The 13th CBMS Philippines National Conference, with the general theme Enhancing Resilience of Communities Amidst Emerging Development Challenges, was held on March 1-3, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria and attended by at least a thousand delegates composed of key officials and representatives from the government, non-government organizations, private organizations and the academe.

This year's convention featured presentations and discussions on the role and uses of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in the context of emerging policy developments and key issues relating to meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), strengthening public accountability through results-based monitoring, and fostering resilience through adaptive governance.

Leading the roster of distinguished conference guest speakers is the Vice President of the Philippines Leni Robredo who spoke about The Science and Numbers Behind Empowerment, highlighting the importance of baseline data in crafting transformative policy and program responses to the nation's war on poverty.

The policy discussion during the second day of the conference began with the presentation of Undersecretary Janet Abuel of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)-Local Government and Regional Operations Group on the national government's initiative on Improving Public Financial Management through Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation wherein the role and significance of local government unit (LGU) development indicators were highlighted in strengthening public financial management systems at the local level, improving local governance, and in turn providing better delivery of public services.
On the other hand, Director Anna Liza Bonagua of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Bureau of Local Government Development started the policy discussion on the third day of the conference with the DILG presentation on Building Adaptive Capacities and Community-Based Resilience. Aside from presenting some of the good practices at the local level in terms of building community resilience, Director Bonagua also highlighted the alignment of the adoption of CBMS in the country with the process of preparation of the LGU comprehensive development plans (CDP), disaster risk reduction management (DRRM) plans, Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan (LCCAP), and legislative agenda and localizing the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

This year’s CBMS conference theme draws from the concerns on the risks and impacts of depleting resources, demographic transition, economic fluctuations, political uncertainties, armed conflict, and more frequent occurrences and growing scale of natural disasters on short-term and long-term development goals and outcomes which continue to be on top of policy debates and agenda of governments across the world.

Since its conception in 1993 and adoption by several LGUs in the country starting in 2000, the CBMS has complemented various development initiatives in the country by generating the necessary disaggregated data for multidimensional poverty analysis, preparation of local development plans and budgets, program design and focused targeting, and impact monitoring of events/phenomena such as the global financial crisis, MDG localization, typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), among others, while empowering communities to participate in the development process.

The conference was organized by the CBMS Network Office of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP).

CBMS Implementation and Uses in the Philippines

On the first day of the conference, a session on fostering evidence-based programs to protect the children’s rights was chaired by Dr. Augusto Rodriguez of UNICEF Philippines. Mayor Cielo Krisel Lagma-Luisto of Tabaco City, Albay presented how the community-level data gathered through CBMS were used to decide on the interventions to answer their problems in education. Among the interventions made after their CBMS implementation were the Libreng Gamit sa Eskwela and Love on Wheels program. Similarly, Mayor Maria Angela Garcia of Dinalupihan, Bataan used the CBMS data as baseline in implementing projects, including the expanded Early Childhood Care and Development Program, Palay Check Junior in secondary public schools, and tobacco-free generation program. Meanwhile, Mayor Joselito Guyguyon of Kiangan, Ifugao affirmed that he has been using the CBMS to develop projects aimed to protect maternal health as well as the health and nutrition of children. He cited the crafting of several social protection programs such as the safe motherhood program and...
supplemental feeding program based on the results of the CBMS.

Meanwhile, a discussion dealt on maximizing CBMS data to provide interventions to the vulnerable sector of the society in Cagayan Valley. Mayor Nieve Rose B. Cimmaroneses of Nagtipunan, Quirino led the discussion, together with CPDC Oliver B. Francisco of Cauayan City, Isabela and MPDC Engineer Jesus P. Qagasin of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. The discussion emphasized the uses of the CBMS results in identifying vulnerable households and how CBMS helps the local government to prioritize response actions during disasters. He also added that CBMS provides mapping of the vulnerable households which helps the local officials to easily locate these households during rescue operations. The presenters likewise described how CBMS can effectively address poverty in its response to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), now the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the collection of freeable community-based information.

The first day of the conference ended with the session on responsive governance through CBMS. Mayor Mariano R. Martinez of San Remigio, Cebu and CPDC Perle Amar of Lapu-Lapu City presented how CBMS had helped their localities to have more responsive governance through the implementation of projects and programs targeted to the right beneficiaries. Mayor Martinez mentioned that with CBMS, "you are empowering your community altogether as people from the ground are part of the development of plans to address the problems of the community". Further, Planning Officer Peter Ross Retutal of the Province of Bohol discussed how the communities in their province make use of the CBMS data in targeting beneficiaries of programs.

Opening the LGU session on the second day of the conference was UNDP Regional Programme Advisor on Local Governance and Decentralization, Mr. Patrick Duong. Assistant CPDC Joseph Raymund A. Sumabal of Panabo City then presented the city’s current collaboration with the CBMS Network Office and UNDP on the localization of SDGs. He showed how the data from CBMS can monitor the SDGs. Meanwhile, UNDP-Philippines Program Coordinator, Mr. Jaime Antonio, Jr., presented how the UNDP’s Family-Based Actions for Children and their Environments in the Slums (FACES) contributes to localization of the SDGs. Ms. Melany Quiton of the Bureau of Local Government Supervision of the DILG also provided a clearer overview of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) given to LGUs which was introduced in 2014 and which tracks the performance of the LGUs. She noted how the SGLG complements eight goals of the UNDP’s SDGs.

Meanwhile, local chief executives and representatives of Eastern Visayas shared the good practices on poverty reduction and development planning strategies using the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP). Ms. Janice Claire Canta of Tacloban City and Mayor Allan Contaldo of Balangkayan, Eastern Samar shared similar insights on how CBMS played a vital role in disaster preparedness and relief and rescue operations during typhoon Yolanda. In the case of Biliran, Biliran, Mayor Grace Casil inspired the delegates of the conference with her narrative on how effective the CBMS CARES has been for the small municipality of Biliran. CBMS CARES means "CBMS as catalyst to an adaptable, resilient/responsive, empowered and sustainable Biliran" and it aims to improve the situation of the people through good and responsive governance with the use of the CBMS data.

On the third day, the opening session focused on using CBMS as a tool for poverty reduction, planning and disaster risk reduction management. MPDC Jay Keenson Acebuche of Pagsanjan, Laguna recognized the importance of CBMS as a tool for poverty reduction, planning and disaster risk reduction management. MPDC Jay Keenson Acebuche of Pagsanjan, Laguna recognized the importance of CBMS as a tool for poverty reduction, planning and disaster risk reduction management. MPDC Jay Keenson Acebuche of Pagsanjan, Laguna recognized the importance of CBMS as a tool for poverty reduction, planning and disaster risk reduction management. MPDC Jay Keenson Acebuche of Pagsanjan, Laguna recognized the importance of CBMS as a tool for poverty reduction, planning and disaster risk reduction management.
emphasized the key role of CBMS in mapping households who are potential beneficiaries of government programs as well as those households in disaster-prone areas.

At the end of the three-day event, CBMS Team Leader, Dr. Celia Reyes, shared the latest developments and next steps on the use of the CBMS methodology. She mentioned the continuous development of the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) and also emphasized how CBMS can generate baseline and panel data requirements for localizing the SDGs, for local planning and budgeting, for vulnerability risk mapping, and for impact monitoring.

Launching of the Many Faces of Poverty Volume 8
One of the highlights of this year’s conference was the launching of the CBMS publication, The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 8. The local government units featured in this volume are the provinces of Albay and Marinduque, and the cities of Balanga, Candon, Marikina, Parañaque, and Valenzuela. The LGUs were recognized for their commitment and initiatives toward poverty reduction.

The CBMS poverty maps will identify who and where the poor are as they provide a comprehensive picture of the different faces of poverty in different parts of the country. They will also aid in identifying the most pressing needs of the community, assist in prioritizing interventions to address these needs, and facilitate the targeting of programs for those who need the assistance most.

Winners of the 6th CBMS Special Awards
The municipality of Pagsanjan in Laguna won the first place in the Best Photo category while the municipality of San Mariano in Isabela bagged the second place, and the city of Ligao in Albay got the third place. For the CBMS Best Advocacy Video category, Angadanan, Isabela took the top spot followed by San Mariano, Isabela at second place and by Kiangan, Ifugao on the third spot. The winning entries can be viewed online at https://www.pep-net.org/13th-cbms-philippines-national-conference.

2017 Annual PEP Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya
DEVELOPMENT researchers will gather in Nairobi, Kenya from June 8 to 14 for the 2017 Annual Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Conference. This year’s conference is expected to discuss some recent developments on poverty analysis and policy issues as well as new project proposals from various initiatives. The annual conference is supported by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Based on the global PEP initiative for Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) in developing countries, this meeting will serve as an opportunity for research teams to discuss their new project proposals and study findings with peers and experts around the globe. These proposals and findings from different countries will be presented during a series of parallel sessions and will cover topics on some policy issues related to growth and employment. The presentations will be grouped according to the research methods applied in each project. The research groups are divided as follows: Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Modelling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA), Microeconomic Policy (PMMA), and Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI).

In addition to the peer-review and mentoring experience from distinguished experts, a training workshop will be conducted to share best practices for effective policy communication. It will be followed by individual meetings between PAGE grantees and PEP resource persons.

Meanwhile, the PEP Policy Forum is scheduled on June 14 where lessons about policy engagements will be discussed. At the end of the forum, the winners of the 2017 PEP Best Practice Awards will be announced.
Tanzania Project Team Holds Stakeholders’ Meetings in Bukoba Municipality and Nshamba Ward

THE TANZANIA Project Team shared the findings of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) implementation in Bukoba Municipality and Muleba District and the results of their study on youth employment and vulnerability in two stakeholder’s meetings on March 7 and 9, 2017. A total of 72 participants attended the dissemination meetings, including people from the government such as the executive and administrative officers, village chairpersons and councilors, and health officers; and members of the academe.

The team introduced CBMS to the participants and mentioned how the data gathered will be useful to government planners in policy formulation and design. The implementation of CBMS is supposed to create a baseline that will enable policymakers to develop appropriate interventions and target the right beneficiaries of certain programs. The study findings on youth unemployment and vulnerability were also presented in the workshop in as much as this was considered a development issue in the community.

Grace Benedict of the CBMS Tanzania team discussed the results of the CBMS implementation, particularly the findings on the socioeconomic characteristics of the households and their members, education, health and nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, and community participation in development activities. Meanwhile, Dr. Domitilla Bashemera presented the findings of the study on youth employment and vulnerability wherein she mentioned that the study focused on the following indicators: number of employed and unemployed youth, sectors where the youth are currently employed and are likely to be employed, ownership of mobile phones, access to information about employment opportunities, and the challenges in finding training on entrepreneurship. The vulnerability to shocks of the unemployed youth was also pointed out.

After the presentation of the study findings, the participants held a focused group discussion wherein they were asked to come up with proposals of a youth employment plan which aims to increase opportunities available to the youth. The discussion focused on the available opportunities, challenges, interventions and possible solution(s) to help the youth in their community to have better prospects. In addition, the discussions also tackled the implementation, project requirements and costs of the said proposals.

A study tour was then proposed wherein four youth members and a representative from the district youth development office will go to Dodoma to study the development plans focused on the youth. The members of this tour are expected to share their findings to the Tanzania Youth Investment Club, particularly on the sources of capital land ownership, group formation, and how the youth are able to grow and develop opportunities for themselves.
CBMS Togo Team Organizes Training Workshop on Local Development Planning

A training workshop was organized by the CBMS Togo Project Team on February 16-17, 2017 at the Conference Room of Melissa Hotel in Tsevie. The workshop had a total of 24 participants, including the members of the project team. The meeting was held as a capacity building exercise to train the participants in the preparation of local development plans using the CBMS data.

Prior to the workshop, the participants were given modules in crafting local development projects. Dr. Esso-Hanam Atake, coordinator of the CBMS Togo project, provided an overview about the project. Then, he presented the use of the CBMS data as a baseline in developing local plans and interventions appropriate to the needs of the community. He also elaborated on what a local development plan is and outlined its importance. He further explained the different stages of project identification and stressed the importance of involving the local authorities in the success of a project.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yaovi Tassou, a member of the CBMS Togo Project Team, focused his discussion on the sustainability of a project. He talked about the management of the project and the tools needed to assess its sustainability. On the other hand, Mr. Yévesse Dundonougbo, also a member of the project team, talked about the proper identification and budgeting of resources for the project.

The participants raised some concerns related to the involvement of non-elected officials in the implementation of projects. Others also mentioned the possible contributions of the beneficiaries and national government executives in the implementation of a development project. In addition, the participants were also concerned about the long-term management of the projects that will be implemented and the cost it entails.

The CBMS Togo Project Team was able to address the concerns of the participants, especially on the budgeting of resources. Professor Akoete Ega Agbodji emphasized the importance of a budget in the selection of development projects. He cited the importance of showing the market prices in the deliberation and expansion of the project/s.

Aside from these discussions, the training workshop also presented possible project plans, particularly on building a health hut in Gblainvie and setting up a public latrine in Dalave. These projects were identified as a response to the needs of these communities which were derived from the CBMS data. The discussions were led by Mr. Abdul-Fahd Fofana.

After the successful workshop, it was recommended that the training should be done nationwide to introduce the importance of a local development plan which is based on the CBMS data. The future workshops should also focus on financial analysis and community project management.
ON FEBRUARY 22, 2017, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Project Team in Kenya led by Dr. Diana Kimani conducted a national dissemination workshop at the Nairobi Safari Club, Lillian Towers in Murang’a County. The said workshop discussed the CBMS design and methodology, results from the data gathered in the community and the findings of the study on youth employment and entrepreneurship. The participants of the said workshop included the planning department of Murang’a County, Ministry of Youth and Gender, members of the Muthithi community, CBMS enumerators, and representatives from non-government organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, research organizations, and other countries.

Dr. Patrick Kariuki, a member of the project team, discussed the need for baseline data to assess the situation of the communities in Kenya, the key features of the CBMS and its importance as a tool in policy design. The team received positive response from the participants of the workshop who pointed out the significance of using the CBMS data to develop plans at the national and county levels. Some stressed that most of the surveys in Kenya are being carried out after a period of 10 years or more, thereby making the data used in the planning formulation outdated. The participants also mentioned the importance of CBMS in identifying and locating the specific households as possible program beneficiaries of the interventions from the national government and non-government organizations.

CBMS Kenya Team Leader, Dr. Diana Kimani, presented the poverty profile of 11,010 members of Muthithi Location in Murang’a County. She reported that based on the results, 61 percent of the households in the Muthithi community have no access to safe drinking water while 46 percent have no improved sanitary toilet facilities. In addition, the results showed that 37.9 percent of the members have income below the national poverty line for rural areas. Furthermore, about 37 percent of children 14 to 17 years old are not attending secondary school.

Dr. Kimani mentioned that these findings need to be addressed in order to improve the situation in the community. In addition, she cited the need to bridge the gender discrepancy in terms of completion of tertiary education wherein more males have graduated than females. Meanwhile, the participants of the workshop are concerned about the results wherein more males are unemployed and victims of crime compared to females. Moreover, a greater number of boys are not attending primary and secondary schools than girls. Some associated these findings to the gender policy of the government which is perceived to favor girls more than boys.

The results of the study on youth unemployment and entrepreneurship were presented by Dr. Phyllis Machio. In the analysis of the determinants of youth unemployment and entrepreneurship in Muthithi Location, it was observed that education is not a significant determinant. On the other hand, membership in youth groups and marital status were found to be significant. The results showed that 12.9 percent of the youth are
unemployed in Muthithi while only 6.4 percent are employed in the formal sector. It was also found that females have a higher poverty rate than males.

Further, the proportion of males engaged in entrepreneurship at 12.9 percent is higher than females at 11.7 percent. The study revealed that access to finance was the biggest barrier to entrepreneurship at 88.9 percent. The utilization rate of the funds of government programs such as the Uwezo Fund, Women Enterprise Fund and Youth Enterprise Fund as well as the opportunities availed from the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) are very low. Some of the youth participants mentioned that it was their first time to have heard of AGPO at the workshop. Others said that they are aware of the Uwezo Fund and the Youth Enterprise Fund but were discouraged to avail of the benefits because of the many requirements and bureaucratic procedure involved. The participants pointed out that the government should facilitate affordable finance by reducing barriers to access to credit.

Policy Uptakes

As mentioned, the findings from the data gathered through CBMS are essential in crafting policies that can improve the situation of communities in Kenya. The Director of Planning in Murang'a County, Elijah Kinaro, the Director of Youth and Gender Affairs, Henry Mwangi, and County Planning Officer, Stephen Mwangi explained how the government intends to use these findings in development planning and policy formulation. They reported that the county government is in the process of putting in place a water master plan that will guide the implementation of water projects within the Murang’a County. Through the Department of Public Health, the county government aims to inform the community members on the importance of improved sanitation. A program to enhance the training in technical and vocational centers will also be launched and will help develop skills of the unemployed youth to reduce unemployment and foster job creation. Lastly, because of the low utilization rates, the Department of Youth and Gender Affairs aims to raise awareness of the existence of the special government programs through several dissemination and outreach activities.