

NESTS Regional Consultation Seminar Iloilo Grand Hotel, Iloilo City, May 15, 2009

The 1st Regional Consultation Seminar on the Formulation of the National EST Strategy was held in Iloilo City last May 15, 2009. The seminar was well attended by participants from the LTO Region 6, LTFRB Region 6, DENR Region 6, DPWH Region 6, HLURB Region 6 and 12 LGUs (including 10 cities/municipalities and 2 provinces). Also participating were members of the Transport and Traffic Committee of the TWG of the Metro Iloilo Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC) that included faculty from the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV). The venue was the Iloilo Grand Hotel along Iznart Street in Iloilo City and the seminar was organized in cooperation with LTO Region 6 and the MIGEDC.

The **Welcome Remarks** were delivered by **Mr. Eric Lenard Tabaldo**, Assistant Regional Director of LTO Region 6 and the **Opening Remarks** were delivered on behalf of Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas by **Engr. Renan Escoto**, Iloilo City CENRO. A **Message on behalf of the DOTC and DENR (national focal agencies)** was delivered by **Dir. Ildefonso Patdu, Jr.**, Project Development Service, DOTC.

The following presentations were made in the seminar:

- 1) **Defining EST in the Philippine Context** – *Dr. Hilario Sean O. Palmiano*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (morning)
- 2) **Draft National EST Strategy** – *Dr. Jose Regin F. Regidor*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (morning)
- 3) **Transport and Traffic in Metro Iloilo** – *Engr. Jose Tengco*, Alternate Action Officer, MIGEDC Transport and Traffic Committee (afternoon)
- 4) **Examples of Good Practices of EST in the Philippines** – *Dr. Karl N. Vergel*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (afternoon)
- 5) **Bus Rapid Transit** – *Dr. Ricardo G. Sigua*, UP College of Engineering/NCTS (afternoon)
- 6) **Public Transport Strategic Plan for Metro Cebu** – *Dir. Ildefonso T. Patdu*, DOTC (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. Comments were more about the current efforts by LGUs present in implementing sustainable transport solutions. These were captured more effectively 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** and the participants were grouped according to LGU or agency represented.

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.



Participants to the EST Regional Consultations held at the Iloilo Grand Hotel