

NESTS Regional Consultation Seminar Baguio City, June 11, 2009

The 3rd Regional Consultation Seminar on the Formulation of the National EST Strategy was held in Baguio City last June 11, 2009. The seminar was well attended by participants from the Baguio City Government, LTO-CAR, LTO Region I, LTFRB-CAR, DENR-CAR, HLURB-CAR, NGOs and Transport Groups. The venue was the Hotel Elizabeth and the seminar was organized in cooperation with the City Government of Baguio and Energy and Clean Air Project (ECAP) of USAID.

The **Welcome Remarks** were delivered by **Atty. Federico J. Mandapat, Jr., Regional Director of LTO and LTFRB for the Cordillera Autonomous Region**. The **Opening Remarks** were delivered by the **Hon. Reinaldo Bautista, City Mayor of Baguio City**. The **Message from DOTC** was delivered by **Hon. Anneli R. Lontoc, Undersecretary for Road Transport**. The **Message from DENR** was delivered by **Hon. Primitivo C. Galinato, Jr., Regional Executive Director of the DENR**. Mayor Bautista related the story of Baguio City and emphasized the urgency to come up with solutions to Baguio's traffic and air pollution woes and also mentioned other environmental concerns such as the problem with solid waste management. He expressed his optimism that with close cooperation among stakeholders including support and guidance from the national government, Baguio City and other LGUs as well could successfully confront the challenges they face.

The following presentations were made in the seminar:

- 1) **Defining EST in the Philippine Context** – *Dr. Hilario Sean O. Palmiano*, NCTS
- 2) **Draft National EST Strategy** – *Dr. Jose Regin F. Regidor*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS
- 3) **Eco-efficient City** – *Ms. Cordelia C. Lacsamana*, OIC, Department Head, City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO), Baguio City
- 4) **EST Initiatives in San Fernando City, La Union** – *Mr. Valmar Valdez*, CENRO, City of San Fernando, La Union
- 5) **Examples of Good Practices of EST in the Philippines** – *Dr. Karl N. Vergel*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS
- 6) **Bus Rapid Transit** – *Dr. Ricardo G. Sigua, Jr.*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS

An Open Forum was held in the morning after the Draft EST Strategy was presented and participants lauded the efforts of the DOTC and DENR in formulating the national EST strategy. Comments were more about the current problems experienced by Baguio City concerning traffic and air pollution, including inter-boundary issues with adjacent LGUs like La Trinidad. In the afternoon, participants took interest in the concept of BRT and how it can be applied or adapted to a city like Baguio. The concept of pedestrianization was also discussed as the city's climate is apt for walking.

Other ideas on EST practices and possibilities particularly for the City of Baguio were captured in the workshop conducted in the afternoon to gauge the extent of EST practices as well as the hindrances and possible solutions to these at the local level. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr. Sean Palmiano** of the UP College of Engineering.

The **Concluding Remarks** were delivered by **Dir. Mandapat** of the LTO-LTFRB-CAR.



Participants to the EST Regional Consultations held at the Hotel Elizabeth
[At Center are DENR Regional Executive Director Primitivo C. Galinato, Jr., DOTC Undersecretary for Road Transport Anneli R. Lontoc, and LTO-LTFRB-CAR Regional Director Federico J. Mandapat, Jr.]