



As the institutional base of the CBMS Network, De La Salle University takes pride in the broad range of partnerships it has forged with local and national government and private organizations/units, policy making groups, development planners and stakeholders. It is through partnerships with government and the other sectors of society that academic institutions are able to achieve a marriage between theory and practice by exposing faculty and students to the realities outside the classroom that a healthy multi-sectoral collaboration can effectively address. We are thankful to the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in particular, and all the members of the CBMS Network, for this invaluable opportunity to make a positive impact in Philippine society.

Since the CBMS was first adopted in the Philippines in year 2000 in the province of Palawan, the geographical scope of its implementation has tremendously broadened. As of January 2013, CBMS implementation has reached 21,408 barangays in 794 municipalities and 63 cities in 67 provinces (32 of these implement the CBMS province-wide). Apart from encouraging greater accountability and transparency among those in office, the CBMS has likewise achieved much in terms of promoting evidence-based policy formulation, and in enabling a vibrant participation among local communities in planning, designing and monitoring programs that redound to their benefit.

The 9<sup>th</sup> CBMS-Philippines National Conference with its roster of resource speakers from local government units, will definitely engage participants in

intellectually-stimulating discussions of actual applications of CBMS for poverty monitoring, local planning and budgeting, program impact-monitoring and analysis, meeting the millennium development goals (MDGs), disaster risk reduction management, and climate change adaptation.

I take pleasure in conveying my warm congratulatory greetings to the CBMS Network Office of the DLSU Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government for organizing this conference. May it succeed in achieving an insightful discussion and a vibrant sharing of experiences and best practices relative to the latest developments and key issues affecting the implementation and application of CBMS in the country.

**Br. Ricardo P. Laguda FSC**

President

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