More than 900 delegates composed of local chief executives and planning officers, officials and representatives of national government agencies, and representatives of non-government organizations, academe, and development partner agencies convened at the recently concluded 15th CBMS Philippines National Conference/CBMS International Network Policy Conference held at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center in Quezon City on March 13-15, 2019.

This year’s 3-day policy conference, with the general theme Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through CBMS, featured sharing and discussion on the uses of CBMS for identifying priority needs, and implementing program interventions in line with meeting the SDGs. In particular, the conference featured the good practices and strategies of LGUs in various socioeconomic, demographic, and geographical contexts to meet the different SDG targets, and discuss areas for possible collaboration with development partners, private organizations and non-government organizations to address identified needs and challenges. Aside from presentations from selected LGU-CBMS partners in the Philippines, this year’s policy conference also included presentations from invited CBMS research teams from partner institutions in 7 countries that are currently being supported and mentored by the CBMS Network Office in their pilot adoption and use of the CBMS methodology for
localizing the SDGs and for examining thematic issues relating to financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, youth unemployment, women empowerment, agricultural productivity, and poverty reduction, among others.

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), the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

Leading the roster of distinguished speakers and resource persons were Secretary Eduardo Año of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Bataan 2nd District Representative Jose Enrique Garcia III, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines Resident Representative, Mr. Titon Mitra, Director Anna Liza Bonagua of the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Bureau of Local Government Development (DILG-BLGD), Director Alicia Opeña of the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development of the (DTI-BSMED), and Regional Director Jose Patalinjug III of the Department of Science and Technology - National Capital Region (DOST-NCR).

Conference Highlights

**Institutionalizing CBMS to Reduce Poverty**

Among the highlights of this year’s convention are the session presentations on institutionalizing CBMS. Discussion was jumpstarted with Congressman Garcia’s talk on the salient provisions in the CBMS Act of 2019 which has been approved by both houses and is awaiting signature of the President. He mentioned that CBMS will serve as “the unified database” of local government units and national government agencies which aims to help alleviate poverty and improve quality of life. Meanwhile, Director Bonagua, shared some updates on the development of the DILG CBMS Portal which aims to facilitate monitoring of progress of LGUs’ implementation of CBMS and some details on the capacity building and deployment of DILG CBMS trainers.
Improving Local Governance

Secretary Año spoke about the importance of using evidence-based information in order to respond to the needs of LGU constituents. He quoted Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett-Packard, saying “The goal is to turn data into information, and information into insight”. Secretary Año also stressed the importance of laying down peace, public order, and security, which are foundations of political and socioeconomic development.

The role of CBMS in the process of implementing initiatives targeting the reduction of inequalities at the local level was highlighted by the presentations of Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco of Zamboanga City; Mayor Jay River dela Fuente of the Municipality of Madridejos, Cebu; Mayor Mariano Martinez of the Municipality of San Remigio, Cebu; Mayor Myrna Mondejar of the Municipality of Veruela, Agusan del Sur; Mayor Hector Ong of the Municipality of Laoang, Northern Samar; Sangguniang Bayan Secretary Joey Gamboa of the Municipality of Saguday, Quirino; Ms. Leonila Dolores Aure of the Municipality of Cabarroguis, Quirino; Mr. Dindo Diago of the Municipality of Carmona, Cavite; Mr. Wilson Gabatin of the Municipality of Benito Soliven, Isabela; and Ms. Catherine Mae Makalintal of the Municipality of San Jose, Batangas.

Mayor Climaco discussed the uses of the CBMS data in Zamboanga City and emphasized the goal of the Dia Del Alcalde Program which is to improve the health and welfare of IPs, IDPs, and marginalized constituents in the LGU.

Mayor dela Fuente spoke about the best practices of LGU Madridejos, namely, the Solo Parent Welfare Program, the Scholarship Program to Poor but Deserving Students, and the Feeding Program for Severely Malnourished Children, all of which were developed and improved upon through CBMS.

Mayor Martinez talked about the general uses of CBMS data in the Municipality of San Remigio as well as the LGU’s best practice, the Integrity Transparency Sustainability – Municipal Accountability Resource Purok System, which is being monitored and evaluated using CBMS.

Mayor Mondejar presented some charts that feature LGU Veruela’s CBMS results and presented the Abroad sa Bawat Pamilya Livelihood Program which aims to reduce poverty among the unemployed, the out of school youths, and the illiterate adults.

Mayor Ong thoroughly discussed the key CBMS results and maps of LGU Laoang and enumerated some of the LGU’s programs on healthcare, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction, peace and order, food security, income, and education that have utilized and continue to utilize the CBMS data.

Mr. Gamboa’s presentation on sustaining inclusive growth and development featured a comprehensive summary of the CBMS results of LGU Saguday, legislations that have been formulated in response to the results, and the outcomes of the projects and programs which have been conducted and/or monitored using the CBMS data as well.
Ms. Aure talked about the key strategies of LGU Cabarroguis in improving access to safe water and sanitation for its constituents in terms of how the situation was addressed through the formulation of the iWaSH development plan and how the LGU’s CBMS results facilitated the identification of households that needed the assistance of this program.

Mr. Diago showcased LGU Carmona’s CBMS milestones, having already implemented four rounds, presented about the creation of the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office and their community-based programs, and stressed the importance of CBMS in providing baseline data, mapping, project prioritization and implementation, and targeting beneficiaries, among others.

Mr. Gabatin shared the CBMS experience of LGU Benito Soliven, how the data generated was used to identify the extent of poverty in the municipality, craft effective legislative measures, and design and implement more targeted and efficient programs related to health, livelihood, and education.

Ms. Makalintal’s presentation featured the use of CBMS as a platform to establish local databases and generate the necessary disaggregated data needed to identify the needs of the constituents of LGU San Jose and featured the LGU’s program on the expansion of educational assistance for students from indigent families, ALS enrollees, solo parent beneficiaries, PWD beneficiaries, and orphans/abandoned children and scholarship assistance for honor graduates.

Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

The CBMS conference featured a presentation by the Mr. Titon Mitra on fostering environmental sustainability and poverty reduction to achieve the SDGs. He emphasized the need to shift from event oriented thinking to systems thinking, which means that instead of looking at phenomena as chains of cause and effect, people should look at phenomena as a loop or a cycle of events, particularly, in the case of linking poverty and environmental situations. He also highlighted the “need to adopt an inclusive and entitlement approach to conservation”.

Director Anna Bonagua discussed the different initiatives and strategies initiated by the DILG to localize the SDGs using CBMS and integrate capacity building interventions and performance management systems for the LGUs. These include the inclusion of SDGs in the localization of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the alignment of the national and local plans, the harmonization of local planning, investment programming, and budgeting, and the review of LGU efforts and compliance through the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).

Dr. Joseph Raymund Sumabal presented how Panabo City was able to utilize their CBMS data and enhance the LGU’s project development and investment programming process. He showcased the Welfare, Health, Agriculture, Peace and Order, Education and Employment (WHAPEE) Program, discussed findings from other project initiatives such as the Local Governance Diagnostic (LoGoD) Tool and the Local SDG Report, both developed by the UNDP and the CBMS Network, and mentioned that CBMS is crucial in providing a clear picture of the city’s current development situation, among other takeaways.

Promoting Decent Work for Sustainable Development

Initiating the discussion on decent work, Attorney Ma. Karina Perida-Trayvilla of the Department of Labor and Employment – Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns presented on the child labor situation in the
Philippines and how its elimination is incorporated in the SDGs and the PDP. She also talked about the Strategic Framework of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor for 2017-2022, which was submitted by the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC), and discussed what are the current initiatives to address child labor in the Philippines.

Engineer Joven Battung of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) gave a comprehensive talk on the characteristics of small-scale mining, the evolution of small-scale mining laws, and issues involving small-scale mining. Among the issues mentioned were unsafe mining practices, the unabated use of mercury, and social, safety and health concerns. Engr. Battung also presented the current initiatives on the regulation/control of informal small-scale mining and the obstacles encountered in the process.

Dr. Celia Reyes, President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and CBMS Network Team Leader, discussed the preliminary results and recommendations of a research study conducted by the CBMS Network Team that aims to examine the conditions of child laborers and adult workers in the artisanal and small scale gold mining (ASGM). Analysis was made based on CBMS data complemented with a rider survey on child and adult workers engaged in ASGM.

Implementing Programs on the Environment and Disaster Preparedness and Management

Councilor Raul Roi Borejon talked about the key findings and strategies adopted by Tabaco City after having conducted six rounds of CBMS implementation already. Among the developments he shared were ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement/establish housing programs and resettlement sites. He mentioned that CBMS data can be used to create a database of population at risk and formulate a household tagging system to track households that are exposed to different hazards.

Governor Adolph Edward Plaza shared what the Province of Agusan del Sur has accomplished so far through the use of CBMS data, one of which is the creation of the Upland Sustainable Agri-Forestry Development Convergence Program which aims to assist and empower upland farmers in the province in order to reduce poverty and improve food security.

Mr. Gerardo Faz of the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Imus City spoke about the use of CBMS for risk assessment and shared that overlaying CBMS data on the city’s hazard maps has helped identify which areas/households are prone to disaster, where these households can be relocated, and how many supplies are needed for when evacuation begins.

Utilizing Innovations and Tools to Achieve Inclusive Growth

Director Opeña led the discussion on achieving inclusive growth through a presentation on strengthening development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). She listed and went through the key programs initiated by DTI which aim to ensure active engagement of industries in the country. Some of which include the Kapatid Mentor ME (KMME) Program, the Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Program, the Negosyo Center Program, the Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso (P3) Program, and the Go
Regional Director Patalinjug’s presentation, on the other hand, focused on fostering technological innovations for the development of MSMEs. He presented the accomplishments of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), featured some of SETUP’s success stories, and shared a number of DOST ICT systems that can be accessed and utilized by the LGUs. The ICT systems include Project SARAi, PHILSENSORS, UP DREAM Program, and FISH-I.

The session on innovations and tools for implementing programs on health, livelihood and poverty reduction was led by the presentations of Dr. Shirley Palisoc, Mr. Norby Salonga, Ms. Maria Carmen Apuli, and Dr. Alellie Sobreviñas, all of whom are from De La Salle University Manila, and Dr. Gil Nonato Santos from De La Salle University Laguna.

Dr. Palisoc discussed some of the findings of a study conducted by Shirley Palisoc, Michelle Natividad, and Marissa Noel on detecting heavy metals and recommended LGUs involved in monitoring water pollution to conduct a regular analysis of the presence of heavy metals in drinking water and their respective aquatic systems, among others.

Mr. Salonga and Ms. Apuli’s presentation highlighted the learnings from the implementation of De La Salle University’s social enterprise incubation program called Lasallian Social Enterprise for Economic Development (LSEED). One of the insights mentioned was the importance of identifying and evaluating social entrepreneurship innovations based on the results of the LGU’s CBMS Census and/or other profiling mechanisms.

Dr. Sobreviñas discussed the results in her study on examining chronic and transient poverty using CBMS panel data of the Municipality of Orion, Bataan. She proposed that, by adopting the methods used in this study, LGUs, particularly those who have conducted more than one round of CBMS implementation, can also alleviate both chronic and transient poverty through the identification of appropriate projects and programs.

Dr. Santos presented his research on the nanofeed detector which can identify aflatoxins in corn feeds and other crops. He explained that, aside from contaminating food crops, aflatoxins have been revealed to inflict damage to the kidney, nervous system, and circulatory system, and is hoping that more LGUs adopt this technology.

Aside from local chief executives, LGU representatives, and experts, representatives from international CBMS project teams under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE II) initiative were also invited to present during the conference.

Full details of the conference presentations may be obtained from [https://www.pep-net.org/15th-cbms-philippines-national-conference](https://www.pep-net.org/15th-cbms-philippines-national-conference).
The CBMS Network officially launched its publication entitled The Many Faces of Poverty Volume 10 during the first day of the 15th CBMS national conference. The publication features the statistical tables and poverty maps of the provinces of Benguet, Bohol, Camarines Norte, and Sarangani, and the city of Zamboanga.

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.

Among those who attended the session on Fostering Inclusive Development and Poverty Reduction Through CBMS, which was dedicated to the launching of the poverty maps publication and was led by Governor Maria Luisa Romualdo of the Province of Camiguin, was Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco of Zamboanga City.

Mayor Climaco spoke about the importance of using the publication as a guide for local chief executives in reaching out to their “most unserved constituents” and improving on the delivery of services and programs that the community needs. She recalled how Zamboanga City bounced back after experiencing a humanitarian crisis, that there is still much to be done to improve the welfare of the people in the city, and that the CBMS data will be an crucial factor in identifying target beneficiaries and in monitoring the city’s poverty situation over time.

Meanwhile, the governors of the Provinces of Benguet, Camarines Norte, and Sarangani were represented by Ms. Jeanira Okubo, Ms. Marilyn Asis, and Mr. Nonito Nuñez, respectively.
LGUs Receive Recognition in 2019 CBMS Special Awards

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Special Awards was launched in 2012 in the Philippines by the CBMS Network Team of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) to document and recognize best practices at the local level, particularly of local government units (LGUs), in the implementation and uses of the CBMS. Every year, 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.

There were a total of eight finalists in this year’s photo category (Municipality of Argao, Cebu; Danao City; Municipality of Dinalupihan, Bataan; Municipality of Manay Davao Oriental; Palayan City; Municipality of Tabogon, Cebu; Municipality of Tumulan, North Cotabato; Zamboanga City) and three finalists in the video category (Municipality of Argao, Cebu; Tanauan City; Zamboanga City).

The awarding ceremony was held on the third day of the 15th CBMS national conference at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center. Representatives from the winning LGUs were invited on stage to receive plaques of recognition and other prizes. In the Best CBMS Photo category, the Municipality of Dinalupihan, Bataan bagged first place, followed by Palayan City (2nd place) and Zamboanga City (3rd place). Meanwhile, in the Best CBMS Advocacy Video category, Zamboanga City bagged the first place, followed by the Municipality of Argao, Cebu (2nd place) and Tanauan City (3rd place).

The list of finalists for Best CBMS Photo, finalists for Best CBMS Advocacy Video, and winning entries from the video category can be viewed at https://www.pep-net.org/8th-CBMS-Network-Special-Awards
CBMS Network Accredits CBMS Trainers during the 15th CBMS Philippines National Conference

In 2008, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) established a system of accreditation of trainers. The objective of this activity is to create a pool of national, regional, and local trainers to focal persons and key players in the local government units’ implementation of the CBMS in the Philippines.

The Accreditation Program aims to institutionalize the conduct of well-coordinated and standardized conduct of CBMS training modules provided to local government units in the implementation of CBMS.

A total of 29 CBMS trainers were accredited during the third day of the 15th CBMS Philippines National Conference at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center, Quezon City. Below is the list of CBMS trainers who have been accredited last March 15, 2019.

CBMS APP Module I (Data Collection using CBMS Scan and CBMS Portal)

1. Ernest Kyle Agay
2. Fatima Noña Alon
3. Nedricks Canlas
4. Evelyn Castro
5. Maricar Castro
6. Joshua Miguel Faustino
7. Ammie Marie Generale
8. Carlos Fundador Jayoma
9. Paolo Israel Franco
10. Maria Christine De Leon
11. Michelle Garcia
12. Rolando Gonzales
13. Jessa Marie Mendoza
14. Benedict Pangan
15. Alfrainer Partido
16. Maria Cecilia Teves

CBMS APP Module II (Data Processing, Poverty Mapping, and Building of the CBMS Database)

1. Charity Agbayani
2. Fatima Noña Alon
3. Evelyn Castro
4. Maricar Castro
5. Paolo Israel Franco
6. Ammie Marie Generale
7. Rolando Gonzales
8. Pedryan Cris Mendoza
9. Benedict Pangan
10. Sonny Arnold Pascual
11. Maria Cecilia Teves

CBMS APP Module III (Local Level Planning and Budgeting Using CBMS Data)

1. Maricar Castro
2. Ammie Marie Generale
3. Rhyianne Mejico
4. Sonny Arnold Pascual
5. Mary Roxanne Vicedo
CBMS Country Teams Present During the CBMS Philippines National Conference and International Network Policy Conference

Representatives from the CBMS project teams under the Policy Analysis on Growth and Employment (PAGE II) initiative were invited to attend and present during the 15th CBMS Philippines National Conference and International Network Policy Conference held on March 13-15, 2019 at the Novotel Manila Araneta Center.

On the first day of the conference, representatives from CBMS-Togo and CBMS-Ghana project teams presented during Session 3 – Monitoring and Addressing SDG Targets on Good Health and Well Being. Dr. Dandonougbo Yevesse, economist at Université de Lomé in Togo and CBMS-Togo project team member, presented on the use of CBMS for SDG Profiling of Danyi and Tsevie Townships in Togo while Dr. Nana Yamoah Asafu-Adjaye, principal technologist at CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute in Ghana and CBMS-Ghana project team member, presented on localizing the SDGs in Ghana using CBMS.

On the second day of the conference, representatives from CBMS-Nicaragua and CBMS-Ethiopia project teams presented during Session 8 – Using CBMS for Implementing Programs on the Environment, Disaster Preparedness, and for SDGs Monitoring. Dr. Selmira Flores, director of the NITLAPAN research program at Universidad Centroamericana in Nicaragua and CBMS-Nicaragua project team member, shared some of the key research results on monitoring the SDGs in Rural Nicaragua through CBMS while Mr. Degife Ketema, head of Department of Management at Arsi University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and CBMS-Ethiopia project team member, shared key research results on monitoring the SDGs in Selected Sites in Ethiopia through CBMS.

On the third day of the conference, representatives from CBMS-Kenya and CBMS-Uganda project teams presented during Session 12 – Enhancing Access to Education Using CBMS Data. Dr. Phyllis Machio, lecturer at the School of Economics in University of Nairobi in Kenya and CBMS-Kenya project team leader, discussed about using CBMS for the SDG profiling of Gikindu Location in Murang’a County, Kenya while Mr. Johnson Kagugube, executive director at the Development and Training Institute in Uganda and CBMS-Uganda project team leader, discussed about the community response to the localization of SDGs Using CBMS in selected sites in Uganda.

Meanwhile, Ms. Mavis Kolobe, a lecturer at the economics department in University of Botswana and CBMS-Botswana project team member, presented during Session 13 – Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Improving Governance. Her presentation highlighted the use of CBMS in monitoring the SDGs in selected sites in Botswana.
Workshop on CBMS Thematic Studies held on March 11-12, 2019

Researchers from seven CBMS country project partner institutions participated in a 2-day technical workshop in the Philippines last March 11-12, 2019. The workshop served as a venue for presentation and discussion of the preliminary results of the research studies, conducted under the PAGE II-CBMS Research Program, on thematic issues relating to youth unemployment, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship, labor productivity and rural poverty reduction, gender inequality and women empowerment. The workshop discussions helped gather fundamental inputs for the refinement of the CBMS papers in preparation for the presentation of the final papers and policy briefs of the CBMS projects at the 2019 PEP Meeting in June.

Among the CBMS research studies presented during the workshop are from CBMS project teams in Ghana, Kenya, Togo, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Botswana. Dr. Nana Asafu-Adjaye Yamoah presented on how the CAVA project affects gender inequalities and women empowerment in Ghana; Dr. Phyllis Mumia Machio presented on the effects of social capital on women empowerment in Murang’a County, Kenya; Dr. Dandonougbo Yevessé presented on the impact of agricultural investments on agricultural productivity and reduction of rural poverty across gender in Togo; Dr. Selmira Flores presented on the examination of the financial inclusion situation of rural women engaged in entrepreneurial activities in Nicaragua; Mr. Fiftha Ketema presented on the factors affecting financial inclusion of youth entrepreneurs in Ethiopia; Mr. Johnson Kagugube presented on the determinants of financial inclusion of the youth in Uganda; and Ms. Itumeleng Oageng presented on the factors affecting youth unemployment as well as the labor market transition in Botswana.

The research papers utilized household and individual level socioeconomic and demographic data, and other community specific indicators, generated from the implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in selected pilot sites, in examining specific thematic issues in the said countries.

Leading the pool of experts and resource persons to provide comments on the CBMS research studies are Dr. Celia Reyes, President of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies and CBMS Network Team Leader, Dr. Felix Ankomah Asante, Director, Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) University of Ghana, and world renowned poverty expert Dr. Nanak Kakwani, Retired Professor, University of New South Wales, Australia, and Visiting Professor of Economics, China Institute for Income Distribution, Beijing Normal University. Also invited as external resource persons and workshop discussants are professors from the School of Economics of DLSU-Manila including Dr. Mitzie Irene Conchada, Dr. Lawrence Dacuycuy, Dr. Marites Tiongco, and Dr. Alellie Sobreviñas. Also present during the 2-day workshop, to provide the opening remarks during the workshop and participate in the workshop discussion, is PEP Executive Director, Dr. Jane Mariara.

The workshop was spearheaded and conducted by the CBMS Network Office of the De La Salle University-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (DLSU-AKI) based in Manila, Philippines. The workshop was part of a weeklong study visit program of activities organized for the PAGE II-CBMS supported country projects held in March 2019.
CBMS-Ethiopia Project Team Conducts CBMS Data Validation Conference in Shirka Wereda, Ethiopia

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) project team in Ethiopia led by Degife Ketema 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 team is working on a project entitled “Determinants of Financial Inclusion for Youth entrepreneurship: Evidence from Addis Ababa City and Shirka Wereda”. The CBMS research paper aims to assess what factors have contributed to the current financial exclusion situation among youths in selected project sites in Ethiopia.

In order to ensure that the CBMS data collected is consistent with reality on the ground, the project team organized a data validation conference and presented the results to key representatives from the different government offices in Wereda 10 (urban area), Gobessa Town (suburban area), and Mitana Gado Kebele (rural area). Around 20 government office representatives, 10 enumerators, and 8 community representatives from each project site attended the conference held on December 6, 2018 at the Administration Meeting Hall in Shirka Wereda, Ethiopia.

The event started off with a presentation on the objectives of the CBMS-Ethiopia project, background on the CBMS design, and the advantages of implementing CBMS. While majority of the participants expressed their concern about the sustainability of this project in the future, the project team has assured the participants that the team will be able to provide necessary support as long as the local government units are interested in implementing the system.

Following the team’s initial discussion, one of the observations is that access to educational facilities is poor in the project sites. The participants confirmed that the communities are also experiencing the same situation in terms of health facilities, among others. With this, the Wereda administration has decided to analyze the problem and come up with a plan to address it.

The afternoon session then consisted of a presentation of the CBMS findings, which was conducted by Principal Researcher Abel Tewolde and Field Supervisor Sutume Befikadu, as well as an open forum. One of the issues that came up was the difference between the locally forecasted data and the CBMS data in terms of total population and total number of households. This was resolved through an understanding that the forecast does not take into account the high level of urban, rural, and international migration in the concerned areas, which can explain why the total number of people interviewed during the CBMS census is lower compared to the forecasted figures. Finally, although the project team expressed their concern regarding the low incidence of under-five mortality and maternal deaths in the project sites since these results may be not be consistent with the local health records, the health extension workers confirmed that these figures are true based on their records.

With positive responses coming from representatives of local government sector offices in the project sites, it is anticipated that the CBMS data will be used in policy making and improvement of local governance in Wereda 10, Gobessa Town, and Mitana Gado Kebele.
Training of Trainers on CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) Module 1: Data Collection using CBMS SCAN and CBMS PORTAL

The Department of Interior and Local Government Development (DILG-BLGD) conducted a five-day training of trainers for the Luzon chapter regarding CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling (APP) Module 1: Data Collection using CBMS SCAN and CBMS PORTAL. It was held last March 4-8, 2019 at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel, Ermita, Manila participated by 44 trainers across the Luzon chapter.

The five-day training started off with DILG-BLGD Director Anna Liza Bonagua’s welcome message followed by the overview of CBMS and CBMS App by Ms. Evelyn A. Castro. According to the CBMS Handbook, training on CBMS APP Module 1 data collection covers a general orientation on the background and rationale for CBMS, lectures and hands-on exercises on how to conduct the survey and field operations, and how to administer the survey forms. Main topics discussed during the training include (1) CBMS Portal and SCAN, (2) CBMS Barangay Profile Questionnaire (BPQ), (3) CBMS Household Profile Questionnaire (HPQ), (4) CBMS as a tool to generate SDG Indicators, and (5) Field Operations.

These sessions were facilitated by the BLGD Staff with supervisory and technical support from the CBMS Staff headed by Ms. Jasminda Quilitis who also conducted the training for CBMS as a tool to generate SDG Indicators. Along with these are hands-on sessions, role playing activities during trainings and field operations, and open forums to accommodate queries and problems encountered by the trainers.

During the last day of the training, Dr. Celia Reyes, Team Leader of the CBMS Network with Dr. Jane Mariara, Executive Director of Partnership for Economic Polity (PEP), attended the closing ceremony. Asst. Director Alfonso Maralli, Jr. concluded the training with his closing message.
PEP Inc. to hold PEP Annual Conference on May 29 to June 1, 2019

The Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Annual Conference is an event being organized by PEP Inc. in collaboration with the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa. The conference, to be held on May 29 to June 1, 2019, 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 (PAGE II) initiative.

A research communication workshop will take place on May 29, 2019. This will allow PAGE II research teams to learn strategies on disseminating research results and improving research uptake.

The forthcoming Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) Annual Conference to be held in Cape Town, South Africa 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. Researchers from country project-local partner institutions in Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Togo, and Uganda, supported under the PAGE II initiative, have been invited to present the local CBMS-based thematic papers and SDG reports of their project sites. The local SDG reports, to be presented and discussed during the CBMS conference sessions on May 30-31, 2019, 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.

On June 1, 2019, there will be a policy conference on evidence use in policymaking which aims “to help developing country researchers implement strategies to promote and facilitate the use of evaluation and research-based evidence in policy design in their home countries”. Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) President, PEP Research Director, and CBMS Network Leader Dr. Celia Reyes, will be one of the discussants for the presentation of World Bank’s Africa poverty report.

The PEP conference is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada and has additional funding from the Hewlett Foundation. Further updates on the conference may be obtained at https://www.pepnet.org/2019-pep-annual-conference