More than 800 delegates composed of local chief executives and planning officers, officials and representatives of national government agencies, and representatives of non-government organizations, academy, and development partner agencies convened at the recently concluded 14th CBMS Philippines National Conference held at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center in Quezon City on March 5-7, 2018.

This year’s 3-day policy conference, with the general theme Reducing Inequalities through CBMS, featured sharing and discussion of latest developments and best practices on the implementation and uses of CBMS for improving local plans and budgets, better public service delivery, evidence-based legislation, disaster risk reduction management, and migration and development. The organization of the annual conference is spearheaded 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). Other local conference partners include the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

Leading the roster of distinguished speakers and resource persons at the national level were Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, Undersecretary for Local Government Austere Panadero of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Regional Development Office (RDO) Undersecretary Adoracion Navarro of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Administrator of the Office of the (ULAP), the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

CBMS Stakeholders in the Philippines Holds 14th National Conference
Civil Defense and National Disaster Risk Reduction Council (NDRRMC) Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines Country Director, Mr. Titon Mitra.

Full details of the conference presentations may be obtained from https://www.pep.net.org/14th-cbms-philippines-national-conference

Conference Highlights

Policies and Strategies for Reducing Inequalities and Improving the Welfare of the Poor

Among the highlights of this year’s convention are the session presentations and discussions on strategies for reducing inequalities and improving the welfare of the poor both at the national and local level.

Discussion was jumpstarted with Senator Gatchalian’s talk on reducing inequalities through education. In his speech, he spoke about the importance of evidence-based policy making and how policy-based evidence making, something he referred to as “the reality on the ground” in politics. He also pointed out the effectiveness of CBMS as a tool in gathering data which local government units can use as baseline or benchmark for policy making.

Undersecretary Navarro of NEDA, on the other hand, presented the National Spatial Strategy for addressing regional disparities in the country.

The role of CBMS in the process of implementing poverty reduction initiatives at the local level was highlighted by the presentations of Governor Maria Luisa Romualdo of Province of Camiguin, Governor Eduardo Firmalo of Romblon, and Vice-Governor Peter Alfaro of Occidental Mindoro. Also featured during the conference were presentations on the uses of CBMS for poverty monitoring and program implementation by the Province of Aurora, Ifugao, and Tarlac.

Meanwhile, LGUs including Municipality of Nakar, Quezon, Municipality of Tubod, Panabo City, Marikina City, Valenzuela City and Chambba City) also shared about how CBMS is being used by local governments as a platform to establish local databases and generate the necessary disaggregated data to improve program design, targeting and implementation.

Undersecretary Austere Panadero of the DILG discusses the importance of acquiring CBMS to devise well-designed programs for all local communities.
Localizing the SDGs

The CBMS conference featured a presentation by the UNDP-Philippines Country Director Titon Mitra on key issues and challenges for meeting the global goals. In his speech, he stressed the importance of aligning the SDGs to the proposed targets of the local government, cited the use of the Local and Urban Governance Diagnostic Tool (LOGOD), the CBMS, and other data banks and tools, and listed the challenges associated with the localization of the SDGs.

Current initiatives of the national government particularly by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Philippine Statistics Authority in line with the localization of the sustainable development goals in the country were also presented in the conference. In addition, the CBMS Network showcased how the CBMS, which is widely implemented in many LGUs in the country, can be used to provide policymakers and program implementers with the necessary disaggregated data to identify priority needs, and design and implement programs in the context of meeting the SDGs. It has been noted that 39 of the SDG indicators can already be generated through the CBMS being implemented by the LGUs.

Disaster Preparedness and Management

Undersecretary Jalad presented the national government’s initiative to achieve its vision of safer, adaptive, and disaster resilient communities in the country. He emphasized the importance of working collectively towards a resilient country and talked about the significance of addressing the needs of all groups, especially the vulnerable sector, as well as the significance of empowering people. He mentioned that, in order to build national resilience, DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) should be integrated in the comprehensive development plans of the local government units and that, through CBMS, prevention and mitigation networks, preparedness measures, and response activities can be enhanced further.

Leading the discussion on the role of CBMS for disaster preparedness and management are the presentations of Mayor Roberto Madla of Municipality of Boac, Marinduque, Mayor Jasmin Angelli Bautista of the Municipality of Magallanes, Cavite, and Engr. Leonardo Madeja, MPDC of the Municipality of Naval, Biliran.

Fostering Evidence-Based Legislation

on the importance of evidence based legislation for improving the welfare of poor and the vulnerable.

The organization of the session was initiated by the CBMS Network in line with on-going review and discussion of the Proposed CBMS Bill at the House of Representatives of the Philippines which will institutionalize the implementation of CBMS in all cities and municipalities in the country.

**Improving Local Governance**

Initiating the discussion on improving transparency and accountability in local governance, Undersecretary Panadero talked about how local governments should be able to concentrate on effective planning, budgeting, and targeting of beneficiaries in order to realize improvements in their respective localities. He shared that, through the use of CBMS, local planners can design or formulate programs which can accommodate all intended beneficiaries, create local development plans parallel to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), and improve disaster risk reduction (DRR), all of which are essential in improving delivery of services at the local level.

The sharing of experience and insights of LGUs on the value of CBMS as a tool for improving public service delivery in the context of different regions in the country was led by presentations of Mayor Eliseo Ruzol, Sr. of Municipality of Nakar in Quezon, Mayor Jurdin Jesus Romualdo of Municipality of Mambajao in Camiguin, Mayor Rommel de la Torre of Municipality of Magsaysay in Palawan, Mayor Mariano Buyagawan, Jr. of Municipality of Lamut in Ifugao, and Mayor Amirh Mangelen Musali of Municipality of Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

**Background on CBMS in the Philippines**

Since 1999 to present, the CBMS has been adopted as a tool for local planning and program implementation by local government units in the Philippines in 77 provinces (33 of which are province-wide) covering 1031 municipalities, 93 cities, and 29,259 barangays. CBMS is being used by LGUs to generate the necessary disaggregated and updated data for the preparation of development plans including their annual investment plan, poverty reduction action plans, disaster risk reduction management plans, gender and development plan and comprehensive land use plan. CBMS data resulting from the LGUs’ conduct of CBMS census in their localities have served as inputs for budgeting and prioritization of projects at the local level.

It has likewise been adopted for localizing, operationalization and monitoring of various development initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPBP), Bottom Up Planning and Budgeting (BUB), Gender and Development (GAD), Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) among others. Various policy issuances have been made at the local (1999 to present) and national levels as well as of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (2011), and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (2006) in support of the implementation and use of CBMS in the country.
CBMS Network Launches 9th Volume of The Many Faces of Poverty

The CBMS Network officially launched its publication entitled The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 9 during the first day of the 14th CBMS national conference. The publication features the statistical tables and poverty maps of the provinces of Aurora, Camiguin, Ifugao, Occidental Mindoro, Romblon, and Tarlac, all of which were generated using the CBMS technology.

The Many Faces of Poverty book series aims to identify who and where the poor are as it provides a comprehensive picture of the different faces of poverty in various parts of the country. It will also aid in identifying the most pressing needs of the communities, assist in prioritizing interventions to address these needs, and facilitate the targeting of programs for those who need assistance the most.

Some of the local chief executives involved in the making of the publication were able to attend this year’s conference. Governor Maria Luisa Romualdo of the Province of Camiguin shared the province’s experience in reducing poverty through the use of CBMS and encouraged other LGUs to do the same.

Meanwhile, Governor Eduardo Firmalo of the Province of Romblon spoke about the importance of utilizing the CBMS generated poverty maps in the identification of vulnerable households and in the creation of well-designed programs. He explained that, through CBMS, LGUs are able to pinpoint where the problem lies and that, just by looking at the color scheme of the poverty maps, policy makers can determine which areas and which programs they need to concentrate on.

Vice Governor Peter Alfaro of the Province of Occidental Mindoro, on the other hand, shared that aside from the use of CBMS in the identification and prioritization of projects, CBMS can also be used in the allocation of the LGUs’ resources and can help LGUs create their respective provincial profiles and Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs).
**LGUs Receive Recognition in 7th CBMS Special Awards**

Every year, local government units (LGUs) who have conducted at least one round of CBMS implementation are encouraged to submit entries for the Best CBMS Photo and Best CBMS Advocacy Video categories in the CBMS Special Awards. Winning entries are selected through online voting and onsite voting. This year’s awards ceremony was held on the third day of the 14th CBMS national conference.

LGU representatives with the top entries for Best Photo and Best Advocacy Video were invited on stage and were awarded with plaques of recognition. In the first category, the Municipality of Pagsanjan, Laguna won the first place, followed by the City of Ligao, Albay at second place, and both the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Bataan and the Municipality of San Mariano, Isabela at third place.

Meanwhile, in the second category, the Municipality of Pagsanjan, Laguna bagged the first place, while the Municipality of San Mariano, Isabela earned second place, and the City of Danao, Cebu earned third place. The winning entries from the video category can be viewed at www.pep-net.org/14th-cbms-philippines-national-conference

**Winning Entries:**

**Best CBMS Photo Category**

1st Place - Pagsanjan, Laguna  
2nd Place - Ligao City, Albay  
3rd Place - Dinalupihan, Bataan  
3rd Place - San Mariano, Isabela
CBMS-Nicaragua Project Team Organizes Training Workshop in Matagalpa, Nicaragua

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) team in Nicaragua is one of the research teams supported under the second phase of the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE II) program by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP). The project team’s research entitled “Understanding the Challenges of Financial Inclusion of Rural Women’s Entrepreneurship in Nicaragua” aims to analyze the extent to which microfinance programs are able to accommodate the needs of female entrepreneurs in rural Nicaragua.

In preparation for the CBMS data collection, the team organized a training workshop on February 2-4, 2018 at the Red Cross Branch in Rio Blanco, Matagalpa, Nicaragua. There were 20 enumerators who participated in the workshop; 9 were women and 11 were men.

The training workshop started off with a presentation on the details of the CBMS research project itself. This was followed by Project Leader Guillermo Bornemann’s discussion on the different information systems, indicators of poverty, and sample poverty maps. The research team also shared their previous experiences in terms of conducting research and collecting data.

The second part of the training involved understanding the structure of the questionnaire and the interview process. Also a part of the training program was a hands-on session on the CBMS SCAN forms. The participants were able to practice testing the forms both in pairs and individually. This was done in order to assess the viability of the test forms and provide feedback to the research team.

At the end of the workshop, the enumerators had to go through an exam which tested their ability to perform well on the field during data collection. This allowed the research team to select the final set of enumerators which will be hired for the project.

Following the favorable outcome of the training workshop, the data collection began on February 7, 2018 and ended on March 22, 2018.
New Updates

CBMS Team in Togo Conducts Training on CBMS Data Collection

Selected under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II initiative of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project team in Togo led by Project Leader Dr. Esso-Hanam Atake is currently working on a project entitled “Agriculture Investments, Labor Productivity and Rural Poverty Reduction: Gender Disparities in Togo”. The project aims to analyze the impact of agricultural investments on agricultural productivity and reduction of rural poverty in Togo through the use of CBMS data.

On January 23-26, 2018, the CBMS project team in Togo conducted a training on CBMS data collection tools. The four-day training took place at the Université de Lomé in Lomé, Togo. Among the participants were 25 enumerators, 4 supervisors, and 4 editors.

The first part of the training required the enumerators to go through all the manuals and questionnaires and to understand each section thoroughly. Following the discussion of the different concepts, the participants were trained what to do or how to react in different scenarios during the course of the data collection.

On the other hand, the second part of the training focused more on the use of the collection tool itself as well as on the proper handling of the tablets. In order to test the enumerators’ level of capability, take home exercises were given to them.

During the last day of the training workshop, participants were asked to create two kinds of simulations, one in French and the other one in their native language which will be used on the field. After which, the enumerators went through a test and 20 out of 25 were retained for the final phase of the data collection.
**Training Workshop on CBMS Data Collection Conducted in Asella, Ethiopia**

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Ethiopia project team conducted a training workshop for the first phase of their data collection. The workshop was held on March 3-4, 2018 at the Arsi University in Asella, Ethiopia and it catered to the 12 enumerators who will be collecting the data in Addis Ketema Sub-city Woreda 10, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the first project site.

This was conducted in preparation for the data collection for the team’s research entitled “Determinants of Financial Inclusion among Micro and Small Business Youth Entrepreneurs: Evidences from Addis Ababa and Shirka Woreda, Ethiopia”, a project supported by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) - Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II program, which aims to examine the factors affecting financial inclusion among micro and small business youth entrepreneurs in the selected project sites in Ethiopia.

The two-day workshop covered presentations and discussions regarding the introduction to CBMS and CBMS implementation, as well as hands-on sessions which involved training on the use of the Household Profile Questionnaire (HPQ), and on the use of the rider questionnaire. The presentations, discussions, and hands-on sessions were led by Degife Ketema, Abel Tewelde, Eden Gebremichael, Tigliu Dandiro, Senayit Seyoum, and Menen Abate. The enumerators were then taken to the project site in order for them to be more familiarized with the areas that each enumerator will cover.

After the success of the workshop, the CBMS-Ethiopia team decided to allot one more day of hands-on sessions to allow the enumerators to master the questions in the CBMS SCAN form and to provide further assistance and answer other inquiries regarding the data collection process.

The data collection in the first project site started on March 19, 2018 and is expected to end on April 16, 2018. The second round of training and data collection will commence thereafter and is expected to end on May 20, 2018.
CBMS-Kenya Team Finishes Training and Data Collection in Gikindu, Kenya

On February 15, 2018, a training seminar was organized by the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Kenya Project Team at the ACK Kambirwa Church in Gikindu, Kenya and a total of 26 enumerators and supervisors participated during the 9-hour training course.

The training seminar is in line with the team’s project entitled “Social Capital and Women’s Empowerment in Kenya: Case Study of Murang’a County” which is supported under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II program of the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) and aims to examine the effects of social capital on women empowerment in the selected project sites in Kenya with the aid of CBMS.

Team Leader, Dr. Phyllis Mumia Machio, started the seminar with a presentation on the background and methodology of CBMS. She also explained the purpose of the data collection. After which, Dr. Patrick Kariuki and Ms. Alice Muthoni Ng’ang’a, CBMS Kenya project researchers, discussed all of the sections on the household and rider questionnaires.

Later on, the enumerators and supervisors paired up in order to test the questionnaires among themselves, each participant acting as either the interviewer or the respondent. The exercise helped the CBMS project team identify specific problems encountered by the participants. This was followed by Dr. Kariuki’s tutorial on the use of tablets for the data collection, which went by quickly since most of the enumerators had prior experience in using tablets to collect data. The seminar ended with Dr. Machio’s session which focused on the administrative concerns related to the data collection process.

The CBMS-Kenya team proceeded with the data collection just shortly after the training seminar. The data collection was conducted on February 20 to March 23, 2018 and around 3,629 households in Mirira, Kambirwa, and Gikindu were interviewed.
PEP Annual Conference Features Use of CBMS for Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

The forthcoming Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Annual Conference to be held in Bangalore, India this June will be featuring the latest developments and research findings in line with localizing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the role of CBMS in the process. In particular, the CBMS sessions of the PEP conference, being organized by the CBMS Network Team of the DLSU Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, aims to provide a venue for discussion among researchers and key stakeholders of emerging concerns and needs for policy and program implementation in the context of meeting the SDGs, and identify possible strategies on how to address gaps and information needs through CBMS.

Researchers from country project-local partner institutions in Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Togo, and Uganda, supported under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE) II initiative, have been invited to present the local CBMS-based SDG profiles of their project sites. The local SDG profiles, to be presented and discussed during the CBMS policy conference sessions on June 11-12, 2018, will show the results of SDG indicators status mapping and analysis based on the data generated from the development and implementation of CBMS in the project sites. Aside from the presentations of the PAGE-supported CBMS project findings, the CBMS session of the PEP conference will also showcase presentations from selected speakers from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and CBMS partners from the Philippines on key strategies and core programs for localizing the SDGs at the regional, and country level, respectively.

The CBMS Policy Conference will follow a 3-day CBMS technical workshop on June 8-10, 2018. The technical workshop, which is part of the series of capacity-building activities being organized and conducted by the CBMS Network Team of the DLS-AKI in collaboration with its pool of CBMS resource persons, aims to further assist the PAGE-supported CBMS projects in improving their research work and outputs particularly in terms of methodology for thematic study, gender analysis, strategies for institutionalization, and policy impact.

Leading the CBMS resource persons for this year’s CBMS sessions are Dr. Celia Reyes of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, International Gender Expert and Adviser Ms. Nancy Spence, Dr. Felix Ankomah Asante of the Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) in Ghana, Dr. Sudarno Sumarto of SMERU Research Institute in Indonesia, and Dr. William Randall Spence of the Economic and Social Development Affiliates (ESDA)-Canada. Also invited as Guest Resource Person in this year’s CBMS sessions is Dr. Nanak Kakwani.

The PEP Annual Conference is an event being organized by PEP Inc. in collaboration with the CBMS Network Office of the DLSU Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies based in Manila, Philippines. The conference, to be held on June 7-13, 2018, will gather researchers and global experts from the 4 core programs of PEP – Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Modelling and Policy Impact Analysis (MPIA), Policy Impact Evaluation Research Initiative (PIERI), and Poverty Monitoring, Measurement Analysis (PMMA), to facilitate the presentation and discussion of projects supported by PEP through its Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGEII) initiative.

The PEP conference is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada. Further updates on the conference may be obtained at https://www.pep-net.org/2018-pep-annual-conference.