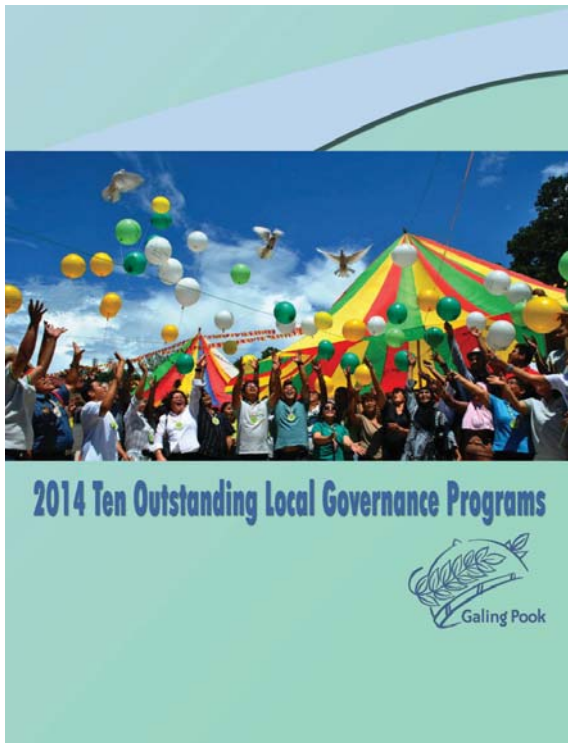




2014 Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs





2014 Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs

Contents

- 3 The Galing Pook and its Partners
- 4 Message from *His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III*
- 5 Turning Localities into Progressive and Stable Units *DILG Secretary Mar Roxas*
- 6 Innovative Programs that Lead to Strategic Gains *GPF Chair Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando*
- 7 Sparks of Hope and Optimism *PHLPost Postmaster General and CEO Ma. Josefina M. dela Cruz*
- 7 Fostering a Spirit of Relevant and Earnest Aid *LANDBANK President and CEO Gilda E. Pico*
- 8 From Arms to Farms *Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte*
- 10 Affordable Homes for the Urban Poor *Quezon City*
- 12 Profitable Public-Private Partnership *Legazpi City*
- 14 Towards Effective Urban Renewal *Dipolog City*
- 16 A Thriving Night Market *Tagum City*
- 18 Coupons for Free Medical Services *Quezon Province*
- 20 Providing Quality Eye Care to Indigents *Tarlac Province*
- 22 A Pioneering Health Clinic *Quezon City*
- 24 Pooling Resources for a Sanitary Landfill *South Cotabato Province*
- 26 Large-scale Mangrove Replanting *Quezon Province*
- 28 2014 Galing Pook Awards Finalists
- 32 2014 National Selection Committee
- 34 Galing Pook Foundation Board of Trustees and Secretariat
- 35 Galing Pook Hymn

The Galing Pook

The Galing Pook awards is a pioneering program that recognizes innovation and excellence in local governance.

It started in October 21, 1993 under the joint initiative of the Local Government Academy-Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Ford Foundation, and other individual advocates of good governance from the academe, civil society and the government.

More than 280 programs from at least 165 local government units have already won recognition, including the current batch of 2014 awardees. The Galing Pook winners are chosen each year from a wide array of programs from local governments after undergoing a rigorous multi-level screening process.

The winning programs are selected based on positive results and impact, promotion of people's participation and empowerment, innovation, transferability and sustainability, and efficiency of program service delivery.



Vision

We are a leading resource institution that promotes innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence in local governance.

Mission

We promote excellence in local governance through recognition, sharing of information and support of efforts to replicate best practices at the local level.

We encourage partnerships among civil society organizations, private sector, and government agencies at local, national and global levels to improve quality of life.

The Partners



LANDBANK



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest congratulations to the awardees of the 2014 Galing Pook Awards and the 2nd Jesse Robredo Leadership Awards.

Local governments, being the most in contact with our communities, are in the best position to uphold the welfare of our countrymen and rally the entire populace to contribute to our collective advancement. In order for us to realize our vision of an equitably progressive Philippines, it is imperative that we create more self-sustaining, dynamic, and efficient localities.

The Galing Pook and Jesse Robredo Leadership Awards recognize those who have helped bring us closer to this goal. They are bestowed upon outstanding local government units and leaders whose initiatives were crucial in alleviating poverty, spurring economic development, and empowering people in their respective areas. By recognizing their achievements, we provide valuable examples for other local government units to replicate in other parts of the country.

My administration remains steadfast in instituting reforms, initiated by the late Sec. Jesse Robredo, that will help foster an ideal environment where local government can succeed and flourish. It is my hope that, through these measures, we can bring to fore higher standards of governance at the grassroots level and help create more effective partners in nation-building.

Again, congratulations to all the awardees.



BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA
21 October 2014



THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Turning Localities into Progressive and Stable Units

I would like to congratulate the 2014 Galing Pook awardees for their outstanding achievements. The same goes to the officials and members of the Galing Pook Foundation for their zeal in recognizing the exemplary performances and programs of model local government units (LGUs) throughout the country.

The Foundation continues to motivate and bring out the best in LGUs as it highlights their capacities in providing effective and efficient services to the public. It also shows their important role as partners of the national government in pursuing progress and development.

Recognition such as the Galing Pook Awards (GPA) proves that our local governments are capable of introducing innovations and best practices in governance.

To the awardees, may your shining examples inspire other local governments to come up with feasible programs and policies that will address the plight of our true bosses – the Filipino people.

The DILG looks forward to establishing a more active and dynamic partnership with the Foundation. Together, let us work hand in hand to transform every locality into progressive and stable units, as we continue our journey towards the “Daang Matuwid” governance of this administration.

Again, congratulations to all the winners!


MAR ROXAS
Secretary

Department of the Interior and Local Government



Affordable Homes for the Urban Poor

About a third of the total households in Quezon City reside in slum areas because they cannot afford to rent, much less, buy decent homes. Most of them do not have regular incomes and some of those who do, such as the public school teachers, have very meager incomes that they cannot afford decent housing at commercially available rates.

For years the Quezon City government relied on the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Socialized Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) to provide low-cost housing units for the poor. But the housing program of these agencies fell short. Thus, the LGU decided to come up with a more multi-dimensional program beginning in 2010.

First, the LGU came up with a shelter plan to systematically study housing needs, causes and solutions. Then, it organized and upgraded its departments to establish a structure with multi-stakeholder participation and tasked it to coordinate and develop sustainable solutions to the housing and resettlement problem. It also enacted revenue measures to generate and mobilize funds for the housing project. Lastly, it entered into partnership agreements with land owners, housing developers and civic organizations to expand the resources and facilities for its low-cost housing program.

The project structure is designed so that the Housing, Community Development and Resettlement Department (HCDRD), which was formerly the Urban Poor Affairs Office, has

to team-up with the Housing Board, the Task Force on Socialized Housing and Blighted Areas, and the Mayor's Office to address the various facets of the program such as engineering, social services, planning and development, housing and resettlement. The HCDRD was tasked with the identification and census of informal communities, the planning and programming of effective resettlement solutions, social preparation, provision of livelihood, and guides to estate management and community administration.

With the Idle Land Tax and the Socialized Housing Tax, the LGU is able to generate about PhP70 million and PhP250 million a year respectively to finance the in-city socialized housing projects. To date, the LGU has eight low-cost housing projects that can accommodate 2,367 households. The target is to keep dwelling unit construction costs to less than PhP450,000 so that the beneficiaries can afford the repayment terms. Financing is done through the Pag-ibig Fund and SHFC loans for those who qualify and can afford the amortization. The other beneficiaries can avail of LGU in-house financing, which has an interest rate of 5.1% and a graduated monthly amortization starting at PhP1,500 for the 1st year, with an increase of 10% each year until the 5th year and PhP2,500 on the 6th year onward until the 30th year.

Quezon City's socialized housing program aims to create slum-free communities by transforming them into well-organized housing proj-

ects with multi-purpose facilities through which government can extend public services such as health and day-care education. This way, the upgrading of the living conditions of the poor and the removal of urban blight are achieved simultaneously. Under the program, the urban poor communities participate in formulating housing policy and social preparation activities. The private sector is also well represented. As a result, the program has elicited their cooperation, which is in stark contrast to the resistance of informal settlers to previous resettlement programs.

Public school teachers from Holy Spirit Elementary School and San Bartolome Elementary School were among the first beneficiaries of the housing project in Payatas. Those from the Quezon City Polytechnic University were the first beneficiaries in the second housing project. The other beneficiaries were urban poor families who were squatting on the housing site. These households now reside in communities with cemented roads, street lamps, and large breathable spaces--generally, 58% of the project site is devoted to residences, while 42% is for roads and open spaces. Apart from having access to electrical and water utilities, the households also receive a package of assistance which include livelihood, scholarship and medical programs. The settlements are also conveniently located near schools, major commercial areas, and crossroads, which make them highly accessible.



Quezon City's socialized housing program aims to create slum-free communities by transforming them into well-organized housing projects.

An estate management program is put in place to help promote sustainability. The beneficiaries are organized by the LGU into homeowners associations who maintain cleanliness and order in the new communities. These associations also serve as conduits between the LGU and the residents for self-help programs that can help improve their income and living conditions. Since the program is buttressed by the appropriate legislation, it will continue to be implemented well after the incumbent LGU officials have left.

CONTACT

Mayor Herbert M. Bautista
Tel. Nos. (02) 988 4242 Loc. 8300
Email: mayorbistek@quezoncity.gov.ph



Worldwide, unprotected sex between men and women is the main route of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), such as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In Australia, HIV has mainly been transmitted through unprotected sex between men. In Quezon City, the LGU also monitored a sudden rise in STI/HIV infections, especially among Men Having Sex with Other Men (MSM).

While Social Hygiene Clinics (SHCs) are mandated by National Laws, and in some LGUs by local ordinances, to be at the forefront of STI/HIV prevention and control, there were none, prior to 2012, that catered mainly to the needs of MSM clients.

Before 2012, the Quezon City government had three SHCs which served as the main facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of STIs. The clients were mostly those working in entertainment establishments who flock to the clinic for the weekly gram stain. Like most clinics, its regular office hours were conducted from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This meant that the MSM cli-

Quezon City

A Pioneering Health Clinic



**In October 2012,
QCHD established
Klinika Bernardo as
a stigma-free and
non-discriminatory
environment for MSM
clients.**

CONTACT

Mayor Herbert M. Bautista
Tel. Nos. (02) 988 4242 Loc. 8300
Email: mayorbistek@quezoncity.gov.ph



ents, who were young male students and professionals, could not readily avail of the services of the SHCs as they were attending class or working at the offices during these hours. Moreover, the regular SHCs are operated by an almost all-female staff, as these catered mostly to females who work in the entertainment establishments. Surveys showed that the MSM clients were reluctant to go to these clinics as they did not want to be associated with these female clients.

HIV cases among MSM clients in Quezon City increased from 1.4% in 2009 to 6.6% in 2013, which meant a new set of clients with specific needs. In response, the Quezon City Health Department (QCHD) began to put in place MSM-specific interventions such as the hiring of 20 Peer Educators that were assigned to increase referrals for MSM services in these SHCs. But, the inflow of MSM clients in the SHCs remained low. Surveys revealed that a more MSM-friendly clinic has to be put-up to entice them to avail of HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT).

In October 2012, QCHD established Klinika Bernardo as a stigma-free and non-discriminatory environment for MSM clients. It is housed in the same facility as the Bernardo SHC, but operates from 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Its personnel are composed mainly of males who were chosen from the roster of QCHD personnel and trained on STI/HIV interventions. Initial resources for the operations were allocated from the regular budget of the department. Peer educators provide VCT for HIV. STI diagnosis and treatment as well as distribution of condoms and lubricants are also done in the facility.

Klinika Bernardo became the first sundown clinic operated solely by an LGU. This clinic was conceptualized and operational before national guidelines on MSM-Transgender (TG) interventions or programs were formulated. In 2013, the QCHD registered a 133% increase of VCT among male clients.

Regular consultations with Community Based Organizations (CBO) are undertaken by Klinika Bernardo to gather relevant information and recommendations. These are conducted during the regular meeting of the Quezon City STI/AIDS Council (QCSAC), a multi-sectoral body that provides directions to the HIV response of the city. Klinika Bernardo also partners with private organizations such as the Association of Spa, Massage parlor, Clubs, and KTV bars Operators (SAMACKA), Take the Test, Inc. (TTT)—an MSM organization—and AIDS Society of the Philippines (ASP) to promote HIV prevention. By monitoring social networking sites, Klinika Bernardo identified and engaged 25 MSM clans in Quezon City. These clans hold events or face to face gatherings (called eyeballs) every weekend; Klinika Bernardo provides voluntary counseling and testing during these clan events. Taking its cue from a USAID project, Klinika Bernardo also made use of mobile technology as a channel to provide MSMs with information on HIV/AIDS including available testing and treatment services. The Quezon City government institutionalized SMS4MSM by providing funds to enrol 25 MSM clans.

In collaboration with the Reaching Out to Most at Risk Population (ROMP) project, a Case Management Approach Team was started in Klinika Bernardo to increase client

initiation, retention and adherence to treatment as well as provide early access to and maintenance of comprehensive package of health and social services, and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV (PLHIV). In addition, Klinika Bernardo—which is limited to providing only primary health care for PLHIV—helped establish a functional Service Delivery Network (SDN) of providers to link together health and non-health services for the care of PLHIV and their families. The network aims to strengthen the referral process and coordination mechanism, to ensure continuous provision of needed services and monitor outcomes of individual referrals.

Klinika Bernardo shows the importance of addressing access issues not only in terms of distance and cost but also in the light of conflicts in time and confidence and trust in personnel. It also demonstrated that minor innovations can result in major gains, particularly community participation and involvement and the value of peers. These are simple strategies that can be replicated by other LGUs.

