key stakeholders. We recognize the role of the enterprise sector in developing community disaster resilience,” Maricris Binas, Regional Coordinator of A-PAD Philippines in Bicol said.

CDRC organized the workshop together with different stakeholders such as Tarabang para sa Bicol, Inc., Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, Metro Naga Development Council, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas – Camarines Sur, Philippine Information Agency – Camarines Sur, Mariners Polytechnic Colleges, and Naga City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

“Multi-stakeholder collaboration is how A-PAD Philippines operates,” said MNDC Project Officer Adolfo Badiola. “The LGUs need the cooperation and support of the private sector in implementing a comprehensive DRRM Plan,” he added.

“This training is part of the Bicol Business Month activities, which aims to mainstream business continuity and resiliency of local enterprises, especially the micro and small,” Gilbert Albero of MNCCI said.

Dr. Yolanda Agawa of CBSUA, the main facilitator of the training, said that this is a very good opportunity to increase the capacities of MSMEs in facing the impact of disasters. “MSMEs are often one of the most vulnerable during disasters, and they need the most support among the enterprise sector,” Agawa added.



Agawa helped the participants identify their risks and what they can do to reduce these risks.

The more than 40 participants from cooperatives, local governments, and the food and agriculture sectors who attended the training, are expected to formulate their business continuity strategies, taking into consideration different possible disaster scenarios that might affect their businesses.

A-PAD is a trans-national disaster aid alliance that works to facilitate cooperation and understanding among governments, private sectors and socio-civic groups in the Asia-Pacific region.

The A-PAD national platform was organized and formally launched in the Philippines in March this year to promote and enhance cooperation among local government units, private sectors, and civil society organizations with the aim of building disaster resilient communities. #



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