



The National Economic and Development Authority congratulates the Community-Based Monitoring System Network Office on the occasion of the 9th CBMS National Conference on January 22-24, 2013. For the past nine years, the CBMS Network has supported the country's efforts to ensure the widespread generation of our core local poverty indicators through the CBMS.

As of January 2013, CBMS covers 67 provinces (32 of which are province-wide), 794 municipalities, 63 cities, and 21,408 barangays. We hope that in the future, the CBMS will be used in the entire archipelago to help achieve our goal of inclusive growth, create jobs, and reduce poverty.

The experiences of local government units have shown the usefulness of CBMS as a tool for local governance and development. LGUs have used CBMS to monitor the achievement of the MDGs, as well as sectoral and geographical disparities in welfare conditions. CBMS has also been used extensively to improve local planning and resource allocation, and for gender-responsive planning and budgeting.

We believe the CBMS offers so much more as a critical tool for evidence-based planning, policymaking, and monitoring at the local level. We view CBMS as an instrument for LGUs to embark on an evidence-based

bottom-up budgeting. Likewise, we recognize its potential to provide barangay and household level data to help formulate evidence-based Barangay Development Plans, Comprehensive Development Plans, Annual Investment Plans, Local Poverty Reduction Action Plans, and other sectoral development plans.

Once again, we commend the CBMS Network Office for spearheading the conduct of the 9th CBMS National Conference. We appreciate your continuing efforts in raising awareness, providing training, and enhancing the capacities of our LGU partners in implementing the CBMS, and we expect the Team to keep the fire burning.

We hope that our advocacy for CBMS will help us bring closer to our overriding goal of attaining the MDGs by 2015 and sustaining our fight against poverty and its dehumanizing effects.

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