

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CBMS-PHILIPPINES

In order to provide a forum for the sharing of experiences among CBMS local partners and various stakeholders, a national conference on community-based monitoring system (CBMS) was organized by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI) on September 23-24, 2004 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City, Philippines.

The two-day conference featured recent developments on the use of community-based and

local monitoring systems for development planning, and poverty and program impact monitoring in the country. The first day provided a policy forum for national and local chief executives while the second day focused on technical discussions on the applications of CBMS.

Among the principal guest speakers were Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary for Programs and Policy Lourdes Balanon, Governor Joel Reyes of Palawan, Mayor Winifredo Oco of Labo, Camarines

Norte, and Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad of Pasay City, Metro Manila.

The conference was attended by at least 100 delegates from the local and national government agencies; research and academic community and various international organizations.

This special issue of the *CBMS Network Updates* features the highlights of the conference.



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Investing in Information in the Philippines



by Michelle Hibler*

“Waiting for something,” reads the sign above the small waiting shed on the side of the dusty road that cuts through a rural barangay in the municipality of Coron on Busuanga Island in the Philippine Province of Palawan. “Waiting for nothing,” reads another a kilometer or so down the road.

These two signs may well describe the feelings of many Palaweños, indeed of many Filipinos. Optimism, because of the national government’s commitment since the late 1980s to reduce poverty. Pessimism because, as Dr. Celia Reyes, Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP)-Co Director and CBMS Network Leader based at the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI) in Manila, says, “the performance of the Philippines with respect to poverty reduction has been very modest. While the incidence of poverty has declined over the past 15 years, the number of poor has actually increased.”

The Philippines’ lackluster performance in reducing poverty is partly due to the boom-bust cycle of the country’s economy. It is also due to the country’s poverty reduction

strategies and policies, says Dr. Reyes. While poverty reduction targets were set for the first time in the 1987-1992 development plan and successive governments made poverty reduction a central part of their platforms, “the practice of discontinuing programs associated with previous administrations has been disadvantageous to the poor.” Even before a program is fully implemented, it is scrapped and replaced with a new one, only to suffer the same fate a few years hence.

THE NEED FOR TIMELY DATA

Programs have also suffered from a lack of timely, accurate information on the nature and extent of poverty as well as of the means to monitor the effectiveness of poverty reduction programs. “We would know the impact of policies and programs only after three or four years,” Dr. Ponciano Intal, Executive Director of the Angelo King Institute at De La Salle University, explained at the first National Conference on Community-Based Poverty Monitoring System (CBMS), held in Manila on September 23-24, 2004. In fact, data on poverty were irregular, infrequent, and unmatched from survey to survey. Thus, no comprehensive profile could be drawn at any time. The data were also too aggregated to be of much use to local planners.

The CBMS was born out of that frustration. One of the tools developed in the early 1990s under the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)’s Micro Impact of Macroeconomic Adjustment Policies (MIMAP)-Philippines Project, it aims to provide policy-makers and program implementors with a good information base for tracking the impacts of macroeconomic reforms and various policy shocks. Although initially designed to be implemented in sentinel sites, today CBMS is being implemented province-wide in Palawan, in 7 municipalities in Camarines Norte and, more recently, in the province of Bulacan and in Mandaue City in Cebu and Pasay City in Metro Manila. In April 2003, the Philippine Department of the Interior and Local Government enjoined all local government units – at the barangay, municipal, city, and provincial levels – to adopt the system’s 13 core indicators for measuring poverty. From its first home in the Philippines, CBMS has also now spread, with IDRC support, to 12 countries.

The National Conference brought together 120 local, regional, and national government officials, researchers, and development workers to share their experiences in implementing CBMS and discuss its impact. “The many local government unit representatives at the conference is significant,” said conference moderator, Attorney Ricardo Puno Jr, member of the Board of Trustees of the Angelo King Institute, “because if anyone should be concerned about local populations, it’s you. And if the country is to be developed, it will be because of local people and communities.”

A TOOL FOR LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Indeed, if the original audience for CBMS data was intended to be national policymakers, it has proven

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to be an extremely useful tool for local governance, particularly as decentralization has shifted responsibilities to local government units. "CBMS gives you information about where you are now, where you should be, and how you're going to get there," said the Honorable Joel Reyes, Governor of Palawan and a staunch CBMS supporter. "It provides reliable, relevant and comprehensive data on the welfare conditions and development status across the province."

The use of such data for evidence-based decision making emerged clearly in the conference presentations. For instance, in Palawan's capital, Puerto Princesa, three areas were found to lack access to health centers. These will be constructed in the coming year. Proof of inadequate access to safe water supplies and electricity has led to programs to extend these services in many barangays, such as Oring-Oring in Southern Palawan, where CBMS data identified a number of problems, among them poverty, poor sanitation, lack of access to electricity, low school participation, and low participation in community organizations. As a result, said Barangay Captain Ibrahim Palampisi, a feeder road is being built to enable farmers to get their produce to markets, and 50 homes were provided connections to electricity/power. Increased water supplies, public toilets, new classrooms, and a day care center have also been provided. In another barangay, the CBMS survey carried out two years ago has resulted in emphasis being shifted from infrastructure projects to social services such as a child feeding program.

The profiles of municipalities that emerge from the analysis of CBMS data also enable programs to be targeted to individual households—which ones will receive agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, which ones will

get sanitary toilets, which will receive subsidized health care or educational aid. As Serafin Blanco, Administrator of Mandaue City, Cebu Province, put it, it's a means for "development to assume a face and an address."

Using a Geographic Information System, maps can be produced that clearly show households and facilities. For instance, in the municipality of Labo — the first municipality in the province of Camarines Norte to implement CBMS — the maps showing the location of students and the city's 10 schools provided one clue to low school attendance. And, said Mayor Winifredo Balce Oco, when the results were presented to the community for validation, other reasons emerged. "A number of these children are expected to be economically productive to help their families," he said. "Some households do not have enough money to pay the tuition and more so, provide for the day-to-day expenses of the children." To address this problem, financial assistance and school supplies are now being provided to indigent households, he said.

FOR AND BY THE COMMUNITY

Community participation is key to the success of CBMS. Informed from the outset about the survey's objectives and uses, the community also provides enumerators—barangay workers, health workers, students, etc.—and data processors. Information is collected from every household and the data are tallied and consolidated manually at the village level. Municipal aggregates are submitted to the province for consolidation.

The processed data are returned to the community for validation and discussion. This empowers communities by providing them with information and a process through which they can actively participate in planning, said Dr. Reyes. Barangay residents thus

develop a keen sense of their priorities and are better able to articulate their needs to city planning officers. Armed with hard information on their condition, they are able to play a direct role in allocating budgetary resources. And they can demand accountability and transparency on the part of government officials. Sometimes, community members discover that the solution lies in their own hands. In Barangay Oring-Oring, for instance, a local organization and a businessman each donated public toilets to help solve the sanitation problem in two most seriously deprived communities. The households that share the toilets maintain them.

If CBMS is spreading rapidly in the Philippines, the challenges of ensuring continuity and of institutionalization remain. But the commitment of conference participants to pursuing and promoting the system is encouraging. "In my term, I will make it a law in the province of Palawan," said Governor Reyes. Mayor Peewee Trinidad of Pasay City, Mayor Gerardo Calderon of Angono in Rizal province, and many others also pledged to implement and support CBMS in their municipalities and barangays.

The next steps are to scale up and ensure that national statistical agencies coordinate the generation of data. This would enable CBMS to go nationwide, said Dr. Reyes. Also needed is technical assistance to local government units and a central repository for the data. And as Carmelita Ericta, administrator of the National Statistics Office, pointed out, all government units need is to recognize that information gathering is not a cost; rather, it is an investment. *

Democracy is often an overused word, bandied about in speeches, rallies, and political messages that the word has acquired an almost permanent patina of vagueness. What does democracy mean to the common man, for instance, when he cannot eat three square meals a day nor support his children to school? What does democracy mean to him when he is jobless and hungry? The common lament that people have about government is that they often do not know what is going on and worse, they do not know where their hard-earned money or taxes are going. How does one then make democracy palpable and real? How can it become a living, and not merely rhetorical, concept?

CBMS AS A PEOPLE PROGRAM

This is where the concept of people involvement comes in. If people, for example, are involved, especially at the community level, in a system where they themselves collect, process and use data, and which monitors the conditions of the vulnerable groups in a given area, then governance can be more empowering and democratic. This is what the community-based monitoring system or CBMS tries to address. The CBMS was developed to aid in poverty reduction by providing an up-to-date picture of the poverty situation of vulnerable groups through the frequent collection of well-designed but relatively simple sets of indicators. It also involves the participation of communities in the collection and use of data/indicators, enabling it (CBMS) to be a low-cost, easy-to-maintain system. As such, it provides an answer and practical alternative to having large and costly surveys from where standard poverty monitoring systems are usually drawn. Moreover, because the CBMS data are collected on a regular basis with definite reference periods, the CBMS is able to give a comprehensive profile of various social demographic groups of interest at specific points in time.

Making Democracy Work and People Empowerment Real Through the CBMS*

By Hon. Corazon Soliman
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development

For provincial, city and municipal planners, the CBMS equips them with crucial information that guide their decisions and with data that are used to ensure the delivery of services where they are needed most. Local capacities are also enhanced along with gender equity. Crisis impacts are likewise detected earlier. If one takes this step further, the CBMS can also be used to ensure that projects being implemented are constructed and finished within standards. In this regard, the days of ghost projects, substandard materials and shoddy workmanship may be numbered because more people are involved in the process of monitoring and checking.

CBMS BEST PRACTICES/EXPERIENCES

In the next two days of this conference, the best practices and experiences of CBMS will be shared by practitioners. The transformative powers of instituting processes that are truly community-based will be shown to us. We will see how CBMS can be used as an empowering tool that equips people with the weapons to fight poverty more scientifically and efficiently. Being scientific, however, does not mean that it is less human. The human side is never taken for granted because it is inherently participatory in nature and intended to serve the poorest of the poor.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

In sharing experiences and technologies, we shall be faced by many

challenges, one of which is how to spread and replicate best practices. How do we convince hesitant local government units who want to stay within the comfort zone of status quo and traditional politics? How do we convince stakeholders to take up the cause of development? This is where the crucial elements of leadership come in. There are hundreds and thousands of these people who are willing to lay their lives on the line for the greater good. Unfortunately, what often gets recognized are those from the flip side of the coin. We choose to harp on the negative instead of highlighting the positive. There are change agents out there who are orchestrating synergy among various sectors, bridging divides and reaching out to the most disadvantaged. The network of the CBMS has the potential to be such a change agent by providing planners and implementers with the means to properly plan, prioritize and choose higher impact projects. The network has the potential to harness resources previously underutilized and spur growth from the grassroots. May the next two days of exchanging experiences and ideas therefore lead to realizing our common objective of improving the lives of impoverished Filipinos. And may we see the fruits of the two days not ending in simply speaking but in getting translated into effective action. *

* An edited and recast version of the keynote address of Secretary Soliman. The speech was delivered by DSWD Undersecretary for Programs and Policy, Hon. Lourdes Balanon.

The CBMS Use for Local Governance: From a Provincial Perspective*

By Hon. Joel T. Reyes**

Palawan is the first province in the Philippines to implement the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) province wide. As such, it is only fitting and an honor to share the experience of Palawan in its use and implementation of the CBMS; the benefits derived from it; the help that the CBMS has provided the provincial government in its appraisal of the province's human development index; the main strategies adopted and the lessons gained after five years of CBMS implementation in the Province.



in January 2000 was marked with a CBMS forum attended by local chief executives and Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators (MPDOs).

IMPLEMENTING THE CBMS: A REVIEW OF THE PROCESS

The implementation of CBMS involves organizations and participants in the local development arena such as barangay/community

level, municipal, and provincial level.

In the first quarter of 2000, trainings and briefings on the concept and use of the CBMS were conducted by the MIMAP-Philippines Team. The surveys then followed between March and September of the same year with the results then consolidated and validated at the PPDO and in the communities. Later, they were presented during the provincial development council in September 2000.

THE BEGINNING

Partly based on a challenge I posed to our Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), in March 1999, the late Governor Salvador Socrates entered into an agreement with the Policy and Development Foundation Inc. through the MIMAP-Philippines (now the CBMS Network) for the implementation of the CBMS in Palawan. In September 1999, the CBMS-Palawan Technical Working Group was created and composed of staff from the MIMAP-Philippines led by its Project Director, Dr. Celia M. Reyes; the PPDO led by Mr. Nelson Devenadera, and Mr. Dirk Heinrichs, who was then connected with the provincial government through the integrated expert program of the Center of Inter-national Migration and Development (CIM).

Two months later, the CBMS was piloted in 2 barangays in the Municipality of Taytay in the North in order to test and validate our survey methodology and instruments. The province wide implementation of the project was formally launched the following year through Executive Order No. 15. Full implementation of the project

COUNTING THE BENEFITS

What are the benefits drawn from the CBMS? And how have they benefited Palawan?

First, the CBMS provides reliable, relevant and comprehensive data on welfare conditions and development status across the province from the barangays to the municipalities.

Through the CBMS, the provincial government was able to measure the human development index (HDI) as it relates to the Palawan experience.

Second, it gives direction and guidance in crafting our development agenda. Guided by this agenda, we saw the need to restructure and streamline the organizational set-up of the provincial government.

Third, the CBMS has enhanced recognition and credibility of local governance and political leadership. Before the DILG recognized the CBMS as a local initiative for development and poverty monitoring at the national level, the CBMS was already being used as a poverty monitoring tool in the province.

* An edited and recast version of the Palawan Governor's presentation made during the conference.

** Governor, Province of Palawan, Philippines and Vice-President for Luzon of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

Fourth, it guides LGU and project implementors in setting project targets. Because the CBMS provides inputs in identifying the right project location, the right project beneficiaries and the type of intervention scheme needed most in a specific area are likewise identified.

Fifth, the CBMS monitors development trends. It shows the degree to which people get healthier, where access to water services and sanitation facilities is still needed and where changes/improvements have taken place thereupon suggesting the success of certain programs or interventions.

Sixth, it is a ready-to-use source or reference for the preparation of comprehensive land use plans (CLUP) and socio-economic profiles. Because of this, LGUs are able to save on other expenses such as data collection, survey, and pre-developmental activities.

Seventh, it helps government to re-adjust goals and development thrusts. After the CBMS assessment and evaluation in 2003, Palawan's local leadership saw the need to refocus priorities in terms of putting more interventions in sectors sorely needing them.

Lastly, it helps in mobilizing investments. Good and relevant data help streamline local investments toward the common goals of the local government units.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR STRATEGIES USED IN CBMS IMPLEMENTATION?

DATA DISSEMINATION

The most important strategy used is active data dissemination which refers to intensive information-sharing and dialogue with potential users. The data are openly made accessible across all LGU levels, civil society/private sector and NGOs.

Active data dissemination is also achieved through the issuance of the *Palawan Human Development Report*, the first such report at the provincial level in the entire Philippines. This report documents the CBMS data for the year 2000 and provides an analysis and interpretation of the information.

NETWORKING

Intensive networking refers to the involvement of the LGUs and partner agencies in the process of data generation, interpretation and utilization. In this regard, an expansion of the CBMS database is done to make the system relevant for other data users.

INTEGRATION INTO THE REGULAR PLANNING PROCESS

To enhance the utilization of the CBMS data, CBMS survey results are frequently presented and discussed with stakeholders like the local development councils, sectoral agencies and local legislative bodies.

Mere presentation, however, is not enough. In Palawan, we are trying to maximize the benefits of CBMS by making it part of the entire planning process. For instance, to complement the present development approach where municipalities with common development priorities are clustered by zones, the CBMS data were arranged by zone and by cluster, showing the flexibility and utility of the database. The integration of the CBMS in the planning, monitoring and assessment of the performance of each cluster leads to a more efficient governance.

LESSONS LEARNED

What lessons can be drawn from the five-year experience of Palawan in the CBMS implementation? How can other LGUs maximize the use and benefits of the CBMS? Box 1 outlines the major lessons and recommendations in this regard.

BOX 1: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PALAWAN CASE

Below are lessons gained from the CBMS-Palawan experience, which may in turn help other local government units in their CBMS exercises:

1. Build a broad partnership across LGUs, civil society and private sector. CBMS cannot be implemented by just one agency.
2. Delineate clearly the responsibilities across LGU levels: barangays, municipalities and province, and the partner agencies from civil society for greater multi-sectoral participation.
3. Have a strong coordinating and integrating agency (like the provincial government) to avoid disintegration of efforts and data (*kanya-kanya system*).
4. Localize the approach to data gathering, collection and processing. This must be done in the barangays and at the municipal levels to avoid clogging up of data at the provincial planning body.
5. Share resources across all levels.
6. Be creative in tapping support and assistance. A firm commitment will generate assistance and cooperation at all levels.
7. Be patient: CBMS data will not be available overnight; perseverance will lead to endurance.

FUTURE PLANS

Finally, the full realization of the benefits of the CBMS depends largely on its sustainability. In Palawan, sustaining the implementation of the CBMS is one of our priorities. In this regard, we have earmarked the updating of CBMS indicators bi-annually. For next year, we have plans of conducting our third round of survey which will cover all households of the province.

Hopefully, all these will lead to further improvements in Palawan's overall development. *

The CBMS Use for Local Governance: From a Municipal Level Perspective*

By Hon. Winifredo B. Oco**

The implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in the municipality of Labo in Camarines Norte has helped bring about several changes in the way we plan and prioritize programs in the municipality. Today, after two years of having the CBMS, we are working toward having the system institutionalized in our local set-up. Certainly, this speaks of the sense of satisfaction and gratification that we have at Labo for the experience we have had in the implementation of the CBMS. It is therefore my honor to share with you this experience along with the lessons that we have learned in the process.

Before the CBMS information system was implemented, very few information were available to comprise the statistical profile of the municipality. When the CBMS was established in our municipality, we were able to gather the updated information from the 52 barangays. At the same time, the results of the CBMS survey enabled us to identify and determine basic conditions in our municipality.

These additional information gathered helped us see the extent of certain conditions in our municipality. Nonetheless, they only gave us a general picture. What allowed us to take a deeper look was the use of a more innovative tool, shared with us by the CBMS team as an integral part of the CBMS process. This is the use of geographic information system (GIS) maps that assisted not only policy and decision-makers like me but also program partners and stakeholders in planning the appropriate interventions needed to respond to the requirements of our constituents. With our resources quite limited, the GIS maps helped us maximize what we have and utilize them to the fullest.

With the use of maps, for example, we are able to see at one glance the households who had access to



sanitary toilet facilities before distribution of the toilet bowls and the households who have access to such facilities after the intervention.

The same case of determining how an intervention program had assisted in addressing Labo's concerns, as gleaned in the CBMS survey results, can likewise be seen in the areas of access to safe water supply and improvement in household incomes.

UTILIZATION OF CBMS DATA

Given the examples in the previous section, how can we sum up the specific uses of the CBMS data in both the municipal and barangay levels?

AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

Foremost is the utilization of the CBMS data in the preparation of the Municipal Socio-Economic Profile and municipal annual investment and development plans.

One illustration is the use by the Office of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of the CBMS data to identify the poorest households in the barangays on the basis of their income levels and on whether they are within the poverty or food threshold limits. The MSWDO also used the CBMS data as basis for selecting Philhealth beneficiaries to whom national government-supported health cards are to be given.

* An edited and recast version of the presentation made by the Mayor of Labo during the conference.

** Mayor, Municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte and President, League of Municipal Mayors of Camarines Norte.

The CBMS data are also useful in the determination of priority needs in the municipality. The adoption of Municipal Ordinance No. 188-2004 dated March 2, 2004, which granted educational aid in the form of financial assistance and school supplies to indigent households in response to the problem identified through the CBMS survey results, is a case in point.

Corollarily, the CBMS results were utilized in identifying the barangays with critical water supply systems. With the use of the maps prepared in the CBMS process, the office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator was able to easily identify the barangays that were in dire need of the water facilities. With such information, the municipality of Labo was considered for inclusion in the national government program Integrated Rural Accessibility Program-Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (IRAP-InfRES) for water supply.

Moreover, the CBMS survey results provided additional data in the preparation of the municipal land use plan as well as inputs to the GIS-based socioeconomic database of the municipality.

AT THE BARANGAY LEVEL

Similar to the municipal level usage, the CBMS data have been useful in the preparation of the barangay annual investment and development plans as well as the Barangay Socioeconomic Profile. They were also used in preparing the barangay poverty maps which show the most depressed areas in the various barangays in terms of the different dimensions of poverty.

More important, the CBMS information proved to be helpful in determining priority needs and priority programs and projects in the various barangays. In this regard, all 52 barangays of the municipality of Labo drew up their list of priority programs like the allocation, for instance, of Barangay Tulay na Lupa of specific amounts for its supplemental feeding program and educational assistance program. Relatedly, Barangay Tulay na Lupa's use of the CBMS survey results in analyzing the educational and health status of its children won for it the coveted "Child-Friendliest Barangay" award in a province-wide search/contest.

WHAT'S THE COST?

Any undertaking has a corresponding cost in terms of monetary expenses. In the case of the CBMS implementation, it may perhaps be said that the benefits and rewards far outweigh the expenses involved. Consider the following amount incurred during the first

round of the CBMS implementation: P 431, 523.00 or P 27.18 per household.

For the subsequent implementation, meanwhile, an estimated cost of P 224,503.34 or P14.14 per household is anticipated. This sum, however, excludes training costs if the same enumerators are assumed to be tapped for the next round of survey.

All in all, the costs of implementing the CBMS are minimal when compared to large surveys which have interval periods in-between.

As such, it may be considered as a low-cost technology or procedure.

A COMMITMENT FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Because of its proven benefits and advantages, the usage of CBMS data will be the basis of future development initiatives in Labo, especially in its poverty reduction-related programs, projects and activities.

In view of this, we commit to support new CBMS undertakings such as the expected new round of survey activities that would evaluate the effects of the development programs in the municipality. We also commit to promote the awareness and use of the CBMS as a tool for poverty monitoring and local governance, and vow to help institutionalize the CBMS as an integral component of development planning and programming in the municipality of Labo.

With the institutionalization of the CBMS, the municipality of Labo therefore looks forward to having a "Well-Balanced Outlook for Opportunities and Change Onwards!"



Lessons Learned From CBMS Local Partners **Palawan**

MR. ROGELIO ABIOG

Manager

Southern Palawan Planning Information Center

The CBMS results proved to be vital in the following organizations:

A: Municipalities and Barangays - The CBMS result was essential in the identification of priority needs and programs to be implemented in every barangay within the municipalities specifically in the sector of socio-economic development, education and literacy, livelihood, health and sanitation, shelter and other basic indicators.

B. South Palawan Planning Area - The South Palawan Planning Area is comprised of five municipalities, which are working together for the effective planning and implementation of programs/projects related to environmental protection and economic development of constituents.

In relation to this, the CBMS data were used in the identification of priority needs and programs to be implemented in the entire SPPA specifically in the sectors of socio economic, education and literacy, health and sanitation, shelter and, most of all, the livelihood practices that largely affect our surrounding environment.

MS. JOVENEE SAGUN

**Assistant City Planning and Development Coordinator
Puerto Princesa City**

With the implementation of CBMS, the Puerto Princesa City government was given a functional tool to cope with the challenges and responsibilities that local government units face. These benefits include:

- Spatial information on the welfare condition of the communities.



- Tangible inputs to the city government's planning operations.
- Appropriate programs that meet specific needs of the various communities in the area.

MS. LUCYLYN PANAGSAGAN

**Assistant Municipal Planning and Development
Coordinator**

San Vicente, Northern Palawan

The community-based monitoring system (CBMS) which has been implemented twice in the Municipality of San Vicente was a useful data gathering system. For the barangays and municipality as a whole, the data results, if accurate and updated, become the bases for situational analysis where problems and needs of households in the particular area are identified.

The CBMS data results also help the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) and the LGU in the preparation of socio economic profile including maps of each barangay and consolidated into a municipal profile which in turn serves as a guide for different government level councils, planners and policy makers in the formulation of multisectoral development plans.

PUNONG BARANGAY IBRAHIM PALAMPISI

**Barangay Oring-orong,
Brooke's Point, Southern Palawan**

Based on the priority needs identified from the CBMS survey, the barangay was able to identify and implement programs that address some of these needs.



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Dr. Ponciano Intal, Jr., Executive Director of Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, delivering the welcome address to the conference delegates.



NEDA Region IVB Director, Mr. Oskar Balbastro, commenting on the presentation of Gov. Reyes.



Atty. Ricardo Puno, Jr. (center) AKI Board of Trustees Member, facilitating the insightful policy makers forum.



Heads of statistical agencies, Administrator Carmelita Ericta of the National Statistics Office (NSO) and Executive Director, Romulo Virola of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) participating in the forum.



Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad of Pasay City and Mayor Lucena Diaz-Dimaala of Narra Palawan were among the local chief executives who graced the policymakers forum.



Representatives from the Leagues of Cities and Municipalities (2nd and third from right) provided comments on the CBMS presentations of Labo, Camarines Norte and Puerto Princesa City.



Dr. Evan Due (at the rostrum), Senior Programme Officer of the International Development Research Centre commending the partnership between the CBMS Team of AKI and the LGUs in implementing CBMS in the Philippines.



Mr. Paul Villarete (at the rostrum), President of the League of Local Development Planners, noted that if CBMS is a good tool then it must be replicated in all the LGUs in the Philippines.



Ms. Josephine Escaño (at the rostrum) of the Provincial Government of Palawan shared how CBMS served as inputs for the assessment of the CIDSS Program in Palawan.



Some of the participants viewing the CBMS exhibit which showcased photos of LGU capacity-building activities and sample CBMS-generated maps showing CBMS survey results.



Organizers of the workshop and selected participants pose for a souvenir group picture.



Focal CBMS partners from LGU-Camarines Norte.

Lessons Learned From CBMS Local Partners

Camarines Norte

PUNONG BARANGAY CONSTANCIA O. LABIOS

Barangay Kalamunding

Labo, Camarines Norte

The implementation of CBMS in our barangay was a big help to local leaders and residents as well.

CBMS was also a big help in providing data to the students (thesis and educational research) in that they were able to easily submit their projects in school. Ditto with other office workers who also made use of some data from the CBMS for some of their work assignments.

CBMS also helped our barangay win several awards, among which are:

1. Child-Friendly Barangay Awardee (2nd Place, Municipal Winner)
2. *Katarungang Pambarangay* (Municipal Winner)
3. *Katarungang Pambarangay* (CY 2004 regional winner and recently competing for National Evaluation).

MR. EVARISTO PANDI

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

Labo, Camarines Norte

Since I started working as a planner, there were various tools and systems, formats and presentation that were being used in the preparation and presentation of the Municipal Profile or the Socio-Economic Profiles (SEP). The preparation and presentation of the SEP have changed significantly; previous profiles were more on tables and graph presentation, but with CBMS, added features were provided such as the geographic information system (GIS) wherein data and information were graphically represented in maps.

With CBMS, the preparation of Municipal Plans is more focused in addressing the issues and concerns relative to the results of the data and information generated by the activity.

Objective-setting in program planning will be easier through CBMS not only in the planning period but also in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of the development plan.

It is also easier for every office to make and defend its own project proposal because the data and information gathered are based on the actual and up-to-date survey results.

MS. MIRIAN M. HERNANDEZ,

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

Talisay, Camarines Norte

Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) has so far become very much useful to the Local Government Unit, specifically for the Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator. Information on population, education, health and sanitation were used in submitting the municipal entry to the Provincial Search for Child-Friendly Barangays.

Now that the LGU has applied and qualified for the Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector (InfRES) Project, a grant project of the government with funds coming from the Asian Development Bank and the Department of Agriculture as the lead implementing agency focusing on poverty reduction and improvement of agriculture, the CBMS data become handy. Almost all of the data are used in the submission of the information needed to complete the Concept Paper for the 2nd Eligibility Requirements.

The LGU, on the other hand, is currently updating its Socio-Economic and Physical Profile (SEPP) to be submitted to NEDA and the Regional Development Council and there are information that could be found in the CBMS data that are useful for the SEPP and ultimately to the Land Use Plan.

There are a lot to gain than to lose in implementing the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). With the very rigid and time-bound submission of requirements and documents for the different foreign and locally-funded projects that the LGU would like to avail of, the information being requested by other government agencies notwithstanding, the LGU is thankful for the presence of CBMS data which are a source of countless reliable information. With all records of the LGU gone in the fire that razed the Municipal Building last April 2003, the CBMS database is like a blessing coming from heaven.

MS. ROSALIE OCAN-LOPEZ

**Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
Basud, Camarines Norte**

The municipal and barangay governments in Basud found the project very useful and informative particularly to all policy-making and legislative bodies. It creates and main-tains databanks at all levels which could be used as reference in planning and budgeting. Results were used in day-to-day transactions such as in the issuance of certification of residency, poor income level and other purposes. Results could also be used by our political leaders for their own consumption and references.

CBMS findings on school participation rate have been used in justifying a project proposal for a grant from the Japanese Embassy. LGU-Basud was able to get a grant from the Japanese Embassy amounting to P 4.8 million for the construction of a secondary school facility- a 6-classroom facility complete with comfort rooms, bookshelves and 50 chairs for each classroom in Taisan, Basud.

MR. JOSE RAMON LAGATUZ

**Planning Officer and Municipal Planning and Poverty Reduction Action Officer
Labo, Camarines Norte**

The Municipal Planning & Development Office and the community leaders and volunteers act as key players in the implementation of the project.

The LGU-Labo, Camarines Norte used five (5) major strategies to reach and regularly update the stakeholders in the CBMS institutionalization, to wit;

1. Presentation of CBMS and its results in the Municipal Development Council (MDC) meetings.
2. Consultation/lobbying with the local chief executive and legislative body during its committee meetings.
3. Appearance and interview at the local community radio station (DWLB-FM 89.7 Mega Hertz) located at the 3rd floor of the Municipal Bldg.
4. Regular updates of CBMS activities in "BALITANGLAW", a local publication of the LGU.
5. Info-dissemination during the regular information service, including a caravan to 52 barangays, a year-round activity of the LGU-Labo.

MR. BIMBO DORIA

**Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte**

The opportunity of using CBMS in Sta. Elena is rooted on several reasons. First is to establish a database (in our case a social sector database) which we found to be suited to our needs at this point and comprehensive enough to be expandable to other sectors.



Second is that the CBMS has a Geographic Information System (GIS) component which is more readily appreciated by our decision makers, who appreciate the digitized map features better.

Third is the financial viability of CBMS. Given that commercial GIS softwares offered today in the market are very expensive, which the municipality could not afford, it is indeed a welcome reprieve to receive a free software such as the CBMS-NRDB*. 

*A database developed for CBMS application.

Comments from National Government Agencies

Mr. Oskar Balbastro

**Director
National Economic and Development Authority
Region IV-B**

Within the framework provided by the Local Government Code (LGC), the fight against poverty increasingly takes the form of local government intervention, which in turn, calls for additional local budget support to local government units (LGUs). At the same time, the delegation of government functions to the LGUs, as Dr. Celia Reyes emphasized earlier in her presentation, likewise increases the demand for regular up-to-date and more disaggregated information essential for development planning, policymaking, projects development and impact monitoring at all levels. The importance of having accurate information becomes even more pronounced during times of fiscal difficulties in view of the need to determine correctly where the meager resources ought to be invested in.

In this regard, it is heartwarming to note that certain LGUs like the province of Palawan have been able to come up with updated demographic information about the province and its welfare and development situation, as contained in its first Palawan Human Development Report (HDR).

The information in the Report, as generated through the CBMS, lends itself toward having more effective governance at the local level by allowing an easier identification of appropriate interventions to address the gaps pin-

pointed through the CBMS in terms of services, facilities and manpower requirements.

Of course, the success of the CBMS implementation in Palawan is largely due to the proactive role of the province in disseminating the data to various stakeholders in the development process.

Atty. Gil Fernando Cruz

**Executive Director
League of Cities of the Philippines**

On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for involving us in this laudable endeavor. A community-based monitoring system finds essence in the capability to monitor local development programs, particularly those having to do with poverty reduction initiatives. Indeed, any advocate of good local governance will find rhyme and reason to support, pursue and replicate a system that fully and genuinely involves the community in its implementation, and one that integrates all inputs and data extracts from all administrative levels of government – provincial, city/municipal and barangay/community levels. To learn now that this monitoring system is household-based is to appreciate the value it adds to the process of policy and decision-making as well as in development planning.

But, of course, I know you will agree when I say that the heart and soul of the entire process has been the continuing collection and generation of the database through the years by the CBMS in the pilot

sites. This is where we all appreciate the importance of the regular updating of the data and at minimal costs.

You will notice that we have concentrated our comments on those integral qualities of the CBMS because they are close to our heart as a league.

We hope that as a probable next step, we can complement each other's effort toward improving the quality of life of our people.

Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon

**Secretary-General
League of Municipalities of the Philippines**

Despite the many challenges of local governance amidst national fiscal crisis, the presentations tell us some very good stories about exemplary practices in Philippine local governance in the area of community-based monitoring system. The case studies properly document the process by which CBMS was used for existing planning and monitoring exercises in various areas.

I am grateful that the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, an academic-based policy think-tank, is assisting some local governments in the Philippines to promote the significance and usefulness of CBMS in the country.

I am very happy to see the municipalities of Labo and San Vicente as well as the city of Puerto Princesa being recipients of this worthwhile project. As the saying goes, many are called but only few are chosen. I share the pride of these

three LGUs for having been chosen in this project. My only concern is why only in Palawan and Camarines Norte.

It is my ardent desire to see other municipalities in the Philippines taking part in this project to improve the quality of municipal governance in the country as a result of having better statistics or benchmark information for evidence-based policymaking through the CBMS

There is a need to take into account, however, that CBMS is not a panacea to the many challenges of local governance. The valuable lessons from Palawan and Camarines Norte for instance, points to the fact that any project, including the CBMS, cannot be implemented effectively and efficiently by just one agency. There is a need to build a broad partnership with other LGUs, local government associations, civil society, private sector and non-governmental organizations. Thus, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) will be more than willing to establish a close partnership with the CBMS Network of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies to promote and apply the value of CBMS in various Philippine municipalities.

I hope to see the CBMS Network strengthening its link with Philippine municipalities through the LMP. I am very confident that the strengthening of this network will advance our common aspirations for better local governance in the Philippines.

Mr. Paul Villarete

President, League of Local Development Planners of the Philippines

First of all, I am happy to have been invited to this conference where the discussion is focused on something that is community-based. For anything that relates to a community is close to my heart especially because I believe that if it is community-based, then it is “of the

community, by the community and for the community.”

I think that it is important – especially for us in the League whose composition totals 1,725 members who are in the forefront and focal point of implementation of almost all development programs for local government units – to really know more about the CBMS, evaluate it and calculate its costs and contribution to the entire country.

And if it is a good program – as many of my colleagues in this League of Local Development Planners attest to – then I enjoin all the members of the League to be one with me in asking the Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG) to issue a directive that will call for the immediate implementation of the CBMS nationwide.

With that, I look forward to seeing the CBMS take off on a national scale and to working with the CBMS team more closely in the near future.

Mr. Eduardo Tiongson

**Deputy for External Affairs
League of Barangays of the Philippines**

The presentations articulated by the speakers gave us a glimpse of how the various sites have been able to apply the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in their regular governance and monitoring functions. This is, of course, of great interest and importance to us because we, at the barangay levels are the ones implementing programs like the different anti-poverty programs. Unfortunately, because of the political timetable of our terms of office, many of us are not able to have adequate time to really internalize the meanings of the information in these reports, much more, put them into proper application to help in our planning, prioritization and implementation functions.

That is why we are hoping that the training of the CBMS, not just for the local executives but more important for the community residents and

volunteer themselves will be able to provide both with ample understanding of the mechanics of the system and the knowledge of its proper application and uses so that the system may be institutionalized, albeit the change in leadership of the local government units.

As such, we look forward to having a strong collaboration with the CBMS team so that we can really put the CBMS into full use and application, thereby helping the barangays.

Ms. Maritess Balhon-Kelly

**Local Government Officer IV
Department of Interior and Local Government**

In the part of the Department, we realize, of course, the realities of election and the turnover of officials and people that takes place in the course of elections. As such, the Department tries to focus on functionalities rather than personalities as the core of its program in empowering local communities and their citizens.

It is in this regard that the Department supports the adoption of the community-based monitoring system or CBMS in helping the local government’s planning and monitoring systems and in coming up with a set of core indicators for measuring the welfare and development status of local communities. For the objectives and rationale of the system are fundamentally in line with our monitoring of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set for different aspects of development.

The guidebook that was earlier developed in another program for LGUs to determine indicators in monitoring the MDGs can thus be combined or integrated with the concept and mechanics of the CBMS to allow for a better streamlining of the monitoring system. On the whole, the efforts should concentrate on capacity-building for communities that are shown to be in need so that the local people can be truly empowered in improving their lives. *

Views from New CBMS Partners



Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad
Pasay City

Jn one of our regular executive planning workshops where we do visioning and come up with various ideas to study or adopt programs and projects, one of our department heads, Rolando Londonio, who has been instrumental in reaping awards for our city such as the Gawad Galing Pook Awards for our city-wide Bayanihan Banking Program, presented us with the idea of the CBMS. Right there and then, we knew that the CBMS will be good for Pasay. Not only will we be able to determine the actual number of our poor people; we will also be able to diagnose the extent of poverty and determine its causes and formulate appropriate and relevant policies to address it.

I believe CBMS is very timely and we have agreed with the CBMS coordinating body to implement the program in Pasay beginning 2005 onwards.

As of today, we have created a technical working group, in coordination with the CBMS team, that is finalizing the survey instruments. The training on data collection and data processing will commence in October and will be pilot-tested in selected strategic barangays. We hope to partner with church-based NGOs (as what we did for our Bayanihan Banking Program) to preserve the integrity and transparency of the data collected. The full implementation will be in 2005.

We acknowledge the urgent need to keep our barangays informed; thus, to adopt this program, we shall be providing each barangay with an information board. The information board will display each barangay's vicinity map and the vision of the city will be highlighted. Likewise, through the information board, barangay officials will be reminded of their responsibilities and families will be encouraged to have their own and participate in the developmental programs. The information board will also showcase inspiring stories of community leaders and outstanding citizens of the barangays.

We had a successful bahayanihan program in Pasay. The adoption of the CBMS is aimed at the spirit of bayanihan in our Pasay barangays. Thank you for sharing that spirit with us.



Ms. Arlene Pascual
Provincial Planning &
Development Coordinator
Province of Bulacan

Jhere are three key reasons why the provincial government of Bulacan has decided to adopt the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) province-wide. **One** is to ensure the availability of up-to-date, relevant and accurate data from all its constituent units as basis in making development plans, measuring development outcomes and monitoring welfare status. **Two** is to maintain the overall high quality of life in Bulacan as measured in terms of the human development index. One of CBMS' advantages is its capacity to pinpoint where the gaps in terms of access to services and facilities are. And **three** is to help improve the tax base in Bulacan. While the provincial government of Bulacan had been using a satellite-based geographic information system (GIS) in enhancing its property tax-information system, what it lacks is the so-called ground level information or "house-tagging" set of information. We believe that this can be provided through the application of the CBMS, thereupon becoming very instrumental in improving our tax base.

Because we believe that the adoption and use of the CBMS will truly be beneficial, we have convened the municipal mayors to brief them on the system and to get their commitments for an agreed-upon 50-50 percent sharing of the costs of implementation of the CBMS. For we believe that the principle of sharing in terms of costs and rewards should be the spirit by which our programs ought to stand on.

Mayor Thadeo Ouano*
Mandaue City

The lack of a databank containing primary data at the LGU level is a common obstacle among local government units in formulating development plans. This has hampered the formulation of strategies for the effective and efficient delivery of basic services and usually results in hitting the wrong clientele and having unresponsive priorities.



The lack of benchmark data to measure performance levels is also a stumbling block to the advocacy of transparency and accountability. While the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) of the Department of Interior and Local Government is a good tool in performance measurement, the quality of its outcomes depends on the quality and reliability of the inputted data. This is where the CBMS can resolve and close this gap. It will complement the LGPMS initiative.

The act of governing becomes meaningful only if there is a point of departure from where development outcomes are measured at the end of the line. Success in governance do not take place by accident. There are products of well-planned actions based on given development indicators and success indicators.

We definitely need reliable data to have this and thus, our entry into the community-based monitoring network speaks of our desire to be able to know where we are in terms of performance in the delivery of basic services and to determine who the poor are among our constituents and where they are located. In the process, we hope to be able to rationalize our strategy in the delivery of basic services, giving more priority to where basic services are more needed.

The CBMS is part and parcel of our desire to let development assume a face and an address and to deliver services where they are needed. More specifically, too, the CBMS complements many of our ongoing projects and will allow us to see where government intervention is and has been most responsive. In this regard, we are ready to start the implementation of the CBMS in Mandaue City next month.

Mr. Ronet Santos
Regional Coordinator, Voluntary Service Overseas

Allow me to briefly present the work that our group, the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) had provided in Bohol and now in Agusan del Sur where we have the natural resource database (NRDB) system combined with the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in doing monitoring work.

The CBMS, of course, is basically about the gathering of information on a regular basis to track human development based on indicators classified under 3 major categories: survival, security and enabling. Said information, presented in text and tables, are useful in measuring the human development index and thereby in monitoring the status of human welfare in a particular place.

Said information, however, are made even more telling when presented in map format. The NRDB, which basically uses the geographic information system (GIS), plays a very useful role in that it allows the data to be shown in maps. With the available data, the information may capture situations not only at the level of provinces but also down to the level of barangays and even households. At the same time, the program provides a mapping of the distribution of natural resources within a locality so that it combines the human dimension with the physical attributes of the environment.

As such, the combination of the CBMS and NRDB becomes a powerful tool in capturing welfare conditions of the people and the communities. For it not only helps answer the *who, what* and *where* but also the *why*. Answers may also be captured and easily seen in the maps by which the information are presented and thereby show a more dynamic picture. And they thus help in enhancing local governance by addressing concerns and designing appropriate assistance programs.

We therefore hope that this can help as many local government units (LGUs) as possible. That is why we are helping organize workshops that explain the nature and use of the CBMS and the NRDB. In the process, we also hope that the interaction with LGUs may help further refine the integration of natural resource database systems with human development monitoring. *

* The speech was delivered by City Administrator Serafin Blanco.

Program

September 23, 2004

Registration

Opening Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr. Raymund Habaradas
Assistant Professor, College of Business and
Management
De La Salle University

National Anthem/Invocation

Opening Remarks

Dr. Ponciano S. Intal, Jr.
Executive Director
Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business
Studies
De La Salle University

Key Note Speaker

Honorable Secretary Corazon Soliman
Secretary of Social Welfare and Development

Represented by: Usec. Lourdes G. Balanon
Undersecretary for Programs and Policy Group
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Open Forum

Guest Moderator: Atty. Ricardo Puno, Jr.
Board Member
Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business
Studies

Coffee Break

Session 1: CBMS Local and International Network Initiatives: An Overview

Presenter: Dr. Celia Reyes
PEP Co- Director and CBMS Network Leader

Session 2. CBMS and Local Governance

Case of Palawan:

By: Honorable Governor Joel Reyes
Provincial Governor of Palawan and Vice-President
for Luzon of the League of Provinces of the
Philippines

Responses

Mr. Oscar Balbastro
Director for Region IV-B
National Economic and Development Authority

Open Forum

Lunch

Experience of Municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte

By: Honorable Mayor Winifredo Balce-Oco
Municipal Mayor of Labo, Camarines Norte and
President, League of Mayors of Camarines Norte

CBMS: The Puerto Princesa Experience

By: Mayor Edward Hagedorn
City Mayor of Puerto Princesa

Represented by: Ms. Jovenee Sagun
Assistant City Planning and Development Coordinator

Responses:

Atty. Gil Fernando C. Cruz
Executive Director, League of Cities

Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon
Secretary General League of Municipalities of the
Philippines

Open Forum

Coffee Break

Responses from New Local CBMS Partners

Ms. Arlene Pascual
Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
Province of Bulacan

Honorable Mayor Thadeo Ouano
City Mayor of Mandaue, Cebu and Vice President for
the Visayas of the League of Cities of the
Philippines

Represented By: Mr. Serafin Blanco
City Administrator, Mandaue City

Honorable Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad
City Mayor of Pasay and Spokesperson, Metro Manila
Mayors League

Responses from International Organizations on Local Monitoring System- Related Initiatives

Mr. Ronet Santos
Regional Coordinator, Voluntary Service Overseas

Dr. Evan Due
Senior Regional Program Specialist
International Development Research Centre
Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia

Open Forum

Closing Remarks

Dr. Celia M. Reyes
PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader

End of Session

September 24, 2004

Session 3. CBMS Data Collection and Data Processing Techniques

CBMS-GIS and Global Positioning System

Presenter: **Mr. Bimbo Doria**
Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte

Open Forum

Moderator: Dr. Caesar B. Cororaton
Senior Research Fellow
Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Session 4. Use of CBMS for Preparation of Development Plans and Socioeconomic Profiles

The South Palawan Planning Area Profile Using CBMS As Database

Presenter: **Mr. Rogelio Abiog**
Manager, Southern Palawan Planning Information
Center

CBMS: The San Vicente Experience

Presenter: **Ms. Lucylyn Panagsagan**
Assistant Municipal Planning and Development
Coordinator
Municipality of San Vicente, Northern Palawan

Coffee Break

Application of CBMS on Preparation on SEPs and Project Proposals

Presenter: **Mr. Evaristo Pandi**
Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
Labo, Camarines Norte

Use of CBMS for Program Intervention at the Barangay Level

Punong Barangay Kagawad Constancia Labios
Barangay Kalamunding, Labo, Camarines Norte

Punong Barangay Ibrahim Palampisi
Barangay Oring Oring, Brookespoint,
Southern Palawan

Responses

Mr. Eduardo Tiongson

Deputy for External Affairs
League of Barangays of the Philippines

Ms. Maritess Balhon-Kelly

Local Government Officer IV
Bureau of Local Government Development
Department of Interior and Local Government

Mr. Paul Villarete

National President, League of Local Development
Planners of the Philippines and City Planning and
Development Coordinator-Cebu City

Open Forum

Lunch

Session 5. Program Impact Assessment and CBMS

Evaluating the CIDSS Program/Other Programs in Palawan

Presenter: **Ms. Josephine Escaño**
Chief, Research and Evaluation Division
Provincial Government of Palawan

Open Forum

Session 6. Best Practices and Lessons learned in Human and Financial Resource Mobilization for CBMS

Presentors:

Mr. Jose Ramon Lagatuz
LGU-Labo, Camarines Norte

Ms. Rosalie Ocan-Lopez
LGU-Basud, Camarines Norte

Open Forum

Moderator: Dr. Jose Ramon Albert
Research Chief
Statistical Research and Training Center

Closing Remarks

End of Session

CBMS NETWORK UPDATES

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