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Quarterly Performance Report April - June 2014

Investment Enabling Environment (INVEST) Project

Submitted to:

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC-NOC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation-National Organizing Council
ASSURE	Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Reconstruction
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BBC	Batangas City Business Club
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BOI	Board of Investments
BOSS	Business One-Stop Shop
BPLO	Business Permits and Licensing Office
BPLS	Business Permits and Licensing System
BPOSS	Business One-Stop Shop for Building and Occupancy Permits
BRIC	Business Resource and Innovation Center
CDI	Cities Development Initiative
CEO	City Engineer's Office
CENRO	City Environment and Natural Resources Office
CDO	Cagayan de Oro
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CPA	City Program Adviser
CPDO	City Planning Development Office
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOT	Department of Tourism
DRIT	Disclosure and Revenue Joint Inspection Team
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EO	Executive Order
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICTIPB	Iloilo City Trade and Investment Promotions Board
ICTO	Information and Communications Technology Office
ILED	Iloilo Economic Development Foundation, Inc.
INVEST	Investment Enabling Environment Project
IPC	Investment Promotions Center
IRO	Investor Relations Office
ISSP	Information System Strategic Plan
JIT	Joint Inspection Team
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, series of 2010
LCDC	Livable Cities Design Challenge
LCE	Local Chief Executive
LEIPO	Local Economic and Investment Promotion Officer
LGSP	Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development
LGU	Local Government Unit
LIIC	Local Investment Incentives Code
LTTA	Long-Term Technical Assistant
MBBC	Metro Batangas Business Club
MIGDEC	Metro-Iloilo Guimaras Development Council

MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MFO	Major Final Output
NCC	National Competitiveness Council
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NICP	National ICT Confederation of the Philippines
OCVAS	Office of the City Veterinary and Agricultural Services
OIDCI	Orient Integrated Development Consultants, Inc.
PBR	Philippine Business Registry
PCCI	Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
PMO	Project Management Office
PTO	Project Technical Officer
RCA	Recipient Contracted Audit
RCC	Regional Competitiveness Committee
SIMM	Scaling Innovations in Mobile Money
SOW	Scope of Work
SSS	Social Security System
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
TWG	Technical Working Group
ULI	Urban Land Institute
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wildlife Foundation

I. INTRODUCTION

The Investment Enabling Environment (INVEST) Project started as a two-year project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Partnership for Growth program. The Project seeks to promote competitiveness and create a business-friendly environment in partner cities. It is being implemented in Batangas City, Iloilo City, and Cagayan de Oro City (CDO).

The Project was awarded to Orient Integrated Development Consultants Incorporated (OIDCI) on September 30, 2011 and was scheduled to end on 2013. On April 10, 2013, USAID issued a Preliminary Notice of Intent to Exercise of Option. Subsequently, on September 26, 2013, USAID issued a modification of original contract that extended the life of the Project for one year, or up to September 2014. A subsequent contract modification was made on June 26, 2014 that further extended the life of the Project up to December 31, 2014, with budget augmentation to finance additional activities. These additional activities include: (1) assistance to the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) to mount the Livable Cities Design Challenge (LCDC); and (b) logistical and administrative support to USAID in the expansion of the Cities Development Initiatives (CDI) Program. The Project's work plan for the Option year was subsequently revised to cover the said additional activities.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE 11TH QUARTER

1. Pursued the Use of ICT to Improve BPLS and Investment Promotion in Partner Cities

The competitive advantage of using information and communication technology (ICT) for service delivery among local government units was highlighted during the ICT Innovations Forum on June 18, 2014. This Forum was co-organized by USAID (through the Project) with the DILG, DTI, DOST, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED), and National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP), with support from Microsoft Philippines, Globe Telecom, and Intel Philippines. The Forum was an opportunity to showcase the innovations of the CDI partner cities in BPLS automation.

At the local level, the Project assisted Batangas City in further improving and expanding its online registration system and in developing an information-communication campaign to encourage businesses to use mobile money. The Project coordinated with the Scaling Innovations in Mobile Money (SIMM) Project in Iloilo City to pursue the establishment of a mobile money payment system, to support the web-based registration system that was set up in the January 2014 registration period. In line with the goal of having an end-to-end online business registration process in Cagayan de Oro City by January 2015, the Project coordinated with the SIMM Project and the City Council to set up a mobile money payment system. In all three cities, the Project pushed for the establishment of a virtual investment promotion center to create an online presence for potential investors. The creation of these web-based centers are part of the work plans leading to the establishment of their respective Investment Promotion Centers.

2. Introduced New Service Standards for Processing Business Permits

The Business Permits and Licensing System Oversight Committee, during its meeting on June 30, 2014, approved new standards for processing business permits, which were proposed by the Project. These revised standards reduced business registration procedures from 5 to 3 steps, processing time from 10 days for new business registrations to 1 day and for business renewals from 5 days to a day. Documentary requirements were also reduced and the new unified form will integrate the information needs of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). The Project will be assisting the DTI and DILG in preparing the Joint Memorandum Circular that will enjoin local government units (LGUs) to follow the new standards.

3. Promoted Sustainability of Reforms in Partner Cities

The Project facilitated workshops with partner cities to prepare action plans for the 2015 business permits renewal period and ensure the sustainability of reforms beyond Project life. In Batangas City, the Project conducted a planning session on June 14, 2014 with the Business Permits and Licensing Officer (BPLO) and division heads to firm up a roadmap for BPLS reforms until December 2014. In Iloilo, the Project conducted an organizational development workshop with the BPLO on June 13, 2014 to clarify its responsibilities and outline the tasks that still need to be done. In Cagayan de Oro City, the Project provided technical support to the BPLO in organizing and managing the Joint Inspection Teams. This is part of the reforms in the inspection system that the City will continue to pursue.

4. Provided Technical and Administrative Support to the Conduct of the Liveable Cities Design Challenge (LCDC)

The Project provided support to the National Competitiveness Council (NCC). After the launching of the LCDC on March 11, 2014, the Project started to work on the administrative requirements of the activity, i.e. hiring of the project team and the Short-term Technical Assistants (STTAs) from the Alliance for Safe and Sustainable Reconstruction (ASSURE) who will be mentoring the cities included in the contest. The hiring of the Team Leader for the activity was approved on May 14, 2014. The contracting of 9 mentors from ASSURE was submitted to USAID on June 16, 2014 .

During the quarter, the Project also provided technical support for the conduct of the LCDC. The Project prepared (1) a work plan for the activity; (2) a Mentoring Design which defined the capacity building framework to be mobilized by the mentors/experts with city competition teams; (3) the Preliminary Guidelines for Participating Cities that provided information on the conduct of the project and the competition; and (4) a draft paper on the preliminary considerations for judge selections.

IMPACT OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The Project's partner cities are now recognized as models for BPLS reforms and ICT innovations. The three cities were all invited to present their successful ICT innovations in various sessions of the Forum to serve as model for other local government units. A total of 360 persons participated in the Forum, 182 of which came from provinces, cities, and municipalities. Cagayan de Oro City and Batangas City were included in the top 10 cities in the nationwide e-Readiness Survey conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Cagayan de Oro was named as the top city in the list.

The partner cities successfully promoted themselves as investment destinations through the Business Forums held in the previous quarters. The cities are setting up the institutional mechanisms to sustain the investment promotion efforts even after the end of the Project. The private sector group organized by the Project in Batangas City to serve as part of the preparatory committee for the Business Forum is now a full-fledged Metro Batangas Business Club (MBBC). The plans to establish the Batangas City Investment Promotion Center (including a web-based promotion center) are in place due to the collaborative efforts of the Project, the City Government, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Board of Investments (BOI). The Iloilo City Investment Promotion Center is targeted to open in August 2015, and the virtual investment promotion center is expected to be online by the end of July 2015. In Cagayan de Oro City, the organizational set-up for investment promotion was streamlined and plans for its inclusion in the budget are now in place. This is a significant step, considering the difficulties encountered by the City administration in getting its proposed legislative measures passed by the Local Council.

THE PROJECT IN THE 12TH QUARTER

In the 12th Quarter, the Project will wind up its activities under the original workplan and complete all the needed reports for submission to USAID. Since the contracts of the City Program Advisers will end in July 28, 2014, the Project will continue to support the partner cities from the Project Management Office. The Project will also continue working on the new deliverables, i.e. assistance to NCC in mounting the LCDC and logistical and administrative support to USAID in the expansion of the CDI.

The Project will also submit a work program for the CDI deliverable and prepare its demobilization plan.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY PROJECT COMPONENT

The BPLS reforms started in the three (3) cities were sustained and made even more vigorous as the Project entered the 11th quarter. Notably, Batangas City has embarked on computerizing their BPLS thus attaining a trailblazing performance in 2014. Iloilo City has re-emerged from a slow start to implement significant reforms to be able to cope up with a good performance in BPLS reforms. Cagayan de Oro City deepened its BPLS reforms and pursued the use of information and communication technology.

The Project also sought to institutionalize investment promotion efforts in partner cities through the preparation of workplans to set up the Investment Promotion Centers and the provision of technical support on organizational development. Likewise, the Project continued to work with local partners to sustain the gains achieved from the Business Forums held in the previous quarters.

A. Component 1: Streamlining Business Registration Processes and Lowering Transaction Costs

The INVEST partner cities have come a long way in the implementation of BPLS reforms. They have attained their goal of surpassing the JMC standards, with remarkable improvements in business registration processes in the three cities as shown in the 2014 renewal period for business permits (reported in the 10th Quarterly Report). For this quarter, the Project further pushed policy reform initiatives both at the local and national levels to further cut processing time and procedures thru three reform areas: (1) further BPLS computerization especially on the use of online registration and mobile and online payment systems; (2) streamlining of construction-related permits; and (3) adoption of stricter service standards for business permit processing.

1. Program Area 1.1: Ensuring Compliance of Partner Cities with BPLS Standards

Inspired by the successful piloting of online submission of business application forms during the business renewal period, the cities continued to pursue other areas of automating BPLS, this time focusing on online payment features so that businesses can renew their business permit in 20 minutes without leaving the comfort of their office. At the same time, the partner cities, which were subjected to an assessment of their business permit-related inspection systems, instituted innovative reforms that would make inspections more efficient and corruption-ridden. Some of the measures which the partner cities focused on include (1) the establishment of an integrated database of various regulatory offices to be used in the BPLS inspection system; (2) implementation of measures to capacitate the BPLS personnel including inspectors from the BPLO, CTO, BFP and other regulatory office to be customer friendly; (4) establishment of a functioning Joint Inspection Team/s similar to what Batangas City did with complete manual of inspection and trained composite full time inspectors; and (5) working for sustainability of reforms through institutional support from the Local Chief Executive (LCE), the local *Sanggunian*, National Government Agencies (NGAs) and other stakeholders.

a. Key Accomplishments

Since BPLS computerization is a major deliverable of the project, the Project partnered with another USAID project, the Scaling Innovations for Mobile Money (SIMM), in assisting the cities in setting up a mobile payment system. In Batangas City, which is the first city to use mobile payment for business permits, the Project planned the communications campaigns for mobile money payment for quarterly taxes. Following the footsteps of Batangas City, Cagayan de Oro City revised the city ordinance on electronic payment and collection system, which has been presented to a City Council Committee Hearing, as a prerequisite to its launching by the city in the next quarter. To facilitate the launching, the Project coordinated a meeting with SIMM, Globe, and the City Treasurers Office on June 26, 2014. In the case of Iloilo City, the plans for setting up a mobile payment system was presented to the Mayor on June 6, 2014.

Given the success of the Project in implementing BPLS automation reforms in the partner cities, the Project saw to it that the significant contribution of each of the cities in putting in place innovative BPLS-related automation projects will be presented in the ICT Innovations Forum sponsored by DTI, DILG and DOST. In an attempt to replicate the successful initiatives of the partner cities, the Project presented the significant reforms of the three cities during the BPLS Oversight Committee Meeting on June 30, 2014.

The Project also assisted the cities in pursuing reforms in their inspection systems. Batangas has been a trailblazer in inspection reforms. In 2013, the City Government, with the support of the Project, agreed to form three Joint Inspection Teams (JITs) – Disclosure and Revenue Inspection (DRIT), Compliance, and Safety. Given the complexity of inspection tasks for the latter sectors, only the first team has been formed and operationalized during the year. However, to complement its construction permitting reforms, the city formally established the Safety Joint Inspection Team through the issuance of Executive Order No. 17 (dated June 10, 2014) which was launched on June 23, 2014, including the adoption of a manual of operations.

Building on the momentum for BPLS reforms in the partner cities, the Project initiated BPLS workshops that produced action plans in preparation for the 2015 business renewal period. In Iloilo City where a new BPLO head was designated, the Project facilitated an organizational workshop that finalized the targeted reforms that the city will implement for 2015.

Part of the Project's success in implementing reforms in the partner cities is the serious attempt at using monitoring and evaluation tools to identify areas for reforms. In Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro Cities, the Project presented the results of the Report Card Survey, which was conducted in the cities partnership with DILG and the Civil Service Commission. The results of the 2014 inspection assessment were also submitted to some of the Mayors. At the home office, the Project started the consolidation of the 2014 BPLS Assessment Reports of each city, which were done by the CPAs with assistance from Project-hired researchers.

To pave the way for a new set of regulatory reforms on business permitting, the Project prepared the first drafts of the following studies: Risk-Based System for Sanitation Inspection, Streamlining of Processes for Securing Construction-related Permits, and Streamlining of Processes for Securing Permits for Hotels and Similar Establishments.

**Table 1. Comparison of Planned Activities and Accomplishments
for the 11th Quarter under Program Area 1.1**

Program Area/Deliverable/Output	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
Program Area 1.1: Ensuring Compliance of Partner Cities with BPLS Standards		
Deliverable 1: Assisted Partner Cities in Setting-up a Computerized Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS) and an Enhanced Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS)		
Output 1.1. Assessment Report on the Reforms Implemented for BPLS, BOSS and Inspection Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of the integrated report to USAID ▪ Assistance to the city governments of Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro in the launching of their mobile and/or online payment (for CDO) ▪ Assistance to CDO in refining their Information System Strategic Plan (ISSP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provided assistance to the city governments of Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro cities in preparing for the launching of their mobile and/or online payment thru the preparation of the needed city ordinance (for CDO) & organization of meetings with partners (CDO & Iloilo Cities) ▪ Assisted Batangas City in their dissemination campaigns on the use of mobile payment system for paying business permit quarterly obligations. • Prepared the 2014 integrated assessment report on the BPLS and BOSS reforms in partner cities but is still undergoing editing before submission to USAID • CDO redrafted the city's information system strategic plan (ISSP) following the comments from INVEST but further revisions had to made to clarify the major final output (MFOs) in the Plan
Deliverable 2: Introduced Risk-Based Inspections in Partner Cities (Carry-over from Year 2)		
Output 2.1. Recommendations on the adoption and implementation of a risk-based system for sanitation inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct of FGDs in Batangas City (April 4) and Iloilo City (April 10) ▪ Submission of the draft report presentation of the recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct of FGDs for Batangas LGU clusters on April 4, 2014. ▪ Conduct of FGDs for Iloilo LGU clusters on April 10, 2014. ▪ Prepared the draft final report on risk-based system for sanitary inspection for initial presentation to the BPLS Oversight Committee (but was eventually removed from the agenda) ▪ Prepared the draft Memorandum Circular to implement the risk-based system for sanitary inspection
Output 2.2. Recommendations on the adoption and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of request to delete the study from the work plan due to difficulties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

Program Area/Deliverable/Output	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
of a risk-based system for the fire inspection	in getting a consultant after advertising the position three times	
Deliverable 3. Introduced Reforms in Securing Permits for Construction and Tourism Activities (Carry-over from Year 2)		
Output 3.1. Recommendations on the adoption and implementation of proposed streamlined processes for securing construction-related permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation of the study to DILG and USAID as well as to the relevant inter-agency committees ▪ Drafting of a circular to implement the recommendations of the study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presented results of the study and recommendations to DILG and DPWH on June 25, 2014 and to the BPLS Oversight Committee on June 30, 2014 ▪ In Batangas City, assisted the City Engineering Office in drafting the EO on the establishment of building permits and occupancy permits one-stop shop (BPOSS) ▪ In Cagayan de Oro, participated in the FGD organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's project on Integrity for Jobs and presented its recommendations on building permits and other construction permitting issues (June 16, 2014)
Output 3.2. Recommendations on the adoption and implementation of the proposed streamlined processes for securing permits for hotels and similar establishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct of FGDs in the three cities ▪ Drafting of the report and presentation of the results to DOT ▪ Drafting of appropriate circulars to implement the study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FGDs on Tourism conducted in Batangas City (April 2), Iloilo City (April 11) and CDO City (April 24) ▪ First draft submitted by the STTA on June 2 including the draft circular

b. Plans for the 12th Quarter

Since the contract of the Project's CPAs will end in July 2014, the Project will devote time in finishing the remaining activities related to automating BPLS such as the launching of the mobile payment systems in CDO and Iloilo cities.

The activities for the 12th quarter will also focus on completing the reports on the studies included in its work plan, viz., (1) 2014 integrated BPLS assessment report; (2) the assessment report on inspection reforms in the cities; (3) the risk-based sanitation study; (4) the streamlining of construction-related permits; and (5) the streamlining of the permitting system for establishing hotels. Related to the completion of these studies is the presentation of the recommended reforms to the three partner cities, the appropriate agencies, e.g. Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Health (DOH), DILG and DTI and concerned committees, e.g BPLS Oversight Committee. The Project will also be preparing the legal instruments needed to implement the reforms.

2. Program Area 1.2: Strengthening National Government Support to BPLS Reforms

Since most of the programmed BPLS reforms at the city level contained in the option year work plan have been nearly completed, the Project worked with national government agencies to support the reform efforts done by partner cities, and to ensure that a conducive policy environment is in place.

a. Key Accomplishments

During the quarter, the Project supported the TWG on BPLS Automation Reforms and the BPLS Oversight Committee, two national-level committees tasked with implementing reforms in BPLS.

A key accomplishment of the Project is the holding of an ICT Forum, which the Project coordinated in partnership with three key oversight agencies (DILG, DTI and DOST), the private sector (the National ICT Council of the Philippines, Microsoft and Globe) and development partners (GIZ, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Dubbed as “ICT Innovations Forum: Innovations and Connectivity thru Technology” the forum was organized to : (1) present the available computer applications for government services that LGUs can tap in making local government services more efficient; and (2) showcase LGUs that have successfully implemented innovative solutions/government services that maximized the use of technology. Attended by 365 participants with 192 of coming from LGUs, the forum was significant for the following reasons: (1) it was an opportunity to present the innovations of the three CDI cities in BPLS automation; (2) it was a model of public-private partnership in promoting computerization of government services; and (3) it made LGUs aware of the latest trends in technology.

The Project also assisted technical support to the BPLS Oversight Committee Meeting which held its 9th meeting on June 30, 2014. Three INVEST outputs were presented during the meeting: (1) Best Practices in Business Permit Processing in USAID’s CDI Cities; (2) Proposed Revision in the Joint Memorandum Circular on BPLS; and (3) Proposed Streamlining of Construction-Related Permits. The meeting approved the new BPLS standards recommended by the Project.

Table 2. Comparison of Planned Activities and Accomplishments for the 11th Quarter under Program Area 1.2

Program Area/Deliverable/Output	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
Program Area 1.2: Strengthening National Government Support to BPLS Reforms		
Deliverable 1: Provided Technical Support to the Inter-Agency Committees on Philippine Business Registry and the Connectivity of the Partner Cities to the PBR		
Output 1.1 PBR Connectivity of Partner Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of a report to USAID re: PBR connectivity of partner cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presented initial findings of Project on PBR connectivity of cities to DTI which led to conduct of training for cities connected to PBR on May 8, 2014 ▪ Drafted report on monitoring PBR connectivity implementation in partner cities

Output 1.2 Signed Executive Order (EO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of a report to USAID on the progress of work on the PBR EO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Followed-up decision of DTI on the PBR EO previously drafted by the Project
Output 1.3 Meetings of the Steering Committee and the PBR Technical Working Group Organized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of assistance to DTI in convening the PBR-related committees 	
Deliverable 2: Reviewed JMC Standards		
Output 2.1. Report on the Assessment of the DTI-DILG JMC 1, s. 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the report and presentation to USAID and the government partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented the results of the JMC assessment to the BPLS Oversight Committee Organized a meeting between DILG and BIR to strengthen exchange of information on gross sales of establishments
Deliverable 3. Provided Technical Support to Oversight Committees on BPLS Reforms		
Output 3.1 Report on the Assistance Provided to the Oversight Committees on BPLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of assistance to DTI and DILG to convene the BPLS Oversight Committee Provision of assistance to the ICTO-DOST to convene the TWG on eBPLS 	<p><u>Assistance to the BPLS Oversight Committee which met on June 30</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted the DTI-based secretariat in preparing the agenda and the discussion guide of the Co-conveners from DTI and DILG Presented 3 INVEST studies <p><u>Assistance to the TWG on eBPLS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided assistance to ICTO-DOST in the initial assessment of the results of the e-Readiness survey. Spearheaded the organization and conduct of the ICT Innovations Forum: on June 18, 2014

b. Plans for the 12th Quarter

As the INVEST project winds down its activities during the 12th quarter, the Project plans to pursue the policy reforms on BPLS-related permitting processes at the national level. These reforms include: (1) the revised BPLS standards for business processing; (2) guidelines for setting inspection fees; (3) streamlining of the procedures for securing fire safety inspection certificates; (4) streamlining of procedures for construction-related permits; (5) setting business friendly-inspection system; (6) streamlined procedures for securing sanitary permits; and (7) revised documentary requirements for accreditation of hotel and similar establishments.

As part of its project-ending requirements, INVEST will be finalizing the following studies in its work plan: (1) the assessment of the BPLS standards under the DTI-DILG JMC No.1, series of 2010; (2) construction permits study; (3) the sanitary permits study; (4) the report on PBR connectivity of cities; and (5) the tourism permitting study.

INVEST will also continue to support inter-agency committees, particularly in redefining their roles and clarifying their work program. A final report on the assistance to inter-agency committees will be submitted during the quarter.

B. Component 2: Improving Investment Planning and Promotion in Target Cities

Component 2 sought to capacitate partner cities in investment planning and promotion. In the past, the Project provided technical assistance and training to the LEIPOs of the partner cities to help them undertake activities that will generate investments for the cities. In the 11th quarter, the Project sustained this effort and sought to institutionalize the investment promotion efforts through the establishment of Investment Promotion Centers.

1. Program Area 2.1: Supporting Capacity-Building Efforts of Partner Cities in Investment Planning and Promotion

The Project has completed the activities for most of the outputs under the work program for this program area. In the 11th quarter, the Project focused on preparing the reports of the completed activities and in developing knowledge products that can be turned over to the partner cities.

a. Key Accomplishments

In Batangas City, the Project worked with the Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments, the City Government, and Metro Batangas Business Club in holding an investment promotion training and planning session on June 24-25, 2014. The workshop identified the tasks needed to put up a City Investment Promotion Center beside the DTI’s Business Resource Center (BRIC) at the Green Building. The workshop also highlighted the need to establish a virtual investment promotion center and identified the data requirements to set up Batangas City’s online presence for investors.

The Project also provided technical support to the efforts of the private sector in organizing the Metro Batangas Business Club (MBBC). The MBBC took off from the Batangas Business Club that was organized for the Batangas Business Forum on December 11, 2013. The MBBC took an expanded view of Batangas City and the nearby municipalities, recognizing that substantial linkages between rural and urban areas are needed to further promote the development of Batangas City.

Table 3. Comparison of Planned Activities and Accomplishments for the 11th Quarter for Program Area 2.1

Program Area, Deliverables & Outputs	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
Output 1.1 Investment Plan for Each Partner City	▪ Submission of Report to USAID	▪ Prepared draft report
Output 1.2 Revised Local Investment Incentives Code for Each Partner City	▪ Submission of Report to USAID	▪ City level reports being prepared
Output 1.3 Project Briefs and Updated City Profile for Each Partner City	▪ Submission of Report to USAID	▪ Prepared draft report
Output 1.4 Proposed List of	▪ Submission of Report to	▪ City level reports being prepared

Program Area, Deliverables & Outputs	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
Programs and Projects for 2014(Carry-over from Year 2)	USAID	
Output 1.5 Report on the Implementation of the LEIPO Action Plan(Carry-over from Year 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of Report to USAID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City level reports being prepared
Output 2.1 Report on the Conduct of the Business Forums in Each Partner Cities, including Memorandums of Agreement Concluded and/or Partnerships Formed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of the Integrated Report on the Business Forum ▪ Preparation of manuals as part of the Project's knowledge products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft integrated report submitted by event organizer. The Project will use this as basis for preparing the final report.
Output 3.1 Report on the Post-Business Forum Activities of the Partner Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct of workshop/planning session for the setting up of Investment Promotion Centers in partner cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IPC workshop was conducted in Batangas City on June 24-25, 2014, in partnership with DTI, BOI, Batangas City Government, and the Metro Batangas Business Club ▪ Provided technical assistance to Metro Batangas Business Club in finalizing its Articles of Incorporation ▪ Attended discussions between PCCI and MBBC on the possible affiliation of MBBC under the PCCI (June 2, 2014) ▪ Participated in the Organizing Committee meeting for the investment promotion discussions with the Metro-Iloilo Guimaras Development Council on June 26, 2014 ▪ Assisted the City Government of Cagayan de Oro in the preparatory requirements for the participation at the SIAL ASEAN Trade Exhibit at the World Trade Center from June 11-14, 2014 ▪ Attended OrgCom Board meeting on CDO Promotion on June 16, 2014

b. Plans for the 12th Quarter

In the 12th Quarter, the Project will complete the preparation of reports on the outputs that have been completed. The Project will also conduct the remaining planning sessions for the Investment Promotion Centers in Iloilo City and Cagayan de Oro City. The reports to be submitted to USAID and the remaining work to be undertaken under Component 2 work program include: (1) report on the business forum which will include project briefs, updated city profiles, list of programs and projects, investment plan and post-investment forum activities for each partner city; (2) report on the revised Local Investment Incentives Code for the cities; and (3) report on the implementation of the LEIPOs' action plans.

C. Component 3: Cross-cutting Concerns

a. Key Accomplishments

For the 11th quarter, the Project assisted the NCC in preparing the manual for measuring competitiveness of LGUs and in planning the activities for the Liveable Cities Design Challenge (LCDC). The latter is being undertaken in partnership with Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation-National Organizing Council (APEC-NOC), Asia Society, Alliance for Sustainable Reconstruction (ASSURE), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Urban Land Institute (ULI)

As a follow-thru to the NCC assistance in Year 2, USAID approved the contract extension of Dr. Alvin Ang, the STTA Expert who formulated the NCC competitiveness framework for computing the 2013 competitiveness rankings of LGUs. The extension was needed to prepare a manual of operations for the data gathering in connection with 2014 competitiveness ranking of LGUs. The manual incorporated the final list of indicators for assessing LGUs' competitiveness and the description of the processes for data collection, processing and reporting of the results. The draft manual is now being edited and will be up for submission to concerned agencies and the USAID in the coming quarter. Two manuals were prepared by the Project – one for the Regional Competitiveness Committees, which are tasked to collect the basic indicators and another one for the NCC.

After the launching of the LCDC on March 11, 2014, the Project started to work at the administrative requirements of the activity, i.e. hiring of the project team and the STTAs from ASSURE who will be mentoring the cities included in the contest. The hiring of the Team Leader for the activity was approved on May 14, 2014, while the contracting of 9 mentors from ASSURE was submitted to USAID on June 16, 2014. During the quarter, the following outputs were prepared: (1) work plan for the activity which was approved by the LCDC “Board” in June 2014; (2) the **Mentoring Design** which defines the capacity building framework to be mobilized by the mentors/experts with city competition teams; (3) the **Preliminary Guidelines for Participating Cities** provides information on the conduct of the project and the competition; (4) a draft paper on the preliminary considerations for judge selections.

The project also assisted USAID In preparing for the visit of Denise Rollins, Acting Assistant Administrator of USAID, in Cagayan de Oro on June 6, 2014.

Details of the accomplishments of Component 3 of the Project for the 11th quarter are presented in Table 13.

Table 4. Comparison of Planned Activities and Accomplishments for the 11th Quarter under Component 3

Deliverables & Outputs	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
Output 1.1 Manual of Operations for the Computation of the Competitiveness Ranking of LGUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission of the draft Manual to USAID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalized and edited the draft Manual in consultation with NCC. ▪ Pre-tested the contents of the Manual in the ranking of LGUs for the 2014 Competitiveness Index, most particularly its procedures in data analysis and

Deliverables & Outputs	Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter	Activities Completed for the 11th Quarter
		processing.
Output 1.2 Survey on Competitiveness and Local Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No planned activity (dropped from the work plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropped from the Work Plan as reported in the 10th Quarterly Performance Report.
Output 2.1 Report on the Conduct of National and City INVEST Experience Dissemination Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the guide and training modules on Project activities Conduct of initial discussions and brainstorming sessions on the Forums Preparation of action plan and activity design for the conduct of the Forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted four (4) guidebooks based on training programs conducted by the Project. Conduct of initial discussions and brainstorming sessions on the Forums. Prepared materials and coordinated preparatory activities for the conduct of the Forum in Iloilo City scheduled on July 7, 2014.
Output 2.2 Project Terminal/Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No planned activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No planned activity
Output 2.3 Project Demobilization Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the Project Demobilization Plan in June 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred preparation and submission of Demobilization Plan based on the advice of USAID.
Output 3.1 Report on Gender Activities included in the Quarterly Progress Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of a gender report in quarterly report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included gender report in the 10th Quarterly Performance Report
Output 3.2 Report on the Gender Perspective in the Business Permitting System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of the report on gender perspective in business permitting system of partner cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included gender perspective in business permitting system of partner cities
Monitoring of CDI Action Plans" Implementation in Partner Cities (for Economic and Governance Session only)	Organization of and preparation for the conduct of monitoring visit of USAID and dialogue with city officials in Cagayan de Oro City and Iloilo City	Organized and prepared materials for the visit of USAID's AAA Denise Rollins to Cagayan de Oro City on June 6.
Extension Activities		
DEL. 2. Output 2.1. Report on the Livable Cities Design Challenge (LCDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of assistance in the conduct of Phases 2 and 3 of the LCDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hired the activity's Team Leader Submitted to USAID the request to hire 9 mentors for ASSURE Prepared the following documents: (1) the revised work plan; (2) mentoring design; (3) guidelines for the participating cities; (4) judging considerations
Output 3.1. Report on the Selection of Additional Cities for CDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No planned activities (new activity) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No advice from USAID on the conduct of the activity

b. Plans for the 12th Quarter

For the 12th quarter, the Project shall undertake the following: (a) completion of the Manual of Operation for the Computation of the Competitiveness Ranking of LGUs, which will be submitted to USAID and the NCC for adoption; (b) provision of assistance to NCC in the management of the LCDDC; (c) selection of additional cities for the CDI; and (d) assistance to USAID in the monitoring of the implementation of CDI action plans (economic and local governance only) of the partner cities.

The project will also start the preparatory activities for the Project Close-out. Critical among these activities is the conduct of Project experience dissemination forums initially proposed to be held in Metro Manila and one each in the partner cities. During the quarter, a series of brainstorming sessions and discussions as well as the preparation of an action plan and activity design for the said forums will be conducted. Collaterals and knowledge products will also be conceptualized and drafted during the quarter.

III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY CITY

A. BATANGAS CITY

During the 11th quarter, Project activities in Batangas City mostly revolved around ensuring sustainability of INVEST-supported reforms given that city-level activities are due to be completed in July 2014. These include conducting separate action planning workshops with the BPLO and LEIPO offices to identify target outputs and activities until December 2014, and June 2015, respectively, as well as conducting a two-day training workshop on investments promotion to enhance capacities of LEIPO and other city government staff, including councillors, and the private sector (representatives of the Metro Batangas Business Club). The Project also supported the formulation and dissemination of executive issuances that serve to institutionalize arrangements and reforms, such as the Safety Joint Inspection Team (JIT) and the Building and Occupancy Permit One-Stop Shop (BPOSS).

The city, supported by the Project, moved closer to formalizing the Metro Batangas Business Club (MBBC) – during the 11th quarter, requisite documents for Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration, namely Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were finalized and are due to be filed in July 2014. Investments Promotion efforts were likewise strengthened through collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry towards a joint regional Business Resource and Innovation Center (BRIC)-city-level Investment Promotion Center (IPC) to be established within the city hall premises.

In terms of showcasing reforms, the project also supported the city in presenting its BPLS reforms experience in various events, including highlighting the city as the first LGU in the country to enable mobile payments for business taxes as part of its overall effort to minimize the burden of business transactions with the city government, especially in securing business permits and payment of associated business taxes, during the “ICT Innovations Forum” on June 18, 2014.

1. Institutional Strengthening

For the 11th quarter, planning workshops for the BPLO and LEIPO offices were conducted to draw up a roadmap for each office after INVEST has concluded its city-level activities. To upgrade the skills of LEIPO and relevant city government staff, plus the members of the Metro Batangas Business Club, a training activity on investments promotion was held.

a. Key Accomplishments

LEIPO Action Planning Workshop. From May 15 to 16, 2014, the Project and the LEIPO office held the LEIPO action planning in Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas. The activity, facilitated by the City Program Adviser, provided an opportunity to review gains of the Project in Batangas City in partnership with the LEIPO office and plan activities until the end of the project (July 2014) and twelve months after (June 2015). Key highlights of plans, reflecting a commitment to continue reforms initiated with the support of INVEST, include supporting the City Engineer’s Office (CEO) in sustaining Safety Joint Inspection Team (JIT) operations, incrementally improving the Investment Promotion Center (after establishment), undertaking further in-depth sectoral

profiling and assessment and development of investment opportunity packages in partnership with the private sector, and conducting a local business forum in November or December 2014.

The city government shouldered the entire cost of the workshop with no financial counterpart from the Project.

BPLO Action Planning Session. On June 16, 2014, the City Program Adviser held a planning session with the BPLO officer and division heads to firm up a roadmap for BPLS reforms until December 2014 in preparation for the renewal period the following year (January 2015). The activity plotted further innovations and modifications to further improve the streamlined BPLS process. These include making online renewals optional (i.e. not limited to a selected number of establishments), enabling online applications for new business registrations, and continuing collection of business taxes through mobile money mechanisms and enabling other electronic modalities, including point-of-sales and online systems.

DTI-BOI Training Workshop on Investments Promotion. The Project co-organized a two-day training workshop on investments promotion to all LEIPO staff and relevant city government personnel (e.g. staff from Planning and Development (CPDO), Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO), Agriculture and Veterinary Services (OCVAS), Tourism, and BPLO), councillors (i.e. members of Committee on Trade, Industry, and Operation of Markets), and members of the Metro Batangas Business Club (MBBC). Beyond learning existing incentives to attract investors as per national laws, investment promotion activities, and templates for generating useful information for investors, workshop sessions included formulating tag lines to promote the city, identification of potential investment priority areas, and planning for the establishment of the Investment Promotion Center, especially a virtual counterpart site which prospective investors may access from anywhere in the world.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

For the 12th quarter (July 2014), prior to project completion, the City Program Adviser will hold final discussions with the BPLO and LEIPO offices to go over respective plans and make final modifications if necessary. The CPA will also formulate a brief list of suggested capacity building activities to further upgrade the skills of the city government, especially the LEIPO staff.

2. Streamlining of BPLS

Key activities undertaken during the 11th quarter included setting up a program of action to further improve the streamlined BPLS process in preparation for the 2015 renewal period as well as focusing on BPLS-related processes, including pre-registration phases (building and occupancy permitting) and post-permitting inspection processes.

a. Key Accomplishments

Roadmap for Further Streamlined and Improved BPLS for 2015 Renewal Period. As indicated in the previous section, a key output of the planning session with the BPLO office was the development of a detailed roadmap detailing further improvements to its streamlined BPLS process.

Operationalization of the Safety Joint Inspection Team (JIT). In 2013, with support of the Project, Batangas City formulated a Business-Friendly Inspections Reform Action Plan which envisaged the creation of three composite joint inspection teams (JITs), namely 'Compliance' for pre-

business registration processes (building and occupancy permits phases) and 'Disclosure and Revenue' and 'Safety' for post-business registration processes. The Disclosure and Revenue Inspection Team (DRIT) was created in 2013.

For the 11th quarter, the Project supported the operationalization of the Safety JIT by helping finalize the team's unified checklist and design operational guidelines, as well as supported the formulation of an executive order to institutionalize the mechanism. It supported a major workshop on May 6, 2014 among the heads and concerned personnel of the CEO, CHO, CENRO, BFP, and OCVAS, followed by actual pilot testing of the unified checklist and procedures on May 21, 2014. Executive Order no. 17, series of 2014, "An Order Creating and Operationalizing the Batangas City Safety Joint Inspection Team (Safety JIT)" was issued on June 10, 2014. Safety JIT operations officially began on June 23, 2014.

Institutionalization of the Building Permit and Occupancy Permit One-Stop-Shop (BPOSS). As indicated in previous quarterly progress reports, the Project supported the creation of a one-stop-shop for building and occupancy permits given that some of the concerned offices were located outside the city hall premises. In the 11th quarter, the INVEST contributed to the finalization of the Executive Order to formalize the BPOSS. Executive Order no. 16, series of 2014, "Creation of Batangas City's Building Permit and Occupancy Permit One –Stop Shop (BPOSS)" was issued on June 10, 2014.

Showcasing Batangas City's Streamlined BPLS to other LGUs. The Project supported the preparations of the city's BPLO Officer in developing a comprehensive presentation to various LGUs that requested to learn and study Batangas City's BPLS process. On April 30, 2014, business permits and licensing officers from 19 local government units in Nueva Ecija representing the Association of Licensing Officers-Nueva Ecija (ALO-NE) visited Batangas City. On the other hand, the BPLO officer was invited by DTI to present Batangas City's BPLS system during the "Orientation on Regulatory Simplification: a BPLS Streamlining Upscaling Strategy" on May 28, 2014 at General Santos City to BPLO Officers of 5 cities and 45 municipalities in Region XII.

Showcasing Batangas City's Innovations on Mobile Money During ICT Innovations Forum. The Project also supported the preparations of the city's Chief-of-Staff/ Secretary to the Mayor in developing a presentation to various LGUs during the ICT Innovations Forum at the Intercontinental Manila on June 18, 2014. The representative presented the experience of Batangas City in being the first city in the country to enable mobile payments for payment of business taxes as part of its efforts at making the process of securing and payment of business permits more convenient for the city's taxpayers.

Assessment of Reformed Inspection System in Batangas City. As part of the Project's annual assessment of inspection systems in its partner cities, field work was undertaken and completed in June 2014. The Project hired two process documentors/ researchers to document inspection processes related to new business registrations and permit renewals from both applicants' and LGU's perspectives and assess effectiveness of inspection reforms vis-a-vis planned activities/ processes. The city-level report will be completed in July 2014.

Participation in INVEST Workshops on Tourism and Sanitary Permitting Processes. In April 2014, relevant Batangas City officials participated in INVEST workshops as part of the activities for its studies on streamlined processes for securing permits for hotels and other tourism-related establishments (April 2, 2014) and implementing a risk-based system for sanitation inspections (April 4, 2014).

b. *Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter*

In the 12th quarter (July 2014), the Project will continue monitoring the operations of the Safety JIT. It will also supervise the development of a paperless checklist (i.e. 'mobile app' for tablets and smartphones) for use by the Safety JIT, which is targeted to be completed by August 2014.

To further improve the operations of the Business One-Stop Shop (BPOSS) and catalyze the design of the Compliance JIT, INVEST will facilitate a study visit to Valenzuela to study their building and occupancy permitting processes. This will be followed by a post-visit discussion with the CEO, the lead office for such processes.

Finally, with the support of the Project, the revised comprehensive design of the 2015 BPLS process will be completed by July 2014.

3. Enhancing Investment Planning and Promotion

Activities in the 11th quarter further moved towards finalization of key deliverables under this component, namely the creation of a city-level business club, revision of the Local Investment Incentives Code, and setting up of an Investment Promotion Center.

a. *Key Accomplishments*

Learning Sessions for and Formalization of the Metro Batangas Business Club. During the 11th quarter, the Project supported the finalization of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Metro Batangas Business Club (MBBC), required documents for formal SEC registration of the non-stock, non-profit corporation. The formulation of such documents, as well as discussion of initial group activities benefited from learning sessions/ meetings with Cebu Business Club President Gordon Alan Joseph on April 2, 2014 and 2nd District Congressional Representative Ranier Abu on May 29, 2014. It should be noted that the meetings were largely initiated independently by the MBBC members.

Local Investment Incentives Code. The working group, composed of the City Planning and Development Coordinator, the LEIPO Officer, and members of the Committee on Trade, Commerce, Industry, and Operation of Markets, with the support of the Project, finalized the text of the city's Local Investment Incentives Code (LIIC) for final review of the City Mayor's Office before this is submitted to the City Council to initiate the legislative process. Minor revisions, as a result of Bol's review during the June 24-25 training workshop, have already been incorporated.

Designing of the Investment Promotion Center (Virtual and Physical). DTI Batangas Province and the city government agreed to establish a joint Business Resource and Innovation Center (regional) and Investment Promotion Center (city-level) after a scoping mission from the DTI BRIC Program Manager on May 19, 2014. This will be established within the city hall premises.

On the other hand, the DTI-BOI training workshop (mentioned in previous sections) included an action planning session to design a virtual "Investment Center" counterpart to be a special section within the Batangas City official website. The focus will be on packaging information to provide prospective investors of relevant information, anchored on DTI's standard checklist of factors determining investment location as well as a common "Cost of Doing Business" template.

Educational Linkages with Australian Universities. On April 28, 2014, the Project supported the city in hosting its first international education caravan where Australian universities provided an information session to invite undergraduate and graduate students to study in their institutions. Given that human resource development had been identified as a priority sector by the joint city government-private sector Business Forum Organizing Committee in late 2013, a separate networking session was held between the Australian universities and the top three local universities to explore potential institutional partnerships for upgrading the curriculum and capacities of instructors in these three schools.

a. *Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter*

For the 12th quarter (July 2014), the registration documents for MBBC will be filed by the group with SEC within the month of July 2014.

To the extent possible, the LIIC will be transmitted by the Mayor to the city council by July 2014 with initial hearings to follow shortly.

With regard to the joint BRIC-IPC, assuming available budgetary outlay from DTI, initial construction and furnishings will be undertaken in July. LEIPO, with the support of the Project will also focus on setting up the virtual investment hub which may be completed by August 2014.

4. Building Partnerships

a. *Key Accomplishments*

Stronger Alliance with Department of Trade and Industry. The 11th quarter saw a deeper working relationship with local DTI units and with other agencies within the department. DTI Batangas and the Project worked closely to organize the two-day training workshop for LEIPO, other Batangas officials, and MBBC members. DTI also enabled the Project and the city to forge connections with the Board of Investments (BoI) since they served as resource persons/ trainers for the workshop. BoI has provided templates that would be useful as the city embarks on a virtual Investment Promotion Center and committed to provide follow-up technical assistance as necessary. The Project and the city also worked closely with DTI Batangas on discussing arrangements and design considerations of the joint BRIC-IPC center.

Project Awareness and Visibility with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and CALABARZON Regional Development Council. Region IV-A Regional Development Council, through NEDA, requested the city government and the Project to present the INVEST Project during the 2nd Quarter Meeting of its Sectoral Committee on Economic Development on June 5, 2014 at Santa Rosa, Laguna. The City Program Adviser, together with the LEIPO and BPLO officers, provided the briefing which included a broad overview of the project followed by activities and accomplishments in the project's primary two components.

b. *Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter*

As indicated in previous sections, the city government, with the support of DTI and BoI will begin establishing the joint BRIC-IPC, complemented by a virtual investment portal.

B. ILOILO CITY

In the 11th Quarter, the Project continued to provide assistance to the City in sustaining the reforms undertaken to streamline the BPLS and promote investments. During this quarter, a new LEIPO was designated by the Mayor. This prompted the Project to provide technical assistance to help the new LEIPO cope with the responsibilities assigned to her by the Mayor.

1. Institutional Strengthening

c. Key Accomplishments

To support the new LEIPO, the Project reviewed the existing LEIPO action plan to assess areas that have been completed and those that can still be improved. Thereafter, the Project provided assistance to the new LEIPO in developing an action plan to generate more investments in the city.

To help sustain the reforms being undertaken by the city on the processing of business permits, the Project facilitated an organizational development workshop with the BPLO on June 13, 2014. The workshop sought to clarify the responsibilities of the BPLO and the tasks that need to be done to further improve the City's business permits system.

d. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

In the 12th quarter, the Project will continue to monitor the LEIPO and BPLO action plans and provide support as needed.

2. Streamlining of BPLS

a. Key Accomplishments

Promoted the Use of Mobile Money. The Project assisted the city in setting up a mobile payment system to further improve its business registration processes.. Towards this end, the Project facilitated the meeting between the USAID's SIMM Project and Mayor Mabilog on May 8, 2014 to discuss the mobile payment system and its implementation. The Project also assisted SIMM in the consultation with ILED with city stakeholders on May 9, 2014.

On June 6, 2014, the Project also assisted the SIMM in the demonstration of mobile payments with Mayor Mabilog and local officials. This was needed to gather support for the mobile money initiative in the city.

Pushed for Improved Inspection System. The Project previously conducted an assessment of the inspection system in Iloilo City. On June 10, 2014, the Project presented the results of the assessment to Mayor Mabilog. The Project assisted the city in developing a system of joint inspection.

Assisted in Other Permitting Studies. On April 11, 2014, the Project conducted a Focus Group Discussion with stakeholders in the city for the proposed streamlined processes for securing permits for hotels and similar establishments.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

In the 12th quarter, the Project will focus on further encouraging the city to promote the use of its on-line registration system even for new business registrants and to implement an online or mobile payment system. Consistent with the Project's objective to streamline construction-related permits, the Project will assist in organizing a study tour to Valenzuela City in July 2014 for the City's Building Official the BPLO. The Project will also start discussions to develop a plan of action for the 2015 registration period.

3. Enhancing Investment Planning and Promotion

a. Key Accomplishments

Coming from the success of the Iloilo Business Forum in the previous quarter, the Project encouraged the city to establish its Investment Promotion Center. The Project coordinated with the Regional DTI and the city on the implementation of the plans to set up a Business Resource Center and a City Investment Promotion Center at the Robinsons Mall.

The Project also facilitated the discussions for the enhancement of the Local Investment Incentives Code with the new LEIPO.

In line with the importance of promoting rural-urban integration in the promotion of investments, the Project attended the Organizational Committee meeting for investment promotion discussions with the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council on June 26, 2014.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

The Project, together with the new LEIPO, private sector groups, and other partners who worked together for the Business Forum, will conduct a planning session on the establishment of the Investment Promotion Center.

The Project will also push for the establishment of a virtual investment promotion center to complement the investment promotion work to be undertaken at the IPC.

4. Building Partnerships

a. Key Accomplishments

The Project worked with the DTI in addressing issues pertaining to the connectivity of Iloilo City to the PBR. A deliberation meeting was held at DTI on May 8, 2014, together with representatives of other partner cities of the Project.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

The Project will continue to build partnerships with local stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the reforms that it has initiated.

C. CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

In the 11th quarter, the City sustained its reforms in business registration by setting-up four payment kiosks (for quarterly business tax and real property tax) where a client can get both his tax billing and the queue number. The kiosks proved useful, as there were about a thousand users per day when it was first installed. The CDO kiosk was featured in the ICT Innovations Forum on June 18, 2014 as a model of LGU innovation in business permitting. The Project coordinated with the SIMM Project of USAID for the setting-up of a mobile payment system in time for the January 2015 renewals. The Project also worked to institutionalize the gains in investment planning and promotion by assisting the City in streamlining its investment promotion units.

1. Institutional Strengthening

To ensure the sustainability of the reforms in BPLS streamlining and investments promotion, the Project provided assistance to the LEIPO/IPC and the BPLO.

a. Key Accomplishments

There are two ordinances that impinge on the IPC. Ordinance 8268-2002 that, among others, created the Cagayan de Oro Investment Action Unit and Ordinance 11219–2008 that approved the Establishment of a Cagayan de Oro Trade and Investment Promotion Center (TIPC) as a tripartite cooperation among the City Government, DTI-Misamis Oriental, and Promote CDO. To streamline the organizational support for investment promotion, the Mayor approved the absorption of the Local Economic and Investment Promotions Office (LEIPO)/IPC and the Investment Action Unit into the Trade and Investment Promotion Center. The IPC would thus be renamed the TIPC and would have its own Annual Investment Plan and Budget.

The Project provided technical support in preparing the Executive Order to implement this organizational realignment. The Project also assisted the TIPC in preparing its results framework, utilizing the Invest Project Results Framework as model, and in identifying the major final outputs (MFO) and indicators. One of the TIPC's MFOs is the further streamlining of BPLS, which, for 2015, will focus on the regulatory or inspection agencies using as reference the recommendations of the studies commissioned by the Project.

In coordination with the Project, a series of training activities was conducted by the Board of Investments Extension Office for the IPC, tourism staff, and agriculture staff. The training modules include the investment incentives framework, investor services, and the conduct of investment promotion events (including inbound and outbound missions).

In the 11th quarter, the Mayor gave the BPLO the responsibility of coordinating the Joint Inspection Team under the streamlined inspection system. The Project assisted the BPLO in preparing the schedule of the teams, arranging the mission orders and the vehicle, and collecting the reports after the joint inspection.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

In the next quarter, the Project will work for the issuance of the new EO merging the LEIPO/IPC into the TIPC. The Project will also conduct an investment promotion planning workshop for the LEIPO/IPC/TIPC and will assist the BPLO in preparing the budget for the JIT and presenting it budget before the Local Finance Committee.

2. Streamlining of BPLS

For two years, the city has exceeded the standards set forth in the Joint Memorandum Circular. In the January 2015 renewal, the city intends to offer the option of an end-to-end online registration. The City Council has approved the ordinance authorizing the use of electronic payment and collection systems which will pave the way for mobile payment and/or credit/debit card payment.

a. Key Accomplishments

In the 11th quarter, the City mobilized the Joint Inspection Team with the conduct of joint inspections twice a week. The Team is composed of representatives from CTO, CPDO, CHO, OBO, BPLO and BFP. After three months of operation, the team will submit its recommendations for more effective and efficient inspections to the City Mayor.

An assessment of the inspection system was conducted in the second half of May and into the month of June. Local documentors were hired and supervised by the Project.

The Project liaised with the City Council for the approval of an ordinance that would authorize an electronic payment and collection system. The SIMM Project of USAID gave a first presentation to city officials of the mobile payment scheme in April. A draft ordinance on the authorization of an electronic payment and collection system was provided by SIMM which was forwarded to the City Legal Office for official comments. The draft ordinance was then endorsed to the City Council and the Project briefed the Committee on Ways and Means on the scheme. It was sent back to the City Legal Office for some insertions as suggested by the Committee. After the revision, the Committee on Rules, placed the draft ordinance in the agenda of the July 7 full council meeting. The ordinance was finally approved on July 7. The Project is now assisting the city in the acquisition of another server to avoid compromising the data at the CTO server.

b. Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter

In the next quarter, the Project will coordinate for the implementation of a mobile payment system. The Project will finalize the report on the 2014 assessment of the city inspection system. The Project will also assist the BPLO in the preparation of their budget, incorporating the requirements of the JIT. The budget is due for submission to the Local Finance Committee on July 11.

3. Enhancing Investment Planning and Promotion

The Project focused on the sustainability of the investment promotion efforts by reinforcing its institutional setup utilizing previously passed ordinances. This was after the City Mayor decided not to submit the completed draft LIIC, as prepared by the LIIC Drafting Committee. Instead, the Mayor decided to revise the implementing rules and regulations of the existing LIIC. The Project provided technical assistance in drafting the new IRR. At the same time, a series of training sessions for the IPC staff was conducted by the BOI CDO Extension Office.

a. Key Accomplishments

Cagayan de Oro was selected as the region's featured city at the SIAL Trade and Investment Show at the Mall of Asia organized by MALBEX and the DA on June 11 – 13, 2014. The focus project was palm oil plantation, one of the projects promoted at the City Business Forum, and was presented by the LEIPO at the Investment forum. The City is now expecting a visit from a

Malaysian investor's representative interested in developing 10,000 hectares of oil palm plantation.

The Project prepared an activity design for an investment promotions planning workshop for July 10 with IPC staff and its partners—DTI, DTI-BOI, Oro Chamber, and Promote CDO. The workshop will discuss the institutional setup for the IPC, MFO's, indicators, and the 2015 Annual Investment Plan and Budget.

a. Planned Activities for the 11th Quarter

The Project targets the approval by the Mayor of the new implementing rules and regulations of the LIIC, including the institutional setup of the Trade and Investment Promotions Center based on existing ordinances.

4. Building Partnerships

The Project continued its partnership with the business groups Oro Chamber and Promote CDO. Ordinance 11219–2008 created the Trade and Investments Promotion Center that is a tripartite cooperation among the City, Promote CDO and DTI-Misamis Oriental. The ordinance established a TIPC Advisory Board chaired by a representative of Promote CDO. The Mayor has approved this set-up and will be incorporated in the EO that will revise the IRR of the LIIC.

The City continues to work with the MUST on construction permitting. MUST has done the assessment and will submit its construction permitting system design in the second week of July.

a. Key Accomplishments

The Project coordinated with the BOI CDO Extension Office in the conduct of a series of training sessions for IPC staff and partners on investor services, conduct of marketing events including inbound and outbound missions, and preparation of answers to “frequently-asked questions” (FAQs).

The Project also coordinated with the DA Regional Office for sponsorship of the city's participation in the SIAL ASEAN Trade and Investment Show at the Mall of Asia.

b. Planned Activities for the 12th Quarter

In the next quarter, the Project will sustain the partnership among the business groups and the City government by making the TIPC Advisory Board operational, together with Promote CDO and DTI-Misamis Oriental.

5. CDI-Related Activities

The City was honored by the visit of AAA Denise Rollins and MD Gloria Steele and other officials of USAID on June 6, 2014. The Project conducted the ground preparations and prepared a presentation on the results of the BPLS streamlining for CDO.

IV. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Inclusive growth means that all sectors of society, most especially the vulnerable, have substantially felt the positive impacts of development. Guided by this, the INVEST project strongly commits to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment.

Ensuring the realization of the aforementioned goals, a Gender and Development Action Plan (GAD-AP) was formulated initially in November 2011. The plan was revisited in January 2013 using the revised guidelines of the USAID which was incorporated in project activities. The plan is aimed at:

1. Building the capacities of project personnel to promote gender equality and integrating GAD in their respective responsibilities and activities;
2. Integrating gender equality concerns in the project workplan and monitoring and evaluation system; and
3. Providing equal opportunities for men and women to avail of capacity development programs supported by the project

A. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Given these objectives, the Project conducted the following activities:

1. Write-up of the business profiling study. The contracted STTA has completed the write-up and analysis of the City profiles of Batangas and Iloilo. In addition, a draft write-up for Cagayan de Oro city has been accomplished.
2. Ensuring that the business permitting processes are gender-sensitive. Incorporating a gender-sensitive perspective in design, the project ensured that the partner city governments provide a special lane for pregnant women for the Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS).
3. Processing of INVEST-Sponsored Customer Satisfaction Surveys. The report on the Assessment of the 2014 BOSS and BPLS included the processing of surveys by gender. Out of the 300 respondents, 143 were males (48%) while 157 were females (52%). The sample selection process ensured that both males and females were well represented.
4. Monitoring female/male participation in the activities of the Project. As seen in table 5 (INVEST conducted six (6) Focus Group Discussions and one (1) National Forum. In total, women constitute 50.09% of the participants while men number 49.10 %-- almost nearly equal. However, of the seven (7) activities, five (5) demonstrate a greater number of females participating. In addition, it is noteworthy that in the previous reports, most focus group discussions are male dominated.

Table 5.
Participants to INVEST-supported Activities, by Gender

Events / Workshops	Date	Venue	Participants				Total
			Female		Male		
			No.	%	No.	%	
Component 1: Streamlining Business Registration Processes and Lowering Transaction Costs							
Focus Group Discussion on Reforms in Securing Business Permits for Tourism Activities (Luzon Leg)	2 April 2014	One Tagaytay Place, Tagaytay City	6	31.6	13	68.4	19
Focus Group Discussion on Reforms in Securing Sanitary Permits and Licensing Processes (Luzon Leg)	4 April 2014	One Tagaytay Place, Tagaytay City	11	57.9	8	42.1	19
Focus Group Discussion on Reforms in Securing Sanitary Permits and Licensing Processes (Visayas Leg)	10 April 2014	Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City	19	65.5	10	34.5	29
Focus Group Discussion on Reforms in Securing Business Permits for Tourism Activities (Visayas Leg)	11 April 2014	Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City	11	57.9	8	42.1	19
Focus Group Discussion on Reforms in Securing Business Permits for Tourism Activities (Mindanao Leg)	24 April 2014	The VIP Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City	24	60	16	40	40
ICT Innovations Forum	18 June 2014	Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City	190	47.9	207	52.1	397
Focus Group Discussion on the Joint Memorandum Circular on Streamlining of BPLS	26 June 2014	Taipan Place, Ortigas, Pasig	7	58	5	42	12
TOTAL			268	50.09	267	49.10	535

B. PLANS FOR THE 12TH QUARTER

For the next Quarter, the Project intends to undertake the following activities in relation to gender and development:

1. Finalize the integrated report of the business profiling study integrating gender profiles of each partner city; to finish the Cagayan de Oro City write-up.
2. Continue to advocate for a special window/lane for pregnant women in the BOSS of each city;
3. Continue to monitor male/female participation in INVEST-sponsored activities.

SUCCESS STORIES
AND
NEWS COVERAGE

Annex. Press Release on the ICT Innovations Forum

PRESS RELEASE

10 CITIES HONORED - 2014 E-READINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDING CEREMONY

The 2014 E-Readiness Leadership Awards aims to recognize City Mayors who are pioneering the adoption and strategic use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance their delivery of government services, improve revenue/tax collection efforts and promote transparency in government operations. A special plaque was given by the Information and Communications Technology Office of the Department of Science and Technology (ICTO-DOST) during the awarding ceremony which took place on June 18, 2014 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Approximately 400 participants from various cities and municipalities attended the forum and witnessed the awarding ceremony.

The E-Readiness Survey is a joint collaborative project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The Information and Communications Technology Office ICTO-DOST carried out the E-Readiness assessment of the 143 cities which participated in the 2014 BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey.

The framework to evaluate the e-readiness of local government units are based on several indicators. Among the major indicators used to assess the LGU's E-Readiness are: (1) ICT Capability, (2) Technology Environment and (3) Web Presence Maturity. Other sub-indicators include the following: presence of an ICT Development Plan, internet connectivity, presence of an ICT/MIS unit. In general, E-Readiness means the level of preparedness of the LGU to implement ICT projects and to participate in major ICT project initiatives such as E-Government, Smarter Cities and other projects that aim to exploit the opportunities and potentials offered by the effective and strategic use of ICT.



Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno received the E-Readiness Leadership Award and congratulated by ICTO-DOST Deputy Executive Director Bettina Quimson, Undersecretary Nora Terrado and DILG Undersecretary Panadero as CDO was ranked #1 in E-Readiness.

From the 143 cities included in the E-Readiness Survey, the top 10 Cities which were recognized and given the E-Readiness Leadership Award were as follows:

01. Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental
02. San Fernando City, Pampanga
03. Makati City, Metro Manila
04. Valenzuela City, Metro Manila
05. Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
06. Cebu City, Cebu
07. Balanga City, Bataan
08. Angeles City, Pampanga
09. Batangas City, Batangas
10. Taguig City, Metro Manila



E-Readiness Leadership Awards 2014 Winners/Top 10 Cities honored during the closing ceremonies of the ICT Innovation Forum for LGUs held on June 18, 2014 at the Hotel Intercontinental

**INVEST AND USAID
IN THE NEWS**

ICT INNOVATIONS FORUM PRESS COVERAGE

ICTO-DOST PRESS RELEASE – June 23, 2014



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 June 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Information and Communications Technology Office

Contact Person: Roy Espiritu – roy.espiritu@icto.dost.gov.ph

Contact No.: 9200101 loc 1003, +639196067006

Ten Cities Commended for E-Readiness

Ten Cities from all over the Philippines were recognized for their E-Readiness at the recently concluded 2014 E-Readiness Leadership Awards which recognize City Mayors who are pioneering the adoption and strategic use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance their delivery of government services, improve revenue/tax collection efforts and promote transparency in government operations. The criteria for the awards were taken from the results of the recently concluded E-Readiness Assessment Survey.

A special plaque of recognition was given by the ICT Office of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST - ICT Office) during the awards ceremonies that took place on 18 June 2014 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Approximately 400 participants from various cities and municipalities attended the forum and witnessed the awarding ceremony.

The E-Readiness Survey is a joint collaborative project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with support from the US-AID INVEST Project. The Information and Communications Technology Office ICTO-DOST carried out the E-Readiness assessment of the 143 cities which participated in the 2014 BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey.

According to Bettina Quimson of the DOST-ICT Office, "E-Readiness means that these LGU's are ready for E-Government. True E-Government will not only foster an efficient, transparent and effective government that our citizens need, it will also give the Philippines a competitive edge in the global market place, creating an investment environment that can help drive local and foreign investment in the country."

The framework to evaluate the e-readiness of local government units are based on several indicators. Among the major indicators used to assess the LGU's E-Readiness are: (1) ICT

DOST – Information and Communications Technology Office
web: www.icto.dost.gov.ph email: info@icto.dost.gov.ph
ICT Office Building, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman 1101, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone (632) 920-0101; Fax No. (632) 426-1525

<http://www.icto.dost.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/current-news/160-ten-cities-commended-for-e-readiness->

DILG PRESS RELEASE



www.dilg3.com/index.php/news-events/642-three-cities-in-central-luzon-receive-2014-national-e-readiness-leadership-award

Three Cities in Central Luzon Receive 2014 National e-Readiness Leadership Award

Written by Info Unit.

Three (3) cities in Central Luzon namely Angeles City, Balanga City (Bataan) and City of San Fernando (Pampanga) were among the 10 cities nationwide which received the 2014 e-Readiness Leadership Award during the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Forum entitled "ICT Innovations Forum: Key to Accelerating Local Governments' Competitiveness" held on June 18, 2014 at Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City. Said cities received trophies during the awarding.

This is the result of the assessment made by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the USAID-INVEST Project, based on the nationwide survey pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-15 issued on February 7, 2014 entitled "BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey for Cities and Municipalities 2014".

The survey aimed to assess the compliance of cities and municipalities on BPLS standards and their state of e-readiness in terms of ICT capacity and ICT environment. One of the survey components is the e-Readiness assessment which measures the preparedness of LGUs to adopt and implement ICT project initiatives such as system computerization, e-Government and Smart Cities/Municipalities.

Other e-Readiness Leadership Award recipients were Batangas City, Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, Makati City, Mandaluyong City, Taguig City and Valenzuela City.

Three Cities in Central Luzon Receive 2014 National e-Readiness Leadership Award

Three (3) cities in Central Luzon namely Angeles City, Balanga City (Bataan) and City of San Fernando (Pampanga) were among the 10 cities nationwide which received the 2014 e-Readiness Leadership Award during the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) **Forum** entitled "ICT Innovations Forum: Key to Accelerating Local Governments' Competitiveness" held on June 18, 2014 at Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City. Said cities received trophies during the awarding.

This is the result of the assessment made by the Department of **Science and Technology** (DOST), **Department of Trade and Industry** (DTI) and Department of the Interior

and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the **USAID-INVEST Project**, based on the nationwide survey pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-15 issued on February 7, 2014 entitled “BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey for Cities and Municipalities 2014”. The survey aimed to assess the compliance of cities and municipalities on BPLS standards and their state of e-readiness in terms of ICT capacity and ICT environment. One of the survey components is the e-Readiness assessment which measures the preparedness of LGUs to adopt and implement ICT project initiatives such as system computerization, e-Government and Smart Cities/Municipalities.

Other e-Readiness Leadership Award recipients were Batangas City, Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, Makati City, Mandaluyong City, Taguig City and Valenzuela City.

SOURCE: <http://www.dilgr3.com/index.php/news-events/642-three-cities-in-central-luzon-receive-2014-national-e-readiness-leadership-award>

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA) REGION10

CDO Tops E-Readiness survey Friday 20th of June 2014

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, June 20 -- Cagayan de Oro topped the E-Readiness Survey conducted by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The awarding was done during the Innovation and Connectivity through Technology Forum held at InterContinental Hotel in Makati on June 18, 2014.

The forum was attended by various local government units (LGUs) and was organized by the Department of Local Government (DILG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), DOST, **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, Deutsche Gesellschaft for Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Canadian Government.

The city government of Cagayan de Oro took the lead in the e-Readiness Survey Award as nine other local government units (LGUs) were also recognized—cities of Valenzuela, Batangas, Makati, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, and San Fernando.

The award was based on the results of the BPLS Survey and E-Readiness Survey for Cities and Municipalities, 2014. Survey included human resource, hardware and software capacities, and compliance on business processing and licensing system (BPLS) standards.

Cagayan de Oro's current automation in its business process and licensing system (BPLS) was developed in-house, at the low cost, and through the years has been shared with more than hundred LGUs.

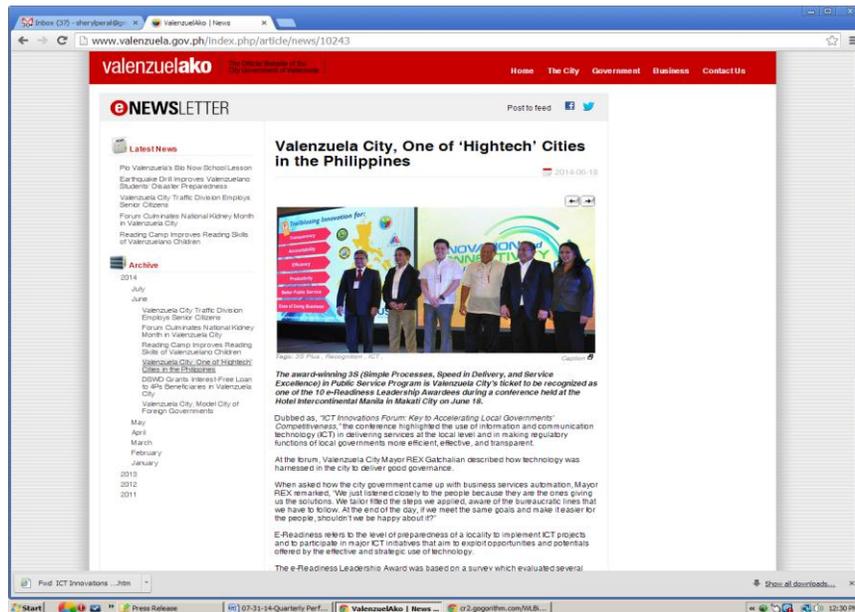
This year, with a grant from DOST and support from USAID on its computerization, further enhancement and innovation have been introduced including the development of billing and payment kiosks.

The city's distinction for E-Readiness was further confirmed by no less than **USAID Mission Director, Ms. Gloria D. Steele**, in her message at the forum when she said "we were impressed at what we saw a few weeks ago when we visited Cagayan de Oro together with Acting Deputy Director for Asia, Denise Rollins, and the result of a streamlined BPLS showing almost a 40% increase in revenue for the first quarter this year compared to the same period last year."

During the one day ICT Forum, city mayor Oscar S. Moreno also gave a five-minute presentation of Cagayan de Oro's "Hassle Free Payments" featuring the tax payer friendly, time saving billing and queuing kiosks located at the finance office of city hall. (CIO/PIA)

SOURCE: <http://r10.pia.gov.ph/index.php?article=1461403500800#sthash.vjzscV2F.dpuf>

VALENZUELA CITY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE



The award-winning 3S (Simple Processes, Speed in Delivery, and Service Excellence) in Public Service Program is Valenzuela City's ticket to be recognized as one of the 10 e-Readiness Leadership Awardees during a conference held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City on June 18.

Dubbed as, "ICT Innovations Forum: Key to Accelerating Local Governments' Competitiveness," the conference highlighted the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in delivering services at the local level and in making regulatory functions of local governments more efficient, effective, and transparent.

At the forum, Valenzuela City Mayor REX Gatchalian described how technology was harnessed in the city to deliver good governance.

When asked how the city government came up with business services automation, Mayor REX remarked, “We just listened closely to the people because they are the ones giving us the solutions. We tailor fitted the steps we applied, aware of the bureaucratic lines that we have to follow. At the end of the day, if we meet the same goals and make it easier for the people, shouldn’t we be happy about it?”

E-Readiness refers to the level of preparedness of a locality to implement ICT projects and to participate in major ICT initiatives that aim to exploit opportunities and potentials offered by the effective and strategic use of technology.

The e-Readiness Leadership Award was based on a survey which evaluated several indicators. Among the major indicators used to assess the local government units’ e-Readiness are: (1) ICT Capability, (2) Technology Environment and (3) Web Presence Maturity. Other sub-indicators include the presence of an ICT Development Plan, internet connectivity, and presence of an ICT unit.

The e-Readiness survey is a joint collaborative project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with support from the **USAID INVEST Project**. The Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO-DOST) carried out the e-readiness assessment of the 143 cities which participated in the 2014 BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey.

Explaining the necessity of ICT in the country today, DILG Undersecretary Austere Panadero simply stated, “The Pinoys are becoming extra demanding for services they feel they are entitled to enjoy, especially from the government.”

Along with Valenzuela City, the other e-Readiness Leadership Awardees recognized were Taguig City, Batangas City, Angeles City, Balanga City, Cebu City, Mandaluyong City, Makati City, San Fernando City, and Cagayan de Oro City.

2014-06-18 | By: Liezel Fulgencio

SOURCE: <http://www.valenzuela.gov.ph/index.php/article/news/10243>

THE POTSMAN EGOVERNMENT COMPETENCE CENTER
GERMAN (GIZ-RELATED) WEBSITE

PH: Makati, Taguig, cited for use of IT in gov't services

Thursday, 24 July 2014

The cities of Taguig and Makati joined eight other Philippine cities that were recognized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for their efficient use of information technology in the delivery of services.



In receiving the "2014 E-readiness Leadership Award" last June 18, Taguig and Makati joined the cities of Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu, Mandaluyong, San Fernando, Balanga, Angeles, Batangas City and Valenzuela which were recognized for adapting information technology in local governance or "e-readiness."

E-readiness reflects how local governments are inclined to adapt e-Government. E-governments allow for a competitive edge in the global market place and creates an investment environment that can help drive local and foreign investors.

"Our efforts to adapt technology in our changing times have paid off. Technology is an effective tool in our campaign for faster and more efficient delivery of services," said Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano.

Cayetano added that the award shows just how the city is exerting effort on revenue and tax collections, as well as on the promotion of transparency in the local government improved with the use of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

The awarded cities were chosen through the E-readiness Assessment Survey conducted by the DILG, DOST and the DTI.

In total, 143 cities were assessed for their (1) ICT capability, (2) technology environment and (3) web presence maturity. Other sub-indicators are presence of an ICT development plan, internet connectivity, and the presence of an ICT/MIS unit.

"We are in fast-paced and changing society and we, in the local government, want to adapt to that. The main concern here is how we can further the services, and

with the system and technologies provided, I think that in Taguig, it is possible," Cayetano said.

Meanwhile, Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay thanked the national government agencies for the recognition, which he said "gave added impetus to the city's thrust towards smarter governance."

"We are grateful for this award, which recognizes our unrelenting efforts to optimize the advantages offered by modern technology to shore up Makati's competitive advantage and achieve sustainable and inclusive progress," Binay said.

Binay added that Makati this year has set its sights on achieving a "Smarter Makati", giving priority to ICT-driven programs and policies aimed to improve mobility, increase connectivity, and build a safe, secure and livable environment.

Binay also cited trailblazing policies that reflect the city's e-readiness, including the country's first risk-sensitive Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and most recently, the new Makati Billboard and Signage Ordinance that the Metro Manila Council has agreed to adopt.

The city government has been continuously investing in the computerization of its operations, including business permits and licensing, resolution and ordinance monitoring, and public information.

Author: Mike Frialde
Bitte Bisochen si:

With report from Philippine Star

SOURCE:

http://www.ifg.cc/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=47388&Itemid=1

GMA NETWORK NEWS

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a news article on the GMA Network website. The article is titled "DOST-ICT awards cities for 'e-readiness'" and is dated June 24, 2014. The author is Janelle Cosino. The article text states that several Philippine cities were recognized for their "e-readiness" at the 2014 e-readiness Leadership Awards. A list of cities is provided: Cagayan De Oro, San Fernando (Pampanga), Makati, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, Cebu, Balanga (Bataan), Angeles, Batangas, and Taguig. The article also mentions that a special plaque of recognition was given by the DOST (DOST - ICT) Office to these cities. The browser's address bar shows the URL: www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/367113/scitech/technology/dost-ict-awards-cities-for-e-readiness. The page features a red header with the GMA News logo and navigation links. A sidebar on the right contains "Related Stories" and "Top Stories" sections.

DOST-ICT awards cities for 'e-readiness'
By JANELLE COSINO June 24, 2014 6:32pm

Several Philippine cities were recognized for their "e-readiness" at the recently concluded 2014 e-readiness Leadership Awards last June 18 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

A special plaque of recognition was given by the Information and Communications Technology Office of DOST (DOST - ICT) Office to:

- Cagayan De Oro
- San Fernando (Pampanga)
- Makati
- Valenzuela
- Mandaluyong
- Cebu
- Balanga (Bataan)
- Angeles
- Batangas
- Taguig

The city mayors of the cities were feted for pioneering the adoption and strategic use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance their delivery of government services, improve revenue/tax collection efforts and promote transparency in government operations.

The criteria for the awards were based on the recently-concluded e-readiness Assessment Survey, a joint project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) with

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DOST-ICT AWARDS CITIES FOR "E-READINESS"

Several Philippine cities were recognized for their "e-readiness" at the recently concluded 2014 e-readiness Leadership Awards last June 18 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

A special plaque of recognition was given by the Information and Communications Technology Office of DOST (DOST - ICT) Office to:

- Cagayan De Oro
- San Fernando (Pampanga)
- Makati
- Valenzuela
- Mandaluyong
- Cebu
- Balanga (Bataan)
- Angeles
- Batangas
- Taguig

The city mayors of the cities were feted for pioneering the adoption and strategic use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance their delivery of government services, improve revenue/tax collection efforts and promote transparency in government operations.

The criteria for the awards were based on the recently-concluded e-readiness Assessment Survey, a joint project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), **with support from the the US-AID INVEST Project.**

The DOST - ICT carried out the e-readiness assessment of 143 cities that participated in the 2014 BPLS Compliance and e-readiness Survey.

Bettina Quimson of the DOST-ICT Office said, “e-readiness means that these LGU’s are ready for E-Government. True E-Government will not only foster an efficient, transparent and effective government that our citizens need, it will also give the Philippines a competitive edge in the global market place, creating an investment environment that can help drive local and foreign investment in the country.”

The framework to evaluate the e-readiness of local government units is based on several indicators. Among the major indicators used to assess the LGU’s e-readiness are:

- ICT Capability
- Technology Environment
- Web Presence Maturity

Other sub-indicators included the following: presence of an ICT Development Plan, internet connectivity, presence of an ICT/MIS unit.

In general, e-readiness was defined as the preparedness of the LGU to implement ICT projects and to participate in major ICT project initiatives such as E-Government, Smarter Cities and other projects that aim to exploit the opportunities and potentials offered by the effective and strategic use of ICT. — **TJD, GMA News**

Source: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/367113/scitech/technology/dost-ict-awards-cities-for-e-readiness>

CITY GOVERNMENT OF BALANGA WEBSITE



Source: cityofbalanga.gov.ph/ict-innovations-forum-award

CENTRIO TIMES PAMPANGA



Angeles, San Fernando in Pampanga amongst the 10 cities awarded 2014 National e-Readiness Leadership Award

By [Edz Tee](#) | June 21, 2014

Pampanga, Philippines – The city of Angeles and San Fernando in Pampanga and Balanga in Bataan were amongst the top 10 cities across the Philippine archipelago that were awarded on Wednesday, June 18th, with the 2014 e-Readiness Leadership Award.

The representatives from the three local government units (LGUs) received the recognition at the conclusion of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Innovations Forum in the business district of the country, Makati City.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on a statement:

This is the result of the assessment made by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the USAID-INVEST Project, based on the nationwide survey pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-15 issued on February 7, 2014 entitled "BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey for Cities and Municipalities 2014".

The survey aimed to assess the compliance of cities and municipalities on BPLS standards and their state of e-readiness in terms of ICT capacity and ICT

environment. One of the survey components is the e-Readiness assessment which measures the preparedness of LGUs to adopt and implement ICT project initiatives such as system computerization, e-Government and Smart Cities/Municipalities.

Department of Interior and Local Government Central Luzon Director Florida Dijan stated that the winners garnered high marks in their, “Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS) and E-Readiness Survey for Cities and Municipalities 2014 which we have done in partnership with Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, and **USAID-INVEST** project.”

“The survey was meant to assess the compliance of cities and municipalities to BPLS standards and their state of e-readiness in terms of ICT capacity and ICT environment. One of its components is the e-Readiness assessment which measures the preparedness of LGUs to adopt and implement ICT project initiatives such as system computerization, e-Government and Smart Cities/Municipalities,” Dijan further noted.

Other winners were the cities of Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, as well as the four cities in National Capital Region (NCR), including the Makati, Mandaluyong, Taguig, and Valenzuela.

SOURCE: <http://www.centriotimes.com/2014/06/angeles-san-fernando-pampanga-amongst-10-cities-awarded-2014-national-e-readiness-leadership-award.html>

BATANGAS CITY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE



E-Readiness

June 25, 2014 / Pio News

On behalf of the City Mayor Eduardo B. Dimacuha, Secretary to the Mayor, RD Dimacuha, receives the e-Readiness Leadership Award for Batangas City Government on the celebration of the National ICT month, on June 18, 2014 at the Intercontinental Manila Hotel, Makati City. Batangas City was awarded the e-Readiness Leadership for being at the forefront of the ICT project initiatives in the Philippines such as system computerization, e-Government and Smart Cities.

Among 117 cities nationwide, Batangas City with nine other cities: (Cagayan De Oro; Makati; Taguig; Valenzuela; San Fernando (Pampanga); Angeles; Balanga, Cebu, Mandaluyong) topped the Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS) Compliance and e-Readiness Survey conducted by the Department Of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade (DTI), in partnership with the **USAID's Investment and Enabling Environment (INVEST).**

This survey assessed the conformity to the BPLS standards and state of e-Readiness of cities and municipalities that serve as the basis for the intervention that may be provided through computerization and training programs.

SOURCE: <http://batangascity.gov.ph/bats2/?p=1557>

