

## PHILIPPINES

CRISTITA M.L. GIANGAN

21-22 June 2013

Activity Venue:

Mahogany Hall,  
Sunrise Hotel, Greater Tagaytay,  
Alfonso, Cavite

## Seminar on Governance and Communication After Winning the Local Elections

**The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and the Centrist Democracy Political Institute (CDPI) gathered on June 21-22, 2013 a group of Centrist Democratic officials in Tagaytay City who won elective posts in local governments across the country after the recently concluded 2013 National and Local Elections.** The assembly was a seminar on the art of governing and communicating with their respective constituents and local party chapters. Together with the elected public officials, the party leaders of Centrist-oriented parties were also invited to participate.

The first half day session began with **Dr. Peter Koepfinger**, the Country Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, welcoming the participants and introducing the overview of the sessions. He stressed the important work that needs to be done in the places where the local party has an organized structure and a set of elected public officials. These places can serve as models where good governance is guided by adherence to the party principles, implementation of the local party platform and respect for internal party democracy and discipline.

**Dr. Gaudioso Sosmena**, the Chairperson of the Management Board of the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGO-DEF) and the co-author of the Local Government Code of the Philippines discussed several modules on governing after winning the local elections. In the intensive discussion, he presented the main purposes of local governments, emphasizing on service delivery, economic development promotion and disaster mitigation and risk management. He told the participants that for governance to be effective, a sound platform of

government that attempts to systematically address the important concerns of the locality must be formulated and implemented religiously. He added that they need to be not only political leaders but also good managers. Analysis, planning, administration and the optimization of resources are important in the successful adoption of a local platform of government.

The discussion on the executive-legislative agenda brought up the often contentious relationship between the executive and legislative branches of local governments. Dr. Sosmena gave the newly elected officials some tips on how to facilitate smooth relations between the two branches. Issues on accountability, transparency and participation were also taken up.

These topics were however elaborated and discussed in detail during the next half day through the presentation of Dr. Koepfinger on the work of elected local officials in the framework of local party activities. Dr. Koepfinger presented some guidelines in structuring the work of elected local officials and connecting them with the implementation of the local government platform of the political party. He emphasized the importance of communication and coordination in getting things done. Accountability and transparency in public service can be fostered through close cooperation between the party and the elected officials. He added that this set up can be the model towards a less personality-oriented, more political party-driven developments in local politics.

**Mr. Roderico Dumaug**, the Deputy Chairperson of the Centrist Democratic Party of the Philippines (CDP) in Northern Mindanao (Region 10) presented how elected public

officials can play a significant role in expanding the political party in neighboring areas. After his session, a brainstorming workshop on communication and cooperation mechanisms between the elected officials and the local party leaders was facilitated by **Ms. Lorelyn Dumaug**, the Secretary General of the CDP.

**Mr. Lito Monico Lorenzana**, the President of the Centrist Democracy Political Institute concluded the capacity building seminar by asking the newly elected public officials to take up the challenge of genuinely representing the will of the people by honoring their respective party as well as personal commitments to implement people-oriented programs and services.