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REGIONAL OFFICE XI

## Two JICA Hokkaido Missions visit Davao to share Hokkaido's Industry Clustering and Development Experience

Davao City – JICA Hokkaido, in coordination with NEDA Regional Office XI, conducted a consultation seminar with Davao Region's Industry Cluster leaders on March 2, 2017 in Davao City. This was a follow-through activity on the Training Program entitled, Regional Industry Promotion through Cluster Approach, which the JICA - Hokkaido International Center hosted in October last year and where Senior Economic Development Specialist Rowena M. Daño of NEDA XI was sent as the Philippines' representative.



The seminar, which was conducted at the NEDA-RDC XI Center, Bangkal, Davao City, was a mutual learning session for the Hokkaido Mission Team and the participants from Davao Region's local industries. Mr. Masaru Tsunetoshi, Senior Counselor of the Northern Advancement Center for Science and Technology (NOASTEC) Foundation, shared the Regional Industry Promotion by Cluster Approach that is observed in Hokkaido, Japan. This was preceded by an overview of Davao Region's Industry Clustering Approach by Mr. Romeo Castañaga, Provincial Director of DTI XI, and sharing of experiences by Mr. Valente Turtur and Ms. Miriam Togoto of Davao Region's Cacao and Coconut Industry Clusters, respectively.

Also present during the consultation seminar were NEDA XI Regional Director Maria Lourdes Lim, DOST XI Assistant Regional Director Elsie Solidum, and representatives from DA XI and Davao Region's Private Industry Cluster Teams. Recommendations arising from the presentations and discussions on





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the promotion of Davao Region's Industry Clusters shall be elevated to the Economic Development Committee in Region XI, and subsequently, to the Davao Regional Development Council, for its region-wide adoption and implementation.

Director Maria Lourdes Lim shared that, "The Regional Development Council (RDC) of Davao Region has adopted Industry Clustering as its main vehicle for development since 2004 and the same strategy is sustained under the Davao Regional Development Plan (RDP), 2017-2022; because we firmly believe that it is through Clustering that we can achieve a competitive regional economy." She acknowledged that the private sector are the champions of the industry clusters and that the government sector should provide the necessary interventions, through effective and efficient policies or programs that would create an environment conducive for industries to grow.

The same appreciation for Industry Clustering Approach was highlighted by another team brought by JICA Hokkaido to Davao City for the report-back session of the ex-participants of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for Mindanao Young Leaders on Comprehensive Regional Development Planning on March 7, 2017.



Mr. Toshiho Chiba, Managing Director of Hamanasu Foundation, which co-hosted the said KCCP Course in Hokkaido, Japan last year, shared the Private Sector's Perspective on the Development of Hokkaido. He imparted the activities that led to the creation of Hokkaido's Industrial Clusters and emphasized the importance of 'repeatedly creating successful related businesses', which should build on the region's main industries with competitive domestic and international markets. Another lecturer from Hamanasu Foundation, Mr. Eiichi Tanaka, gave concrete examples where Hokkaido locals turned their geographic disadvantages into a business and industrial advantage.

Professor Mikine Yamazaki of Hokkaido University, on the other hand, shared a lecture on Hokkaido's development experience and highlighted the advantage of producing value-added products that build on local strengths.



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As a result of the JICA Hokkaido Missions in Davao, the local development workers and stakeholders were inspired to work harder for the development of communities. Efforts to strengthen partnership amongst government, academe, and industries/private sector and to promote innovation, research and development, as well as the upgrading of skills, knowledge, and competence shall definitely be sustained.

Contact:  
Rowena M. Daño  
PDIPBD, NEDA XI  
(082)296-0161(loc 107)  
[nedaroxi@nedaxi.net](mailto:nedaroxi@nedaxi.net)  
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