

## **NEDA XI and Brain Trust, Inc. Sign Contracts of the Regional Econometric and Agglomeration Models Research Projects**



*Sitting and signing the Contracts of the Regional Econometric and Agglomeration Models Research Projects are RD Maria Lourdes D. Lim and BTI President Ellamelides S. Antonio and standing are the SBAC members with the Secretariat*

*Davao City* - The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) XI represented by Regional Director Maria Lourdes D. Lim and Brain Trust, Inc. (BTI) represented by its President and CEO Ellamelides S. Antonio signed the contracts of the two research projects, namely, the Study on the Agglomeration Model for Mindanao Regions and the Creation of the Regional Econometric Model (REM) for the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) Target-Setting and Building Scenarios as Aid in Policy Making, on October 26, 2017 at the NEDA-RDC XI Center, Bangkal, Davao City. The contract signing event was witnessed by the NRO XI's Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Members and Secretariat. The two research projects are funded under the NEDA Survey, Research, Exploration and Development Fund through the NEDA Development Office – Policy Planning.

In her welcome remarks, RD Lim emphasized the importance of the outputs of these research studies in development planning and decision-making of the Mindanao NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) and the Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), as well as, in providing sound policy advice to the Mindanao Regional Development Councils (RDCs) and the ARMM Regional Economic Development and Planning Board (REDPB). She mentioned that with BTI's competence, commitment, vast experience and very satisfactory performance with its previous engagements, the expected outputs of the two research projects shall be delivered. In response, Ms. Antonio

expressed high hopes that BTI can meet the expectations of NEDA XI. She assured that BTI shall do its part to ensure that all deliverables of the projects are achieved.

As designed, the REM project is expected to create a model for GRDP target-setting that shall assist the Mindanao NROs in generating various growth scenarios that would aid in setting policy directions to stimulate public and private investments to support the development of high growth sectors or economic drivers for Mindanao Regions. On the other hand, the Agglomeration Study shall serve as reference for the identification of factors leading to the success of industrial agglomerations, particularly economic fundamentals that attract investments and industrial policies that serve as magnets for firms to cluster, and allow them to thrive via an enabling framework that helps them to maximize the opportunities available in industrial agglomerations. The two research projects shall commence implementation on October 27, 2017 and expected to end on September 26, 2018. *(Sr. EDS Janice May A. Cerezo, Development Research Division)*