After serving in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Director Corazon P. Guray returns to Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region I as the Regional Director.

In the turn-over ceremony during the Regional Management Committee (RMC) Meeting, RD Guray expressed her gratitude for being assigned to her “home” region. She stressed that the performance of DILG officers is important in achieving good local governance. She plans to look into the efficiency and effectiveness of the provinces and clusters in the implementation of the different programs, projects and activities of the Department.

She has already conducted several consultation meetings with the provincial directors, cluster leaders and division chiefs to discuss strategies, issues and concerns.

RD Guray served as the Assistant Regional Director to retired Regional Director Manuel V. Biason of DILG R1 before being appointed as the Regional Director of DILG-CAR.
DILG R1 starts training for LGOOs

The 47th Batch of Local Government Operations Officers (LGOOs) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region I has started their Induction Training at the DILG Regional Office.

The component 1 of the training was the General Basic Orientation, in which Resource Speakers talked about the Department’s history, vision, mission and mandate, and overview of the Local Government Code of 1991. The different programs, projects and activities of the DILG, and administrative requirements and other fiscal matters were also discussed during the ten-day orientation.

The provincial director of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) La Union, Dir. Violeta Nipal-Mendoza presented Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct and RA 9485 or the Anti-Red Tape Act. She also addressed concerns pertaining to ethical standards of public officials and employees, Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

In Component 1, DILG R1 included the newly hired administrative and key personnel during the discussions of Modules 1 and 3. The objective of such action were: to familiarize all newly hired employees of the different PPAs and to instill the Department’s thrusts for them to perform their duties and responsibilities well.

Regional Local Government Academy (LGA) Coordinator, LGOO V Leslie L. Isip during the first day, told participants that “this is just the tip of the iceberg, expect more workshops, lectures and exercises in this training.” OIC Assistant Regional Director, and Program Manager, Julie J. Daquioag also expressed her anticipation and high expectation about the training, having called the 47th Batch “Bright and Beautiful”.

The training is expected to run for five (5) months, beginning this May 2012, wherein participants will undergo various assessment stages.

(LGOO II Nicolette May O. Amon)
The Farmers’ Entrepreneurship Program: Pursuing Sustainable Agriculture through Public-Private Collaboration

The One Pangasinan Alliance of LGUs (OPAL) has been receiving assistance from the Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) since 2009 to develop and grow their agriculture sector, a key economic driver of the Alliance. To ensure sustainability beyond LGSP-LED support, the Alliance has explored and supported various linkages and partnerships with both public and private entities. An example is the recently launched Farmers’ Entrepreneurship Program (FEP), a collaborative project of the Jollibee Foundation, the National Livelihood Development Corporation (NLDC), the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Philippines, Gulf Bank, Sikap ay Yaman Foundation, and the Likas Saka Farmers’ Association.

Through the FEP, two members-LGUs of OPAL, Alaminos City and the Municipality of Bani, are enabling small farmers to increase their incomes through agro-enterprise development. As part of its sustainability strategy for OPAL, LGSP-LED has committed to provide some resources to support the farmers of Alaminos and Bani during their participation in the FEP.

Each of the LGUs has helped in organizing their Site Working Group or SWG, which is composed of representatives from the Office of the Mayor; the Provincial, City, Municipal Agriculturist, Gulf Bank, Pangasinan State University and farmer leaders. They also helped organize clusters of 30 small farmers. Each working group has been given three to five slots to attend a 9-month intensive training on Agro-Enterprise Facilitation, being conducted intermittently from February to October 2012. In between the sessions, CRS deploys technical staff to monitor activities on the ground and provide on-site consultation as needed.

At the end of the training, it is expected that the clustered farmers will be able to enter into supply contracts with institutional buyers for their agricultural products. With a more direct link to the market, farmers should be able to increase their income and ultimately improve their quality of life.

To assist the SWGs and the farmers at the ground level, the Sikap ay Yaman Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit association in Pangasinan, has been selected to be the lead implementing agency for the OPAL areas. Sikap ay Yaman will be responsible for the implementation, supervision, monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities for Alaminos City and Bani.

A collaborative Program of the Governments of Canada and the Philippines, and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), LGSP-LED sets sight on poverty reduction by strengthening local governance and supporting sustainable local economic development. In close collaboration with its key partner, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Program is currently assisting select LGU Alliances throughout the country to develop and implement

(continued to page 4)
News bits... Across the Region...

Three Regions undergo SALiNTubig Orientation

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), conducted the Program Orientation and Project Proposal Preparation Workshop on Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat (SALiNTubig) for Regions I, II and III.

The activity aimed to thresh out issues on the documentary requirements for the grant of the SALiNTubig, and facilitate its grant to deserving local government units (LGUs). The program intends to provide a water supply system to waterless barangays, health centers and resettlement areas.

The project requirements, which are preconditions to the release of funds, include detailed engineering designs, feasibility study, sustainability plan, Memorandum of Agreement and Sanggunian Resolution. In addition, all identified LGU recipients should comply with DILG’s Full Disclosure Policy (FDP). (continued at page 5)

Brgy. Capaoay is 2012 Nat’l. LTIA Nominee

The Lupong Tagapamayapa of Barangay Capaoay, San Jacinto, Pangasinan, headed by Punong Barangay Romulo T. Columbres, is among the DILG Region 1 nominees to the National Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentive Award (LTIA) Search for 2012. The barangay ranked first in the Municipality Category during the LTIA Regional Evaluation.

The LTIA was established by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to institutionalize a system of granting economic benefits to the Lupong Tagapamayapa that demonstrates exemplary performance in settling disputes at the grassroots level. Committees at the provincial and regional level evaluated the performance and accomplishments of lupons on the basis of efficiency of operations, effectiveness in securing the objectives of the Katarungang Pambaratangay objectives, and creativity and resourcefulness of mediators. (LGOO II Antonia Darisay P. Villareal)

The Farmers’ Entrepreneurship... continued from page 3

their local economic initiatives and provide an enabling environment for existing businesses to expand and new ones to come in.

The FEP is a joint initiative of the Jollibee Foundation, the corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm of Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) that seeks to assist small farmers in developing their capacity to become direct suppliers of institutional buyers like Jollibee Foods Corporation; the National Livelihood Development Corporation (NLDC), a non-stock, non-profit government corporation mandated by law to catalyze economic growth in agrarian reform communities through the provision of credit facilities and capability building services; Catholic Relief Services, Philippines, an international non-government, non-stock, non-profit organization which has successfully developed, implemented, and documented the clustering approach to agro-enterprise development among small farmers in Luzon and Mindanao; and Gulf Bank, an accredited micro-finance institution in the Province of Pangasinan. (Alo M. Lacsamana, Consultant - LGSP - OPAL)
Across the Region...

Caba Barangay Officials draft Revenue Code

The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) Regional Office I, in cooperation with Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) La Union and the Municipal Liga ng mga Barangay, conducted a three-day training workshop for all barangay officials of Caba, La Union on the Drafting of Barangay Revenue Code.

The workshop aimed to equip barangay and local officials in the preparation of their Revenue Codes, to enhance their financial condition by tapping all resources for development projects.

Regional Director Peter Paul D. Baluyan of BLGF RO1 announced that the undertaking is the first to be conducted by the Bureau. He emphasized on the taxing and revenue-raising powers of barangays as stipulated in the Local Government Code of 1991.

Resource speakers discussed the Basics of Taxation, Salient Provisions of a Model Barangay Revenue Code and Procedures for the Enactment of the Code. The Barangay Financial and Comparative Analysis on the Revenue Generation Performance was also presented.

Punong Barangays, Barangay Treasurers and Secretaries, Sangguniang Barangay Members on Appropriations, and concerned municipal officials participated in the activity. The activity also served as a venue where they were raised issues and concerns on tax collection.

The participants were able to formulate a draft of their respective Barangay Revenue Codes. They are expected to present this during the Synchronized Barangay Assembly. They also signed a Letter of Commitment signifying their intent to implement their Revenue Code. (LGOO V Flory Ann O. Estioco)

10 LGUs Adopt Bottom-up Planning & Budgeting Process

City of San Fernando, La Union – Local officials and functionaries of ten local government units (LGUs) from the province of La Union participated in the orientation-workshop on Bottom-up and Participatory Planning and Budgeting Reforms jointly conducted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The activity aimed to promote the formulation of localized strategies in the implementation of priority poverty-reduction projects.

The 10 LGUs, specifically the municipalities of Agoo, Aringay, Baguini, Bangar, Bauang, Luna, Naguilian, Rosario, (continued at page 5)

Candon formally begins LGSF project

As part of the celebration of Candon City’s 11th Anniversary and Tobacco Festival, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted for the new public wet market at Barangay San Nicolas. The initial phase of the construction was funded from the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) facilitated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), amounting to 15 million pesos.

Former Deputy House Speaker Eric D. Singson, DILG Ilocos Sur Cluster Leader Mila P. Madriaga and representatives from the Sangguniang Panlungsod were present in the ceremony.

The LGSF aims to support local government by providing funds to innovative and sustainable actions that support economic activities, and improve good governance and service delivery. In 2011, Candon City was awarded with LGSF for its local economic enterprise development. The different physical developments of the city as well as DILG’s Change Agenda were discussed during the activity.

Candon City was also a recipient of the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) in 2010, and was awarded the Three-million-peso Performance Challenge Fund (PCF). The fund was used for the construction of Tablac Bridge and drainage canals in three different barangays of the city. (LGOO V Cynthia P. Pe Benito)

Three regions undergo... continued from page 4

The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders were discussed during the activity. NAPC is tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program while DILG, aided by DOH, will take the lead in the implementation of capacity development programs.

The participants were made to prepare their respective action plans during the workshop. (LGOO II Honey Lou C. Baguso)
Vigan City formulates Climate Change Action Plan

The City Government of Vigan, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) conducted the Climate Change Action Planning Workshop in which participants formulated an action plan for their respective local government units (LGUs).

The Vigan Climate Change Task Force, Punong Barangays, Barangay Secretaries and representatives from different the academe and non-government organizations (NGOs) participated in the workshop.

The activity aimed to capacitate and inform the participants on climate change, its impact and consequences, and their role as public servants in preventing and reducing the adverse effects of climate change.

Republic Act 9729, otherwise known as the Climate Change Act of 2009 was discussed during the seminar-workshop.

MDRRMC of San Gabriel, LU leads disaster preparedness activities

San Gabriel, La Union – The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC), in close coordination with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), conducted a simultaneous earthquake drill in four locations – Municipal Hall, San Gabriel Academy, San Gabriel Vocational High School and San Gabriel Central School.

The activity was conducted to increase the awareness of students, officials and employees of the municipality and to better prepare them in case an earthquake hits. Fliers and brochures were distributed to the participants after the discussion on earthquake safety.

MDRRMC Officer Dr. Herminigildo A. Velasco and Fire Inspector Ronald Castillo of BFP San Gabriel announced that they are planning to conduct regular earthquake and fire drills.

In addition, the MDRRMC together with the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center – Health Emergency Staff (ITRMC-HEMS) conducted a three-day training on First Aid and Basic Life Support to Barangay Health Workers, Punong Barangays, Barangay Kagawads, Elementary/ High School Health Coordinators and selected government employees. Representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and BFP also participated in the activity.

Participants were assessed individually through a paper and pencil exam and an actual test, and were required to undergo a simulation in which they responded to a staged vehicular accident. In this mock scenario, participants had to act quickly and apply what they learned while ITRMC-HEMS, headed by Dr. Magno Jose C. Valdez, rated them on a scale of 1 to 10.

Hon. Divina D. Velasco, Municipal Mayor of San Gabriel, graced the opening program and urged everyone to participate actively in the training for it equips citizens with useful information and skills to prepare them for disasters and emergencies and ultimately, save lives.

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**PGLU spearheads LGU Scorecard Updates**

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) La Union field officers participated in the Stakeholders’ Meeting on Local Government Units (LGU) Scorecard on Health.

Dr. Judy Flores from DOH-CHD presented the updates on the LGU Scorecard on Health, which will be implemented from 2012 to 2016. Information providers for the Data Capture Form (DCF) were briefed on the additional scope of the new DCF and the new set of indicators so that LGUs can start the proper documentation of their accomplishments.

Issues were raised on the current accomplished DCF. Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) Provincial Focal Person Rhodora G. Soriano rendered assistance during the meeting and clarified issues on timelines and processes.

Other participants include Municipal Health Officers (MHOs) and Midwives from the city and 19 municipalities of La Union attended the meeting along with representatives from the district hospitals and La Union Medical Center.

The Provincial Government of La Union, through its Provincial Health Office headed by Dr. Hector T. Beñas, and in coordination with Department of Health – Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD), spearheaded the meeting. *(LGOO V Rhodora G. Soriano)*

**10 LGUs Adopt... continued from page 5**

Tubao, and the City of San Fernando, were identified by the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster (HDPRC) as among the 600 target beneficiaries of poverty alleviation programs.

Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 series of 2012 signed by DILG, DBM, DSWD and NAPC set the policies and guidelines in the identification of priority projects for the target LGUs and allocation of funds. The funds are earmarked from participating agencies such as DSWD, DILG, DBM, NAPC, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform(DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), PhilHealth, and National Electrification Administration (NEA), including the four (4) lead agencies.

Representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) also attended the activity to promote ensure their participation in local development. *(LGOO II Olivia Mae N. de Guzman)*

**Agoo, LU strengthens BCPC**

The municipality of Agoo, La Union conducted a two-day training on Strengthening of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), which is under the Component 4 of Barangay Newly Elected Officials (BNEO) Program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The DILG La Union Provincial Office, in coordination with the Liga ng mga Barangay Municipal Chapter, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Local Council for Women and the municipality of Agoo, rallied 10 BCPC members from each of the 49 barangays of the municipality. The participants were composed of Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay member (Chairman on Women and Family), Sangguniang Kabataan Chairman, Barangay Secretary, Barangay Treasurer, Barangay Nutrition Scholar, Day Care Worker, Barangay Health Worker, Child Representative and Non-Government Organization Representative.

Resource Speakers from DILG and DSWD discussed topics such as the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC), its Composition, Functionalities and Responsibilities; the Rights of a Child; Republic Act (RA) 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act; RA 9344 or the Juvenile justice and Welfare Act; and RA 9208 or Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act. *(LGOO II Olivia Mae N. de Guzman)*
Due to the harmful effects of plastic to the environment, the Municipality of Naguilian, La Union implemented the “No Plastic Policy” pursuant to Municipal Ordinance No. 17 series of 2011. The local policy prohibits the use of non-recyclable plastic bags or containers at the Naguilian Public Market and in all business establishments in the municipality.

The ordinance strongly encourages the people to bring their own bags, preferably “bayong” whenever they purchase goods. Violations of the said policy include the use of sando bags and plastic drinking straws, to which corresponding penalties will be imposed.

Citizens are also encouraged to report violators to the Environmental Management Unit (EMU). The names of reported violators are entered in the police blotter, and will be informed through letters. They are given the option to pay the fine and apologize in public during the monthly convocation of government officials and employees, or to file the necessary complaint in the Municipal Trial Court. Thirty-two (32) violators have been recorded before the 1st Quarter of 2012 ended.

The local government unit (LGU) partnered with DZNL in distributing cloth bags printed with “Walang Plastikan” to disseminate the information. Tarpaulin and streamers were hung in public places, and the “No Plastic Policy” was discussed in barangays.

The practice is already gaining “popularity” as representatives from Agoo, La Union and Lingayen, Pangasinan visited Naguilian to gain insights on the effective implementation of the policy.

(LGOO V Rocelyn Charina F. Gurtiza)

The Municipal Local Government Operations Officers (MLGOOs) of Department of the Interior and Local Government – La Union (DILG-LU), through the Liga ng mga Barangay, conducted a massive orientation briefing on Barangay Governance Performance Measurement System (BGPMS) to the Barangay BGPMS Assessment Teams of the 19 municipalities of La Union.

Following the orientation of DILG field officers, the briefing of Barangay BGPMS Assessment Teams is part of the all-out implementation of the program which covers all 567 barangays of the province.

Each team, composed of the Punong Barangay, Barangay Secretary, Barangay Treasurer and one Sangguniang Barangay Member, participated in the lecture-discussion and simulation on accomplishing the Data Capture Form (DCF) and Score Sheet.

The City of San Fernando, as the pilot LGU for 2011, was one of the first to be oriented along with the seven other cities of the region on BGPMS, an assessment tool that provides a clear picture of the performance of barangays.

Similar to LGPMS, the tool measures the productivity level of barangays in the areas of Governance, Administration, Social Services, Economic Development and Environmental Management. Through BGPMS, the presence and absence of necessary projects, facilities and equipment, managerial and administrative capacities, and Barangay compliance to issuances are easily determined.

(LGOO V Rhodora G. Soriano)
DILG conducts DRRM/CCA Orientation in La Union

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region I, in coordination with DILG La Union Provincial Office, conducted the Orientation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in Agoo, La Union.

The activity is aimed at enhancing the capacity of Local DRRM Councils and Offices for a better understanding of the concepts. The participants were also familiarized with local and international rules, laws and regulations in conceptualizing a framework for local DRRM and CCA action plan.

The orientation covered 21 local government units (LGUs) including the provincial government of La Union, represented by planning coordinators, social workers and DILG field officers. Representatives from the DILG, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) served as Resource Speakers. (LGOO V Rhodora G. Soriano)

Pangasinan launches 1st Orthography Book in the country

The province of Pangasinan launched the first Orthography Book in the country during the celebration of its 432nd Foundation Anniversary through a commemorative program, “Agew na Pangasinan”.

Orthography is the aspect of language study that deals with letters, sequence of words and correct spelling according to established usage. Being the first official orthography written in the local language, it aims to revive Pangasinan’s culture and language, and preserve the roots and identity of Pangasinenses. The Orthography Book is consistent with the provision of the Local Government Code and supports the Department of Education’s (DepEd) mother tongue-based educational program.

Director General Roberto T. Añonuevo of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) read the Official Adoption of Pangasinan Orthography before turning it over to Governor Amado T. Espino and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Highlighting the Foundation Anniversary is the presentation of a research and study on Pangasinan History and Development by Dr. Gonzalo T. Duque, Chairman of Pangasinan Historical and Cultural Commission. Nurturing the rich cultural heritage and history is one of the many achievements of the province, aside from its being the 5th Best Performing Province in the country.

Guest of Honor and Speaker Francisco Sionil Jose, a native of Pangasinan, is an International Novelist and a finalist of the Nobel Awards for Literature. He lauded the province’s initiative in developing a cultural program.

Other activities conducted during the event were the Awarding of Prizes to the winners of the First Pangasinan Literacy Awards entitled “Kurit Panlunggaring”, Thanksgiving Mass, a float parade dubbed as “Parada ed Dalan” and a Street Dancing Competition. (LGOO II Antonia Darisay P. Villareal)
Events

LGOO V Sharwyn M. Sangel and Acct. III Sety Zorayda S. Perez conduct the ocular inspection of the Gawad Pamana ng Lahi Project of Provincial Government of La Union.

Regional Director Corazon P. Guray presides over the 2nd Regional Management Committee Meeting of DILG Region 1. Participants update her on the status of PPA implementation.

The Municipality of Santo Tomas, La Union conducts an earthquake and fire drill at Damortis National High School. Drills are expected to be done in all public schools of the municipality for the 1st quarter of 2012.

Retired DILG Regional Director Manuel V. Biason poses with some regional personnel (from L-R: RBO Misanes, SAO Sibayan, OIC - ARD Daquioag, Acct III Perez, AO IV Malapit).

LGOO V Lily Ann O. Colisao discusses the Barangay Governance Performance Management System (BGPMS) during the State of Barangay Governance Report (SBGR) Formulation Orientation in DILG Regional Office I.

DILG Region 1 conducts the Regional Planning and Budget Conference for CY 2012 in Baguio City.
Women and women’s organizations are our active partners in many developmental initiatives and undertakings. While we have undoubtedly made great strides in empowering our women which has led to their involvement and engagement in local governance and administration, the fact remains that many of them continue to be marginalized and are vulnerable to abuses, hardships and dangers, worsened further by the harsh effect of climate change on their own lives and families.

The theme of this year’s observance of Women’s Month, “Women Weathering Climate Change: Governance and Accountability, Everyone’s Responsibility,” while acknowledging women’s capability to rise above any hardship that come their way, whether natural or man-made, it also underscores the need for everyone to link up hands so that we can help change their lives for the better. Governance – one that is transparent, accountable, participatory and even gender-responsive – is a very good starting point in effecting such change. We, in the Department, have pushed for and advocated many reforms in local governance, anticipating they will reap fruits that will be savored by the Filipino people, including women and the poor. But what will assure their thorough success are the support, involvement and vigilance of CSOs, POs and ordinary citizens of the country, including again, women, in such endeavors. Pushing such reforms is far from easy, but they will be realized if we will continue empowering our women so that they can immensely contribute to the success of our reform efforts. And while we are also in the midst of trying to adapt and be resilient to climate change, let us also take cognizance not only of their vulnerability to the latter but in their ability as well to withstand its harsh effects.

Let us always bear in mind that the challenges that lie ahead, whether they be in local governance reforms or in the realm of climate change, can best be addressed and overcome when Filipino men and women are united and work hand in hand together. And this should not be the case only during Women’s Month. Sapagkat ang kababaihang Filipino ay may kakayahan at kapangyarihang mag-ambag sa pagbabago at pag-unlad ng ating bansang Pilipinas.

SILG addresses CSO and PO partners

For comments and suggestions, you may contact DILG REGION 1 at telephone number (072) 888 21 08 or email us at dilg_r1@yahoo.com. You may also visit our official website - www.dilgregion1.com.
# DILG R1 1st Quarter Financial Report

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