

NESTS Regional Consultation Seminar Davao City, May 22, 2009

The 2nd Regional Consultation Seminar on the Formulation of the National EST Strategy was held in Davao City last May 22, 2009. The seminar was well attended by participants from the Davao City Government, LTO Region XI, LTFRB Region 11, DENR Region 11, DPWH Region 11, HLURB Region 11, NGOs and Transport Groups. The venue was the Ateneo De Davao University and the seminar was organized in cooperation with the City Government of Davao and the Energy and Clean Air Project (ECAP) of USAID.

The **Welcome Remarks** were delivered by **Atty. Gomer J. Dy, Regional Director of LTO Region XI**. The **Opening Remarks** were delivered on behalf of **Mayor Rodrigo Duterte** by the **Hon. Nilo G. Abellera, Davao City Councilor**. A **Message on behalf of the DOTC and DENR (national focal agencies)** was delivered by **Assistant Secretary Alberto Suansing, Chair of the Land Transport Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB)**.

The following presentations were made in the seminar:

- 1) **Defining EST in the Philippine Context** – *Dr. Ma. Sheilah G. Napalang*, NCTS (morning)
- 2) **Draft National EST Strategy** – *Dr. Jose Regin F. Regidor*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (morning)
- 3) **Examples of Good Practices of EST in the Philippines** – *Dr. Karl N. Vergel*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (afternoon)
- 4) **Bus Rapid Transit** – *Dr. Cresencio M. Montalbo, Jr.*, UP School of Urban and Regional Planning/NCTS (afternoon)
- 5) **Public Transport Strategic Plan for Metro Cebu** – *Engr. Nigel Paul Villarete*, Cebu City Planning and Development Coordinator (afternoon)

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. Also, questions and comments were accommodated after each presentation in the afternoon. Comments were more about the current efforts in Davao City in implementing solutions to transport and traffic problems. Davao CPDC Jacinto mentioned that Davao City is practically self-sufficient and is able to fund its projects through loans provided by the Land Bank. Davao City is currently considering mass transport options for the city and is seriously looking at the possibility of having a BRT system.

The various efforts and ideas by the participants were also 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. Noriel Christopher C. Tiglao** of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance. Participants were divided into groups representing the different sectors in Davao City.

The **Concluding Remarks** were delivered by **Dir. Patdu**. He reiterated the commitment of the national government, particularly the DOTC, in connecting with LGUs and providing the necessary guidance for LGUs to develop sustainable solutions to transport and traffic problems.



Speakers to the EST Regional Consultations held at the Ateneo De Davao University
[From left to right: Engr. Mario Luis J. Jacinto (Davao CPDC), Chairman Alberto H. Suansing (LTFRB), Hon. Nilo Abellera (Davao City Councilor), Atty. Gomer J. Dy (Regional Director, LTO Region XI), Ms. Sophie Punte (CAI-Asia), Mr. Mohanty (Coordinator, UNCRD), Mr. Jamie Leather (ADB), Dr. Regin Regidor (UP-NCTS)]