

DROPLETS

The official newsletter of the Network of Flood Early Warning Systems in the Philippines

MAY–JUNE 2011

BOOK AND VIDEO ON SHINE PROGRAM, ST. BERNARD EWS LAUNCHED BY OXFAM GB

After three roll out events in Bulacan, Iloilo and Saint Bernard, Oxfam GB held the book and video launching of “Rising to the Call: Good Practices in DRR and CCA in the Philippines” and the closing of their AusAid-assisted project at the Discovery Suites last April 25, 2011.

Keynote speakers were USec Benito Ramos of NDRRMC and Erica Geronimo, Portfolio Manager of AusAid.

The DRR-CCA good practices documented in the book include two projects directly managed by NET-FLOWS members, namely “**Strengthening Flood Disaster and Resiliency of Schools and Communities through the School Hydrological Information Network (SHINE)**” by the Province of Bulacan and “**Reduced Vulnerability**

Through Community-Based Early Warning Systems” by the Municipality of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte.

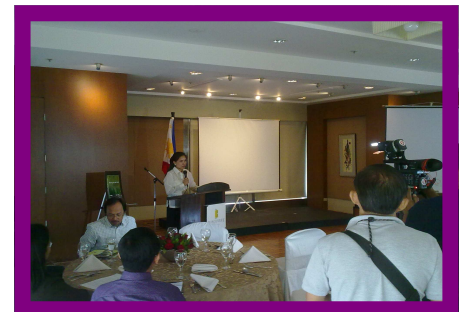
The SHINE program involves the regular monitoring and recording of hydrological data by students from participating schools, complementing the province’s EWS and raising awareness about weather-related phenomena in the schools and communities.

The community-managed EWS in St. Bernard won recognition for harnessing technology espoused by the GIZ and social participation to establish effective hazard warning and build a culture of safety and resilience among the residents there.

Ms. Liz Mungcal of Bulacan PDRRMO and Vice Mayor Rachel Avendula of Saint Bernard gave the responses for the project proponents during the launching.

“Discovering community initiatives that work was a reward in itself...”

VM Rachel Avendula delivers the response for St. Bernard



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- Book on Best DRR-CCA Practices launched!
- Preparedness leads to zero casualty!
- More!

TIMELY HAZARD DRILLS SAVE LIVES IN LEYTE TOWN



Members of Palo’s rescue team simulate carrying elderly evacuees to safety during the hazard drill in Brgy. Cogon on March 2. The actual floods came two weeks later.

“The GIZ program on Disaster Risk Management contributed a great deal to the outcome of the recent floods in Palo—there were zero casualties.”

Mayor Remedios “Matin” Petilla of Palo municipality in Leyte recounted how cooperation in preparedness among stakeholders saved lives as she addressed the regional launching of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) in Tacloban City last April 16.

From January to February of this year, the GIZ assisted the municipality in orienting the BDRRMCs of their 14 flood-prone barangays on DRM measures and conducted drills in two of the most vulnerable barangays.

The result: no loss of lives as rapid response and timely evacuation was carried out during the heavy rains on March 17, even as two major rivers overflowed their banks and swept houses away, causing floods in all 33 barangays.

We are on the Web!

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