**RCE-Bohol’s Skills and Professional Development Training for Island Locals Culminates**

The Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) Bohol, in collaboration with Bohol Island State University (BISU) and the Department of Education, Bohol Division, has just concluded its three waves of Skills and Professional Development Training to the teachers and local residents of the island barangay of Banacon on May 4-5, 2015. The culmination program, in the afternoon of the 2nd day, was well attended by the participants who were given their certificate of participation to the training; trainers and members of the barangay council. Nelson Pateña, the Director of BISU Main Campus, emphasized in his speech that the university will sustain its efforts to ensure that the capacity building project will result to observable outcomes beneficial to the residents. Ernesto Estillore, a barangay council member, for his part, thanked the trainers and the University for extending great effort for the service.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) trainings in Banacon are specific projects under the Socio-Economic and Environmental Awareness (SEEA) Education for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Program – an intervention measure objectively identified from a resource appraisal study conducted by Jose Travero, Marina Labonite and Julius Quillopas sometime in 2011. Asked why Banacon, Travero pointed out that island communities are generally vulnerable to effects of climate change such as sea level rise and irregular climactic conditions resulting to increased severity of storms or typhoons thus, the need of the program. And since it is Banacon, i.e., an island with international reputation for having the largest man-made mangrove forest in Southeast Asia, the success of the program would be easier to promote for replication purposes.

After consultation meetings and pre-conferences, the SEEA program was formally launched on November 6, 2014 through a MOA signing held at the SB Hall of Getafe with representatives of partner institutions present. During the opening program, Wilfreda Bongalos, DepEd Bohol Superintendent and one of the MOA signatories, said that the undertaking is in fact “a noble task” since it is something done not for personal gains but for others’ sake. Hon. Casey Shaun Camacho, Getafe Mayor, for his part, expressed full support for the success of the program.

After the MOA signing, technology experts and personnel of BISU, headed by Regucivilla Pobar, proceeded to Banacon Island and conducted the training. It was the implementation of the first of the series of modules in skills and professional development. A total of 50 local residents, 40 students and 8 school teachers participated in the 3-day courses. The last of the three waves of training was on May4-5, 2015.

In an interview, Dr. Elpidio T. Magante, BISU President and Chairman of RCE-Bohol Governing Board expressed optimism of the success and sustainability of the program. He emphasized that they have the noble intention: Community Capacity Development; and the right method: Implementation through Collaboration of Stakeholders. Through the program, RCE-Bohol accordingly addresses the core elements of ESD implementation.

The culmination of the Skills and Professional Development Training in Banacon was added vigor with the medical and dental outreach activities generously sponsored by the BISU Tagbilaran Credit Cooperative. Some 25 school children and 33 adults and children have benefitted in the circumcision and tooth extraction respectively.

***RCE-Bohol*** is a UNU-IAS recognized dynamic network of multi-agency development organizations that works collaboratively in a synergistic pattern for the realization of the goals of Education for Sustainable Development.

RCE-Bohol is managed by its Governing Board which officers include the following:

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RCE-Bohol’s 22 Stakeholder Agencies are the following:

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| **Higher Education Institutions** | **Local/Regional Government Agencies** |
| Bohol Island State University (all campuses) | Agricultural Training Institute VII-Central Visayas |
| Holy Name University | Philippine Carabao Center |
| University of Bohol | Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tagbilaran City and other satellite training centers) |
| Batuan Colleges | Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Bohol) |
| Bohol Northern Star College | Provincial Agriculture Office (Bohol) |
| Bohol College of Science and Technology | Non-Government Organizations |
| Bohol Institute of Technology, International College (all campuses) | People’s Fair Trade Assistance Center |
| Bohol Wisdom School | Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture and Development |
| **Local Colleges** | **Media** |
| Buenavista Community College | Bohol Balita Daily News |
| Trinidad Municipal College | **Business** |
| **Basic Education Institution** | Alturas Group of Companies |
| Carmel Academy | **Youth** |
| Christ the King Academy | Red Cross Youth |

*For more information about RCE-Bohol and BISU ESD-related activities and programs, please send your e-mails to* *mijaresjr.bernabe@yahoo.com*

***Bernabe M. Mijares, Jr., MA Phil***

*Director of RCE and ITSO*

*Bohol Island State University*

Pictures during the MOA Signing and First conduct of trainings in Banacon Island











